



London Borough of Enfield

Report Title	Extension of one year to existing contract with Barnardos for the provision of children's residential care
Report to:	Executive Director of People, Tony Theodoulou
Date of Report:	22 August 2023
Cabinet Member:	Cllr Abdul Abdullahi, Cabinet Member for Children's Services
Directors:	Tony Theodoulou, Executive Director of People
Report Author:	Liz Cody, Senior Policy and Project Manager
Ward(s) affected:	Jubilee
Key Decision Number	KD 5629
Implementation date, if not called in:	Monday 2 October 2023
Classification:	Part 1 & 2 (Para 3)
Reason for exemption	Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend the current contract with Barnardos by one year to August 2024.

Recommendations

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">I. To approve the contract extension by one year to August 2024II. To approve the increase in placements from one bed to three bed for the duration of the contractIII. To approve the additional revenue costs associated with the increase to a three-bed placement |
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Background and Options

1. When a child comes into care and depending on their needs, an option for some children is to be placed into residential care. Due to a lack of local placements, it has been necessary to place Enfield children away from the borough and sometimes many miles away from their parents, school and social networks. Research evidence shows this consistently leads to poor outcomes for children.
2. The Enfield's Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2021-2026 identifies the need to provide local residential placements.
3. In the financial year 2021/22 the spend on residential placements was, £7.2 million. 88% of children placed in residential care were placed outside of Enfield.
4. In January 2023, there were 37 children and young people in care of Enfield who were placed in Residential care, including those who were jointly funded with health. Of these, only 4 children (10.8%) were placed in Enfield.
5. Along with direct cost pressures from the additional children in care, for those children in residential settings there are further pressures for the Council, through time and costs incurred by social workers and other practitioners, such as Independent Reviewing Officers who are required to perform statutory functions. This in part has led the Council to consider its reliance on private residential providers and explore different delivery models which are more effective for children, deliver better outcomes and more efficient use of staff and financial resources.
6. This approach is based upon the premise that determining our commissioning and service requirements and developing provision with the private residential market on a competitive tender basis will help Enfield shape the market and give greater choice to Enfield's Looked After Children.

7. The identified benefits from our approach include:
 - More local provision can better reflect the needs of the children and young people.
 - Development is needs driven and defined by the local authority.
 - Local provision provides more opportunities to develop positive relationships between the Local Authority and the provider.
 - Quality is contractually defined and can be locally assured.
 - Services are local and can be tailored, allowing for specialist, targeted and emergency provision that is fit for purpose by design and concept.
 - Placement stability and rehabilitation is positively influenced and locally managed.
8. The demand for residential provision is likely to increase in future years due to increasing numbers of children and young people in the care system which will, in turn, generate increased numbers in residential care. The retention of this children's home for a further year is therefore important to support Enfield's Strategy.
9. In July 2021, the Council appointed Barnardos to provide care and accommodation services at a property in Lincoln Road, Enfield EN1 1SY. This initial Contract with Barnardos was for a single placement as this was a specific requirement for one young person at that time.
10. The Contract was for an initial two-year period commencing on 27th August 2021 until 26th August 2023.
11. The Contract includes the Council having the option to serve notice requesting an extension to the term of the Contract for a further year.
12. Provided both parties agree, the contract can be extended on the same terms until 26 August 2024.
13. Both parties have verbally agreed to this proposal and have agreed that, for economies of scale and best value, the placements are to be increased from one to three. Barnardos have sought approval from Ofsted to amend the registration to a three-bed placement.
14. The lease for the property is in place until August 2024, and the proposed contract extension will align the lease and the contract.

Main Considerations for the Council

15. The extension of this contract will mean that the residential home can continue to be used for the placement of Enfield children and young/people.
16. Increasing the number of placements to three will provide much-needed residential accommodation for two additional children/young people.

17. The increase in the number of placements will increase the financial commitment for Enfield Council in relation to this home for the additional year. This information is included in Part 2 of this report.

Preferred Option and Reasons for Preferred Option

18. Four main options have been considered:

Option 1 Do not extend the contract. This would decrease the overall available placements for Enfield children and young people, and alternative accommodation will need to be identified, due to shortages, more than likely outside of the Borough.

Option 2 Extend the contract but maintaining the home as a single placement. This does not provide value for money in the long term and does not maximise the use of this particular property. Status quo will remain or likely increase in relation to children placed outside of the Borough.

Option 3 Extend the contract and increase to a three-bed placement. This is the preferred option as it maintains and increases the provision and support to Enfield

Relevance to Council Plans and Strategies

19. The Enfield Children's Home proposal is part of the Enfield's Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2021-2026 and the Commissioning Framework 2020-2025.
20. This approach exemplifies our undertaking to ensure that looked after children will have access to provision's locally which are specialised and allow us to deliver on the right outcomes for the children and young people.
21. Working with a private care provider allows us to bring in the right type of expertise and knowledge to provide for the most vulnerable children in our Borough.

Financial Implications

22. See Appendix 1

Legal Implications

23. s.20 Children Act 1989 stipulates that every local authority shall provide accommodation for any child in need in their area that requires accommodation as a result of three criterias. It is therefore appropriate for the LA to commission accommodation.
24. Other routes that could lead a child into being looked after include:

- where a child has been removed from their home under an Emergency Protection Order
 - where a child has been removed from their home under a Child Assessment Order
 - where a child has been removed to suitable accommodation by the Police through their powers of protection under section 46 Children Act 1989
 - where a juvenile has been remanded in care and refused bail
 - where a juvenile is subject to a Supervision Order which includes a provision that they reside in Local Authority accommodation
 - being accommodated under section 20 Children Act 1989
 - being made the subject of a Care Order under section 31 Children Act 1989
 - being made the subject of an Interim Care Order under section 38 Children Act 1989
25. Every local authority shall provide accommodation for any child in need within their area who has reached the age of 16, and who's welfare is likely to be prejudiced or tarnished without the help and support of the local authority organisations.

A local Authority has the ability to provide accommodation for any child within their area who has someone with parental responsibility for them, however, the person(s) with parental responsibility has difficulty providing accommodation for them and the local authority can safeguard and promote the child welfare by offering accommodation.

The documentation drawn up between the Council and Barnardos to implement the proposals in this report must be in a form approved by Legal Services on behalf of the Director of Law and Governance.

Equalities Implications

26. EQIA attached

HR and Workforce Implications

27. There would be no workforce implications as Barnardos provide their own staff.

Environmental and Climate Change Implications

28. The opportunity for more young people to live close to key relationships will support actions to positively support climate change intentions

Public Health Implications

29. This will continue to provide residential spaces when there is a growing demand. Residential homes which are specialist children's homes will

allow for delivery of care and focussed on specific needs which are specialist; ultimately providing better tailored care for these children and hopefully resulting in improved outcomes. The presence of these residential homes in the borough will allow for the children from the borough to remain local and still have access to their families, friends and local livelihood.

Property Implications

30. The property is leased by Enfield Council from a third party. This lease is in place until August 2024.

Safeguarding Implications

32. Children's homes must be registered with Ofsted and are required to have all the safeguarding policies in place.
33. All children's homes are subject to annual quality assurance visits along with announced and unannounced visits, from the Access to Resources and Integrated Service.
34. In addition to the quality assurance visits by the Access to Resources Integrated Service, feedback will be requested from social workers and Independent Reviewing Officers
35. The home has a Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) and a deputy DSL. Responsibilities will include ensuring that policies and procedures are updated on a regular basis and that these are accessible to staff and users, that staff have relevant, up to date training and, that the settings follow safer recruitment processes and that safeguarding concerns or allegations of abuse are reported in a timely fashion.

Other Implications

Procurement Implications

36. Any procurement related activity must be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules (CPR's), the Public Contracts Regulations (PCRs) and the Council's Sustainable and Ethical Procurement Policy.
37. The proposed extension to the contract will go through the Procurement Services Assurance process and the necessary Gate Report shall be prepared.
38. The lead officer within the Service Area must keep records of approvals to proceed with the proposed extension to evidence compliance with the rules.
39. In accordance with the Councils CPR's, the service must ensure that a Contract Manager continues to be assigned to the contract and ensures

the monitoring requirements are adhered to, including evidence of regular contract / performance reviews.

Provided by MJ based on version of report circulated 24 July 2023

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Appendices

Restricted Appendix for Part 1 report

Background Papers

There are no background papers