

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 22 February 2023	<b>Decision-maker:</b> Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Refugees
<b>Report title:</b>		Camberwell and Dulwich Children and Family Centre - Grant Award	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		Camberwell Green; Dulwich Hill; Dulwich Village; Dulwich Wood	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Refugees formalise approval of the extension of the grant award to Dulwich Wood Primary School to operate the Camberwell and Dulwich Children and Family Centre.
2. That the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People, Education and Refugees approve the grant extension for the period from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022, value £297,482 excluding VAT and notes that after which, subject to separate approval, the centre will move to a contract, with a combined value of £594,963 per annum excluding VAT.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. Children and Families Centres (CFC) in Southwark are currently delivered by five lead agencies (three maintained schools, two voluntary sector organisations) across four Southwark localities. All centres were due to move to a contract arrangements from 1 April 2022 following a period of negotiation, but due to operational delays in the Camberwell and Dulwich Centre there is a need to extend the grant arrangements.
4. This report relates to the decision to extend the grant award for the Camberwell and Dulwich locality from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022. There have been separate negotiations with Dulwich Wood Primary, the existing provider, to support the recommendations of this report.
5. The total annual budget for the Camberwell and Dulwich centre is £594,963. This report relates to a six month grant award of £297,482.
6. The remaining centres, Peckham, Peckham Rye and Nunhead, Bermondsey and Rotherhithe and Borough, Bankside and Walworth have had contracts in place from 1 April 2022 – 31 March 2024 and were subject to a separate Gateway 2 report, due to the different timescales in securing provision. .

7. A Gateway 1 Procurement Strategy report for Children and Family Centres was approved by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Children, Young People and Education proposing a procurement strategy to move from grant award agreements to formal service contracts, via a Single Supplier Negotiation from April 2022 (SSN).
8. The Gateway 1 approval also included the delegation of the Gateway 2: Contract Award Decision to the Strategic Director of Children's and Adults' Services.
9. The benefits of moving to a contract arrangement following this grant extension are:
  - a. Improved outcomes for families, demonstrated by standardised use of information systems and key performance reporting.
  - b. To provide certainty of funding to not-for-profit organisations.
  - c. Gain oversight and transparency regarding Children and Family Centre building utilisation by wider council and NHS funded services.
  - d. Build strategic management, leadership, and accountability to support provider readiness for a competitive procurement process.
10. The procurement strategy approved the move to more formalised contractual arrangements through a Single Supplier Negotiation (SSN) which involves an annual service development plan to be agreed by the council, standardised financial reporting and standardised contract-monitoring arrangements. The SSN also focused on reaching an agreement for a core offer across all localities. This approach also recognises that Children and Family Centre services are delivered from several designated buildings, which are required to be located within specific geographic areas. Across the Children and Family Centres, the lead agencies have ownership of a number of buildings, other buildings are jointly owned by primary schools and the council. Subject to approval, the Camberwell and Dulwich Children and Family Centre to which this report relates will move from a grant to a contractual arrangement in October 2022.
11. A contract for the provision of the Camberwell and Dulwich centre is planned to be in place by 1 October 2022 and is subject to a separate report.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

### **Description of procurement outcomes**

12. The council intends to award Dulwich Wood Primary School with the contract to lead the Camberwell and Dulwich Children and Family Centre, subject to approval, at the end of this grant extension period.

13. The provider is required to work together with other Children and Family Centre providers and the wider strategic partnership to improve outcomes for Children, Young People and Families in Southwark, through a core borough offer.
14. The core purpose of Children and Family Centres is to deliver and facilitate services that ensure children and families are supported through the early years of life so that they can develop well, be able to learn, be content, keep healthy and active. The core purpose of this service is in line with the London Borough of Southwark's (LBS) Fairer Futures Commitment. The primary objectives are:
  - All children are reaching their full possible potential for learning & development.
  - Confident, self-reliant parents.
  - All children are achieving good physical health.
  - All children are achieving good mental health and emotional wellbeing and develop resilience.

### **Policy implications**

15. Southwark's Borough Plan (2020-2022) includes commitments across eight themes guided by Southwark's values, which help Southwark achieve the vision of a fairer and more just society. The provision for under-fives and families delivered through Children and Family Centres directly supports the priority themes; tackling health inequalities, a great start in life, and Southwark Stands Together as Children and Family Centres support some of the most vulnerable families in the borough.
16. The Childcare Act 2006 ("the Act") places a range of duties on Local Authorities, to make arrangements, as far as practically reasonable, for the provision of children's centres to meet needs ([5A – The Childcare Act 2006](#)). The Act requires Local Authorities to secure provisions in an integrated manner. The provision of early childhood services includes early-years provision, health, and social services for young children, parents and prospective parents, together with employment and other advice for parents and prospective parents.
17. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 sets out a local authority's statutory responsibility for commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 0 to 19 years<sup>1</sup>. Currently under 5s provision as part of this requirement is delivered in Children and Family Centres, and is commissioned separately by Children's and Adults' Services. Maintaining and stabilising partnership delivery of services was a central element of moving to a formalised contract.
18. All providers have been required to outline how they met the service specification based on current performance levels via an Annual Review and Self Evaluation. Areas of development were recorded on a Locality Specific Service Development Plan. The review included the range of partnership delivered timetables, including

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<sup>1</sup> [Improving public health outcomes for children, young people and families. Guide 1: Background information on commissioning and service model \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

services commissioned by the Council through separate contracts (i.e. Health Visiting) and South East London Integrated Commissioning Board commissioned services (i.e. mental health support, speech and language for under 5s).

19. The council is committed to improving the well-being of young children in Southwark and reducing inequalities between localities, in relation to matters such as physical and mental health and emotional well-being; protection from harm and neglect; education, training and recreation; the contribution made by them to society; and social and economic well-being

### **Community impact statement**

20. The Public Sector Equality Duty, at section 149 of the Equality Act, requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. It requires public bodies to have due regard when carrying out their activities to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between people with protected characteristics and those with none. The Council's Approach to Equality commits the Council to ensuring that equality is an integral part of our day-to-day business.
21. "Protected characteristics" are the grounds upon which discrimination is unlawful - the characteristics are age, gender, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sexual orientation.
22. The Borough Plan contains a range of commitments which the council will deliver. CFCs support the delivery of themes such as 'Tackling health inequalities', to deliver value for money and quality services for children under-fives and their families accessing CFCs service.
23. As the CFCs programme is focused on young children and their families, the decision to continue to resource it would be expected to have a particularly positive impact on:
  - Children under the age of five.
  - Parents of young children, in particular women who make up the highest proportion of parents using Children's Centre services.
  - The communities amongst whom young children are concentrated.
  - Children from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) backgrounds. More than half of the population of Southwark children aged 0-4 years is of BAME background.
  - Children from low-income families. 24.7% of children aged 0-4 are from low-income families.
24. CFCs provide an opportunity to provide a platform for delivery of seamless services which are responsive to the needs of communities and neighbourhoods that they engage with daily. This can include a specific focus on the renewed commitment to reduce inequalities as part of Southwark Stands Together. The early help strategic review makes a specific recognition of the need to take a

contemporary approach to coproduction by ensuring there is an alignment via the service development plan, through the requirement to demonstrate targeting resources, tailoring services, and ongoing engagement with families and children and young people.

### **Resource implications**

25. The grant will be managed through current staffing resources contained within the Partnership Commissioning Team structure, working alongside the Early Family Help transformation lead.
26. Monitoring of the grant is based on the conditions of grant funding which amongst other things includes evidence of work being done and outcomes being met.

### **Legal Implications**

27. Please see the concurrent report of the Assistant Chief Executive – Governance and Assurance below.

### **Financial Implications**

28. This extension is the continuation of a current arrangement for which a budget is in place within Children and Families. Thus, there is sufficient budget in place to fund this extension for its full duration and there are no resource implications.
29. The required budget for this six month grant award funding (1 April 2022 – 30 Sept 2022) is £297,582. The budget holder has confirmed the availability of this.

### **Consultation**

30. This report is informed by the Early Help Strategic Review and the 0-5 Strategic Oversight Group, further it links to the Partnership Southwark Start Well Programme. These reviews and plans were all developed with multiagency and multidisciplinary professionals from across health, social care and the voluntary sector. This will be further developed as a part of the recommissioning of Children and Family Centres in 2024.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS**

### **Head of Procurement**

31. Not applicable.

### **Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance**

32. This report seeks approval of the award of grant funding to the Camberwell And Dulwich Primary School as the lead agency for the Camberwell and Dulwich Children and Family Centre to enable the continued delivery of the Children and Family Centres programme for the period from 1 April 2022 to 30 September 2022.

33. The decision to approve the report recommendation is one which is expressly reserved to the Cabinet Member under Part 3D of the council Constitution. The proposed grant award is consistent with the council's statutory duties and powers as noted in this report and with corporate policy.

34. These services will continue to be regulated by way of conditions of grant funding rather than by more formal commercial contractual conditions. However, the existing service level agreements with the lead agencies have been reviewed and revised in order to include more rigorous and defined performance indicators and outcomes.

**Strategic Director of Finance**

35. Not applicable

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Documents</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Gateway 1 Children and Family Centres Procurement Strategy	Commissioning Directorate, Children's and Adults' Services, 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor, 160 Tooley Street, London, SE1 2QH	Suzanne Green 0207 525 0130
Decision - Gateway 1 Children and Families Centres Procurement Strategy - Southwark Council <a href="https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=7402">https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?Id=7402</a>		

**APPENDICES**

<b>No.</b>	<b>Title</b>
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

<b>Lead Officer</b>	David Quirke-Thornton, Strategic Director, Children's and Adults' Services	
<b>Report Author</b>	Suzanne Green CYP Commissioning Lead	
<b>Version</b>	Final	
<b>Dated</b>	22 November 2022	
<b>Key Decision?</b>	Yes	
<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>		
<b>Officer Title</b>	<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Assistant Chief Executive - Governance and Assurance	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance	N/A	N/A
<b>Cabinet Member</b>	Yes	No
<b>Date final report sent to Constitutional Team</b>	21 February 2023	