

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Julie Firth, Director of Children's services

2. Subject of decision

Children's Services Specialist Short Breaks
Direct Award of Childrens Short Residential Breaks, to St Oswald's Hospice
through a Provider Selection Regime, as the service is nurse lead and specialist.

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None.

4. Executive summary (*taken from written report)

On 16 October 2023 Cabinet received a report entitled Procurement Plan 2023/24 and agreed to the procurement exercises specified in that report proceeding through the 2024/25 financial year.

The provision of specialist short break residential services, for children with specialist health needs and life limiting conditions (the Services) is currently provided by St Oswald's Hospice under a contact that has terminated on the 31 March 2024. The re-procurement of these Services was included in the above-mentioned Cabinet Report. Currently we are spot purchasing that service, until there has been agreement on the uplift for 24/25 across our sub regional arrangement which is now in place.

On 1 January 2024, the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 (PSR) came into operation. The PSR apply to the procurement of all health care and public health services defined under the Act by relevant authorities. The Services fall within the category "Service Provided by Nurses" under the PSR due to the dedicated nursing support needed for provision of the specialist health care requirements of the children and young people with life limiting health conditions. Therefore, the PSR apply to the procurement of the Services.

This report seeks approval for a direct award of a new 5-year contract to St Oswald's Hospice under the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023.

* This Officer delegated decision is linked to the 16 October 2023 Cabinet report on the Procurement Plan 2023-24 and can be viewed via the following web links:

[Procurement Plan 2023-2024 Report](#)

[Procurement Plan 2023-2024-Appendix 1](#)

5. Alternative Options considered

The services were originally tendered and awarded to St Oswald's Hospice as part of a regional exercise across 5 local Authorities although each Authority entered into its own contract. South Tyneside Council also undertook a soft market test in April 2022 which demonstrated no other available or interested providers in the region. The Authority has since continued to make enquires and due to the specialist nature of the Services has concluded that there are no other suitable alternative providers.

6. Decision(s)

*The Director of Children's Services:

Agrees to the Authority entering a Direct Award for the provision of Children's specialist short breaks for children and young people with life limiting conditions with St Oswald's Hospice for an initial contract term of 4 years with option to extend for a further 1 x 12-month extension period and to take all necessary steps to bring this about, including, but not limited to, entering into a contract, in consultation with the Head of Law.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

- 1) Feedback from families, young people and professionals has been very positive.
- 2) a direct award provides consistency of care and support for families and young people, with highly complex health needs.
- 3) the provider also includes additional services delivered at no extra cost, of bereavement support to siblings and parents and carers, 24/7 help line to professionals and families to gather advice and clinical support for children with complex health needs, no cost support with end-of-life care from this consultant led and nurse delivered service.
- 4) There are currently no safeguarding or regulatory concern; and
- 5) Its good value in terms of balancing costs and overall benefits as the provider offsets some of the actual cost of a bed night through contributions from charitable giving.

Therefore, the Authority is of the opinion that under the PSR it can make an award of a new contract to St Oswald's Hospice under Direct Process A.

8. Date decision made

22 July 2024

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

Yes, the call-in period expires at 5.00pm on 2 August 2024

10. Date of Publication

26 July 2024

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

After 5.00pm on 2 August 2024

Note: *The Report in relation to the decision indicated above is 'Not for publication by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended)'.