Open Agenda

Executive

Tuesday 15 September 2026
11.00 am
Ground Floor Meeting Rooms, 160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2QH

Supplemental Agenda No.1

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8.	**Gateway 1 – Procurement Strategy Approval -The Nest** To approve of the procurement strategy for delivery of The Nest (Open Access Mental Health Service for Children and Young People).	1 - 15

Contact

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Date: 8 September 2026

Agenda Item 8

Meeting Name:	Executive
Date:	15 September 2026
Report title:	Gateway 1 – Procurement Strategy Approval -The Nest
Executive Member:	Councillor Rebecca Corn, Executive Member for Education and Care
Ward(s) or groups affected:	All
Classification:	Open
Reason for lateness (if applicable):	N/A

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR REBECCA CORN, EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION AND CARE

The need for accessible, early mental health support has rarely been clearer. Recent analysis from the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health found that the number of children and young people aged 6–17 attending A&E with recorded mental health concerns increased by 36% between 2019 and 2025. The increase was particularly stark among younger children, with attendances among 6–9-year-olds rising by 62%. The College has called for greater investment in prevention, early intervention and community mental health support, so that fewer children reach crisis point. I am proud that this administration is protecting The Nest and securing its future as a vital mental health service for Southwark's children and young people.

In July, we committed to protecting The Nest and announced that a Gateway 2 report would come to this meeting. Since then, it has become clear that the necessary Gateway 1 procurement stage had not previously completed. We are therefore bringing this Gateway 1 report forward now, allowing the procurement process to proceed correctly, so that a Gateway 2 decision on the new contract can follow in October. Our commitment has not changed: The Nest will be protected. We also continue to ask our NHS partners to support the serviced and will continue those discussions as we work to secure its long-term future.

I am very pleased to recommend this report to the Executive.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That Executive approves the procurement strategy for The Nest [Open Access Mental Health Service for Children and Young People] involving single supplier negotiation with and subsequent contract award to Groundwork London in the sum of £479,000 per annum, for a period of 3 years + 1 year extension option, with a maximum lifetime contract value of £1,916,000, commencing from 1 November 2026.

2. That Executive delegates the award decision to the Strategic Director of Children and Adult Services, in consultation with the Executive Member for Education and Care.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3. To meet the mental health needs of children and young people in Southwark.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

4. The previous contract expired and the service is in wind-down stage at this time, so the alternative would be not to award a contract and to allow the service to close. This is not recommended as it would leave children and young people in Southwark with unmet mental health needs.

POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

5. Reverse wind-down stage to stand up fully operational.

Key Activity	Target completion date
Service fully operational again.	01/11/2026

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Summary of the business case/justification for the procurement

6. The mental health service detailed in this report (The Nest) offers open-access help and support to children and young people in Southwark for mild to moderate mental health needs who require more specialized care than GPs offer, but do not need intensive specialist teams. This is a Tier 2 Mental Health service. This level of care is most commonly used in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

7. There is significant prevalence of mental health disorders among Southwark's children and young people. It is estimated that 8,500 or 20% of 5-17 yr olds have a mental disorder needing treatment but only a small minority receive treatment. Annually, fewer than one in three or 33% of CYP with behavioral disorder or hyperkinetic disorder get the treatment they need. [1]

8. Many children, young people and families in Southwark have reported significant difficulties in accessing mental health services. Several courageous children and young people gave evidence at Southwark's Health and Wellbeing Board in 2019 on their lived experiences. This included sharing with Board members that young people had social media groups that advised how to self-harm to a significant level in order for NHS services to take their mental distress seriously. NHS data at that time showed rising presentations of

[1] Southwark JSNA Mental Health of Children and Young People in Southwark (September 2023)

children and young people at A&E in mental health crisis, and the forecast indicated a deeply worrying trend. NHS waiting lists were also long and growing.

9. The NHS is responsible for meeting the mental health needs of citizens, and specifically for commissioning services to diagnose and treat mental health. In addition to the general purpose(s) as set out in the NHS Constitution, the National Health Service Act 2006 and the National Health Service (Integrated Care Boards: Responsibilities) Regulations 2022 make clear that Integrated Care Boards are responsible for commissioning mental health services for their population, including children's and young people's mental health services. The duty and funding for this in regard to Southwark is with South East London Integrated Care Board (SEL ICB).

10. Southwark Council has related Public Health and Social Care duties and invests significantly in prevention, early help and wider well-being services including Family Early Help services, Youth Services, school-based mental health support, a range of public health programmes, Children and Family Hubs and specialist provision for children in care and care leavers. The Council has an in-house clinical service (psychology) to support children in care and care leavers as the NHS service offer is insufficient to meet their needs.

11. The Nest was the *brainchild*, or more accurately the *heart-child*, of Cllr Jasmine Ali, then Cabinet Member for Children, Education and Refugees in direct response to the call for help from children and young people for better access to, and support with, their mental health needs. Tier 2 Mental Health services are usually accessed by GP referral only but listening to the difficulties families in Southwark were experiencing, an open access mental health service was the boldest response. Initially, NHS representatives on the Health and Wellbeing Board were not supportive of the proposal but it was put to the vote and carried by majority approval. Commissioners working in our Joint Commissioning Team then worked with children and young people to co-produce The Nest – an open access mental health service that was welcoming and modelled akin to a Starbucks/Apple Store as they had envisioned.

12. Southwark Council fully funded The Nest, despite it not being our duty or responsibility to do so, to demonstrate the impact of such a model, and indeed it proved to be hugely successful. Childhood is not a dress rehearsal and gaining access to early help and support for mental health proved very successful and there are case studies to suggest that it did in fact save lives. NHS waiting lists also benefited. The timing of the service opening in 2020 proved to be fortuitous with the lockdowns that followed during the COVID pandemic and the severe impact that had on children and young people's mental health.

13. Over time, in addition to self-referral, GPs, NHS Talking Therapies and our local NHS Mental Health service provider (South London and Maudsley NHS Trust) started making referrals to The Nest. When the service contract was renewed the NHS contributed to funding. This contribution was appreciated

but falls short of the NHS taking responsibility and fully funding the service and/or offering an alternative that meets local needs and demand.

14. Throughout 2025 as the contract for The Nest was in its final year, senior Council officers asked SEL ICB if they could fully fund The Nest so a new contract could be awarded. The Council was clear that we would not have the money to fund a new multi-year contract and gave the reasons for this. Sadly, SEL ICB did not agree to fully fund The Nest and so the contract expired. Out of deep concern for children and young people actively participating in programmes at The Nest, and for the 39 children and young people on The Nest waiting list, the Council provided short-term contingency funding so that all these children and young people could complete their programmes and not have to move onto NHS waiting lists. The Nest is currently in wind-down mode to closure in November 2026.

15. Awarding this new contract will restore the service, enabling The Nest to accept new referrals and to continue to meet the mental health needs of our children and young people.

16. SEL ICB have agreed to continue their partial funding of the service cost. This is appreciated, and it is not enough. It is the Council's position that SEL ICB should be fully funding The Nest and fulfilling their duty to the residents of Southwark. The Council will continue to lobby SEL ICB and local NHS partners to achieve full funding for The Nest. When news of The Nest closing became public several NHS clinicians working locally wrote to the Council asking for The Nest to continue and outlined the remarkable impact it has had. The Council hopes that these same local clinicians will now write to SEL ICB and make the case for full NHS funding for this highly valued service. The Council was bold and generous in 2020 in responding to unmet need and the suffering of children and young people in our borough. The ethical way forward is for SEL ICB to take responsibility and for NHS colleagues working in this space to make their representations to the *Responsible Commissioner*.

17. Disagreement over funding should not be misunderstood as cost-shunting or a breakdown in partnership. Everyday, colleagues in the Council and the NHS work together brilliantly for the benefit of our residents and will continue to do so. Strategically too, at the highest levels, there is sincere commitment to partnership working. This is simply a challenge that we need to work through to land in a sustainable position for a very important service for families in our borough. New opportunities arise too and the (new) Prime Ministers' announcement on 159 mental health facilities to be opened in England, including 100 community mental health centres with walk-in support, and 59 dedicated mental health emergency departments may be just one such opportunity. Effectively, The Nest is already our community mental health centre for children and young people, and we'll work with SEL ICB to seek acknowledgement of that and sustainable funding. If the service needs to develop and evolve to fulfil this model, then we will work together and with Groundwork London to seek to achieve that.

18. Health inequalities are a lived reality for the residents of Southwark. For too long, the colour of your skin correlates with shorter life span and less years of good health. This is as true for mental health as it is physical health.

Compounded by the other disadvantages that Global Majority residents face in terms of socio-economic opportunities to live a Good Life. We can no longer be willfully blind to the fact that there is over-representation of Global Majority residents among those who are Sectioned under the Mental Health Act and we need to tackle this directly. An open access mental health service that has been co-produced with a representative group of local children and young people in partnership with a London voluntary sector partner has achieved something powerful in helping us make real progress on access to mental health services and to much improved outcomes. The NHS cannot simply continue to commission the old established services that have for too long failed to make any significant progress in tackling health inequalities. The Nest has proved that a different model, co-produced with residents and delivered by the voluntary sector can make a real difference and the learning from this approach should be noted, respected, and replicated. Our residents deserve nothing less and that is what is motivating the Council's position on The Nest.

19. The Nest was launched in 2020 to provide open access community-based early access to mental health services for children and young people (up to age 25). The learning from the last six years and most of all, feedback from children, young people and parents who have used the service will inform the future service offer. Already we know that self-referral is highly valued as the access route and it is notable that Global Majority residents (>60% of service users) are choosing to access The Nest. Referral by GPs, NHS 111, NHS Talking Therapies, signposting or step-down from CAMHS, Social Workers, local Charities, Schools and others working with families provides for a system-wide route to early mental health help and support at The Nest.

20. Groundwork London have been delivering The Nest since 2020. They have a proven track record in delivering effective mental health services, have built good relationships with people using the service and are trusted within the community. They have also created strong partnerships with other local stakeholders.

21. Each year, The Nest receives circa six hundred referrals, with children and young people provided with therapeutic support, including psychodynamic and interpersonal therapy.

22. The Nest was independently evaluated by the Centre for Evidence and Implementation (CEI) under the auspices of Impact on Urban Health and this evaluation was funded by the NIHR Public Health Intervention Responsive Studies Teams (PHIRST). The evaluation was very positive and supports the service model and continuation of the service.

Market Considerations

23. Due to the urgency to reinstate the services by 1 November 2026, it is not feasible to conduct a wider market engagement exercise.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Options for procurement route including procurement approach

24. **Option 1: Do nothing –** This option is ruled out. Not recommissioning the Nest would result in these services ceasing to operate at the end of the present contract and funding arrangements. In the absence of the Nest the Council would not be able to meet its objective of providing a preventative and early intervention service as part of a comprehensive range of Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing services.

25. **Option 2: In House Service delivery –** Currently the Council workforce does not have the capacity or the relevant experience for these services to be delivered in-house. Additionally, formal evaluation of the service has evidenced that delivery by a non-statutory sector organisation in an informal setting is a feature of the service that is valued by children and young people.

26. **Option 3: Open Competitive Process –** This is discounted as there is insufficient time to procure a replacement service by 1 November 2026.

27. **Option 4:** Single supplier negotiations –This is the recommended option due to the exigencies associated with availability of service from 1 November. The incumbent is also providing a good service which is recognised by residents and service users.

Proposed procurement route

28. Single supplier negotiation through a direct award process.

Identified risks for the procurement

Risk	Description	Risk Rating	Mitigation
Timescales not met	A delay to the procurement could cause reputational risk to the Council	Medium	A realistic and achievable procurement timeline has been developed, and progress is monitored to avoid slippages.
Procurement challenge	Receipt of challenge from an alternative provider	Medium/Low	The council shall ensure compliance with the PSR requirements

Key / Non Key decisions

29. This report deals with a key decision.

30. Services provided by The Nest are majority health related[2] and subject to the NHS Provider Selection Regime, ("the PSR") albeit noting that, in its totality, the contract would be considered a "mixed procurement" with the PSR taking precedence over generally applicable public procurement legislation, (i.e. The Procurement Act 2023) thereby satisfying the following criteria:

> "The main subject matter of the procurement is relevant health care services in England (this means that the health care element must be more than 50% of the value of the contract); and
>
> The relevant authority is of the view that the other goods or services could not reasonably be supplied under a separate contract (this means that the relevant authority is of the view that procuring the health care services and the other goods and services separately would, or would be likely to, have a material adverse impact on the relevant authority's ability to act in accordance with the procurement principles.")

Policy framework implications

31. The Nest is consistent with the Vision and Values of the new Joint Administration, and the emerging Borough Plan.

32. Whilst the Council does not have a statutory duty to provide this service, it can use our powers under the Localism Act 2011 to commission The Nest.

33. Funding within the Budgetary Framework is a challenge that the Council needs to be open and transparent about and approving this contract award is an underwriting of c. 56% of the contract value for the duration of the contract. The Council will continue to seek full funding of The Nest by NHS SEL ICB, and until then accepts that agreeing to this contract means having to make efficiencies or savings elsewhere to cover this financial burden. Executive and chief officers agree that this is the right thing to do, in the best interests of families in Southwark, when they need us most.

Procurement Project Plan

Activity	Complete by:
Enter Gateway 1 decision on the Forward Plan	31/07/2026
DCRB Review Gateway 1	09/09/2026
CCRB Review Gateway 1	10/09/2026
CMT Review Gateway 1	01/09/2026
Brief relevant cabinet member (over £100k)	01/09/2026
Notification of forthcoming decision - Executive	07/09/2026

[2] NHS England » The Provider Selection Regime: statutory guidance

Approval of Gateway 1: Procurement strategy report	15/09/2026
Scrutiny Call-in period and notification of implementation of Gateway 1 decision	23/09/2026
Completion of tender documentation	18/09/2026
Completion of any clarification meetings/presentations/evaluation interviews	30/09/2026
Completion of evaluation single tender	30/09/2026
Forward Plan Gateway 2	01/09/2026
DCRB Review Gateway 2:	07/10/2026
CCRB Review Gateway 2 (N/A)	
Notification of forthcoming decision	16/10/2026
Approval of Gateway 2: Contract Award Report	19/10/2026
End of scrutiny Call-in period and notification of implementation of Gateway 2 decision	27/10/2026
Debrief Notice and Standstill Period (N/A)	
Contract award	28/10/2026
Add to Contract Register	28/10/2026
Place award notice on Find a Tender Service	28/10/2026
Contract start	01/11/2026
Initial contract completion date	31/10/2029
Contract completion date – (if extension(s) exercised)	31/10/2030

TUPE/Pensions implications

34. No applicable as there will be no service provision change from the old contract to the new one.

Development of the tender documentation

35. The documentation for the contract will be prepared by commissioners in tandem with the provider and the council's legal services.

Advertising the contract

36. Not applicable as this is a single supplier negotiation.

Evaluation

37. The evaluation will be undertaken by the Commissioning Team and will reflect the five key criteria dictated by the Provider Selection Regime.

Community, equalities (including socio-economic) and health impacts

Community impact statement

38. The Nest is a Tier 2 Mental Health Service supporting children and young people with mild to moderate mental health needs. Being open access and accepting self-referrals means that support can be provided at an early stage. Evidence is clear that when the mental health needs of children and young people are met swiftly that this provides the best opportunity for recovery and significantly mitigates escalation of need with the associated human and financial costs associated with that. Evidence is also clear that unmet mental health needs of children and young people can lead to a lifetime of mental health challenges with the significant impact that has on families and society. For the last six years The Nest has had a positive community impact.

Equalities (including socio-economic) impact statement

39. The Nest is a culturally competent mental health service that has benefitted from the generous input of local children and young people in the co-production of the service. The staff are predominantly Global Majority, and the nature and tone of the service model has broken down barriers in what can be a frightening and non-inclusive area of service provision.

40. Key considerations regarding health inequalities are set out in paragraph 18. The Nest has had a positive impact on tackling health inequalities in our borough over the last six years and is well placed to continue to contribute to closing the gap

41. Groundwork London, the provider, has an organisation-wide commitment to the London Living Wage and employs mostly Southwark residents at The Nest.

Health impact statement

42. The Nest is a Mental Health service for Children and Young People. In addition to supporting Southwark families directly, it has a positive impact on NHS waiting lists in the borough. Intervening earlier at mild to moderate levels of need addresses mental health needs before they escalate. Outcomes reported, and supported by six years of data, demonstrate that this open access model supports the emotional wellbeing and mental health of children, young people, and their family and community networks [para 22].

43. Recognising that the 2025 national *Fit for The Future: 10 year Health Plan for England* missed the mark on mental health, and let families down, and in the context of this now being addressed by the Government, The Nest will place Southwark well to build on the local success of the last six years and to go further faster. The health of our whole community will benefit and the NHS will too.

Climate change implications

44. The location of The Nest was no accident. The Nest is accessed by residents and staff travelling by foot, bicycle and public transport.

45. The modern building is leased by the Council, and we work with the landlord to be as climate friendly as possible. The service being provided here rather than in an old clinic is better for residents and better for the environment. Groundwork London, the provider, has a net zero climate change policy and is making good progress on implementation.

Economic considerations

46. An open access service that supports children and young people and the wider community is a cost-effective way of ensuring that residents have access to preventative and early intervention services that tackle problems before they can escalate.

47. This service will support the Council and its partners in managing demand so that clinical mental health services are used when it is most appropriate to do so.

Social Value considerations

48. The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires that the council considers, before commencing a procurement process, how wider social, economic and environmental benefits that may improve the well being of the local area can be secured. The details of how social value will be incorporated within the tender are set out in the following paragraphs.

Economic considerations

49. An open access service that supports children and young people and the wider community is a cost-effective way of ensuring that residents have access to preventative and early intervention services that tackle problems before they can escalate.

50. This service will support the Council and its partners in managing demand so that clinical mental health services are used when it is most appropriate to do so.

Social considerations

51. The provider will be expected to meet the London Living Wage (LLW) requirements for services provided. Given the need to recruit and retain high quality staff, it is felt that best value will be achieved by including this requirement, as well as ensuring that the Council adheres to the requirements of the “Ethical Care Charter”.

52. The service will focus on using and developing social capital by developing and increasing the number of volunteers and apprentices. Volunteers and apprentices will add value to the offer as well as making experience of using the service a positive one for individuals.

Environmental/Sustainability considerations

53. Operating from a central location in the borough with good public transport links will have a positive environmental impact. The property from which the service will be delivered is located in an accessible location where children and young people can attend using public transport.

Plans for the monitoring and management of the contract

54. The contract will be monitored by the Integrated Commissioning Team, in line with established contract monitoring arrangements for health and social care services.

Financial implications

55. The proposed contract with Groundwork London has an annual total value of £479,000. In addition to the contract value the estimated associated accommodation costs are approximately £62,000 per annum for rent and service charges. Therefore, the total annual cost of the service to the Council and to SEL ICB is £541,000.

56. SEL ICB have confirmed £208,000 per annum, in two elements - £100,000 core funding and £108,000 additional funding *to assist with reducing NHS waiting lists for CAMHS*.

57. The Council contribution will be **£271,000** for the open access mental health service and **£62,000** for rent and service charges for the building that The Nest operates from. This makes an annual commitment from the Council of **£333,000.**

58. In lobbying SEL ICB to take responsibility for the full costs of The Nest, the Council hopes to be able to mitigate this cost pressure as the Council really doesn't have the funds to pay for this service but is doing so because the service is so important for our children and young people. This financial pressure adds to the Council's funding gap and efficiencies and/or savings will have to be found elsewhere to cover it if the Council must pay it.

Consultation

59. The Nest was co-produced by local children and young people working with the Council and Groundwork London. The service faithfully reflects their aspirations for an open access mental health service, and they named it The Nest to represent the refuge, healing and nurturing space that it affords them. Groundwork London continuously seek feedback from families who use the service and develop the service in response to this.

60. The independent evaluation of the service has also influenced and enhanced the service offer. A further evaluation of the service will be undertaken before the end of year 3 of this contract to inform a decision on the +1 extension and the future of the service beyond that. This will allow for commissioning options to be considered, determined and actioned so that a cliff-edge does not arise again at the end of this contract.

Other implications or issues

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Head of Procurement

61. This report seeks approval of the contract award for The Nest [Open Access Mental Health Service for Children and Young People] to Groundwork London in the sum of £479,000 per annum, for a period of 3 years + 1 year extension option, with a maximum lifetime contract value of £1,916,000, commencing from 1 November 2026.

62. These services are covered by the NHS Provider Selection Regime Regulations 2023, (the PSR) and grounds for use of direct award are permitted by Regulations 6 - 9, ("Direct Award Process A – The existing provider is the only capable provider"). Summary information in regard to alignment with the PSR is contained in paragraph 30 It should be noted that use of Direct Award Process A dictates publication of a confirmation of award notice on the Government's Find a Tender Service electronic platform.

63. In the event of a challenge to the award decision, process and recourse will follow remedies available under the PSR[3].

64. Intended alignment with the council's vision and strategic objectives is explicitly referenced at paragraph 31

65. Proposed methodology for monitoring and management of the contract is detailed within paragraph 54 The report also confirms that an annual performance review will be provided to the relevant DCRB and CCRB in alignment with council Contract Standing Orders.

66. The Community, Equalities, Health Impact and Climate change statements and implications are set out in paragraphs 38 – 43.

Director of Law and Governance (20260902SB)

67. This report seeks approval of the procurement strategy for delivery of The Nest (Open Access Mental Health Service for Children and Young People) involving single supplier negotiation and direct contract award, commencing on 1 November 2026, for a period of 3 years including an option to extend for 1 year, for an annual contract value of £479,000 and a maximum lifetime value of £1,916,000.

[3] NHS England » The Provider Selection Regime: statutory guidance

68. This report notes that the services which form the subject of this report fall predominantly within the categories of health services prescribed by the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 which cover all forms of health care intervention services provided to an individual. Those Regulations permit a direct contract award (under “Direct Award Process A”) in cases where a new contract for existing services is required and there is only one provider capable of delivering those services, due to the nature of those services. Use of that permitted process is also subject to a requirement to publish a confirmation of award notice for transparency purposes on the UK Find-a-Tender portal.

69. The recommended procurement strategy is also consistent with other relevant domestic legislation, with national and corporate policy and with the council’s Contract Standing Orders, which permit direct award without tendering in exceptional circumstances and reserve the approval decision to the relevant Executive member, who may elect to refer the report to the Executive for collective decision.

70. The Public Sector Equality Duty (“PSED”) contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires that, in making procurement decisions the council must have due regard to the need to:

    a) Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, or other prohibited conduct;

    b) Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not;

    c) Foster good relations between those who share a relevant characteristic and those that do not share it.

    The relevant protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation. The PSED also applies to marriage and civil partnership, but only in relation to (a) above.

71. The various impact statements contained in this report summarise the positive benefits that the proposed procurement strategy and associated contract award are intended to generate for service users, all of whom are considered to possess a protected characteristic as defined in the Equality Act. Whilst paragraph 22 notes that an independent evaluation of The Nest has generated positive feedback officers should conduct an equality impact assessment during the contract term in order to measure the effect and impact of the service on a variety of individuals and groups, including Global Majority service users and those with particular vulnerabilities and needs. This assists the council to demonstrate its compliance with the PSED and officers are advised to keep the assessment under review and update and refresh it as necessary in conjunction with the service provider and in response to any possible reduction or cessation of funding that will have a detrimental impact on service users.

72. In considering the decision the Executive should also take account of paragraphs 59 and 60which note the nature and extent of consultation which has been (and will in the future be) undertaken for the purposes of developing the service and informing a future decision concerning activation of the contract extension option.

Strategic Director of Resources (CAS26-32C&F)

73. The Strategic Director of Resources notes that the proposed contract award to Groundwork London for an annual value of £479,000 and the associated rental and service charge costs of approximately £62,000. The Strategic Director of Resources also notes the confirmation that this contract will be part funded by the South East London Integrated Care Board (SEL ICB) with annual contribution of £208,000 per annum.

74. The Strategic Director of Resources notes that funding for the Council's contribution will need to be contained within existing approved budgets and that this commitment will place additional pressure on the Council's medium-term financial position. The Council will continue discussions with SEL ICB regarding the potential for increased NHS funding in recognition of its statutory responsibilities for children's and young people's mental health services.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

AUDIT TRAIL

This section must be included in all reports.

Executive Member	Councillor Rebecca Corn, Execuitve Member for Education and Care
Lead Officer	David Quirke-Thornton Strategic Director (Children & Adults)
Report Author	David Quirke-Thornton Strategic Director (Children & Adults)
Version	Final
Dated	7 September 2026
Key Decision?	Yes

CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / EXECUTIVE MEMBER		
Officer Title	**Comments Sought**	**Comments Included**
Head of Procurement	Yes	Yes
Director of Law and Governance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Resources	Yes	Yes
Executive Member	Yes	No
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team		7 September 2026