

meeting	CABINET		
date	6 July 2011	agenda item number	<b>5</b>

## REPORT OF THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES

### **Early Years and Early Intervention Service – ending current Commissioned Accountable Body Agreements**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. This report seeks the approval of Cabinet to give notice to three current Commissioned Accountable Body providers of children's centre services on 1 September 2011. The contractual notice period is 12 months.

#### **Background**

2. In order to meet statutory duties contained within the Childcare Act 2006 and more recently the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009, the Early Years and Early Intervention Service has commissioned the delivery of children's centre services in several district council areas since 2008.
3. For historical reasons relating to the means of establishment of the original 'Sure Start Local Programme' by the previous Government, all children's centres in Ashfield, Broxtowe and Gedling districts are managed, on the County Council's behalf, by Nottinghamshire Community Health. Those in Bassetlaw district are managed by North Nottinghamshire College, and two centres in Mansfield are managed by Family Action (a national children and families charity). The remaining centres in Mansfield, and those in Rushcliffe and Newark & Sherwood Districts, are directly managed by the County Council.
4. The County Council's oversight of the children's centre work delivered by its partner agencies is managed through formal 'Commissioned Accountable Body' agreements that run on a year by year basis, with either party required to give one year's notice of termination. These arrangements are also the instrument through which partner agency children's centre work is funded.

5. As part of the Authority wide programme of service reviews instigated in 2010, the Early Years and Early Intervention Service is currently undergoing work to review and reshape children's centre and early years provision. This work includes the consideration of alternative models of delivery designed to ensure the more efficient use of available resources and the establishment of a clear Nottinghamshire Early Years Offer. The Offer will be based upon a continuing and long term commitment from the Council to maintain current volumes of frontline early years provision, delivering an appropriate balance of universal services available to all families, along with targeted services for those most in need. The extensive network of children's centres will be maintained and will continue to be at the core of service provision.
6. It is intended that the initial results of the service review, along with resultant recommendations about future service delivery and commissioning choices, will be brought to the County Council at its meeting on 3 November 2011. Subsequently, it is intended that the commissioning arrangements for early years provision agreed by Council will be implemented from 1 September 2012.
7. Therefore, in order for the current Commissioned Accountable Bodies notice arrangements to be complied with, and to facilitate an effective re-commissioning process for 1 September 2012, approval is sought for the serving of notice to the current Commissioned Accountable Bodies.

### **Statutory and policy implications**

8. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is however drawn to the following:-

#### **Personnel implications**

9. Employees of current Commissioned Accountable Bodies are not employed by the County Council.

#### **Financial implications**

10. There are no direct financial implications arising from the serving of notice to Commissioned Accountable Bodies.

#### **Equal opportunities implications**

11. The service review is looking to improve access to early intervention and prevention services across the County for children, young people and families, particularly those in need. An equality impact assessment will accompany the report that will be brought to County Council on 3 November 2011.

## **Implications for service users**

12. Service users and other stakeholders will be consulted as part of the service review process. The review aims to identify gaps in provision as well as ensuring the service is targeted at those children and families most in need. This will lead to improved outcomes for children and young people.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

13. That Cabinet approve the serving of 12 months notice to current Commissioned Accountable Bodies prior to 30 August 2011.

## **COUNCILLOR PHILIP OWEN**

Cabinet Member for Children and Young People's Services

## **Reasons for recommendation**

14. To ensure that sufficient notice is given to current Commissioned Accountable Bodies to enable the effective re-commissioning of early years provision from 1 September 2012.

## **Legal Services' comments (KK/22.06.11)**

15. The proposal in this report is within the remit of Cabinet.

## **Financial comments of the Service Director – Finance (NDR)**

16. Nil.

## **Background papers available for inspection**

Commissioned Accountable Body Agreements.

## **Electoral division(s) affected**

Nottinghamshire

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