

## **Budget Proposals 2012/13: Major Decision: Business Unit : Children's Services (Voluntary Grants)**

### **Combined Impact Assessment: Full assessment (Part 2)**

The council and its partners are facing a significant challenge in the savings it needs to make over the next couple of years. This Full Impact Assessment has been developed as a tool to enable business units to fully consider the impact of proposed major decisions on the community. As a council we need to ensure that we are able to deliver the savings that we need to make from the 1<sup>st</sup> April and be able to justify our decisions through any legal challenge.

This full assessment, combined with the initial review, will evidence that you have fully considered the impact of your proposed changes and carried out appropriate consultation on those changes with the key stakeholders. The Combined Impact Assessment will allow Councillors to make informed decisions as part of the decision-making process regarding the council's budget.

**Name: Richard Williams**

**Position: Director of Children's Services**

**Business Unit: Children's Services**

**Department: Children's Services**

**Date: 9<sup>th</sup> January 2012**

**Please see agenda item 5, page 7, 1<sup>st</sup> proposal**

## Summary from Overall Proposal (Updated as required)

Proposals – Outline	Savings 2012/13		Implementation Cost Include brief outline + year incurred	Delivery In place 01/04/12 If earlier or later state date	Risks / impact of proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potential risks</li> <li>Impact on community</li> <li>Knock on impact to other agencies</li> </ul>	Type of decision*		
	Income £ 000's	Budget reduction £ 000's				Internal	Minor	Major
<p>Service variations – Reduction to grants to Voluntary Sector (including Connexions and Children's Society)</p> <p>The current contract with Connexions supports the work around the NEET targets.</p> <p>The current contract with the Children's Society supports the delivery of the Checkpoint and Children's Rights and Participation programmes.</p>	0	50	Actual percentage cut not yet known	x	<p>Potential risk of an increase in the number of NEET's</p> <p>Potential risk to vulnerable children and young people.</p> <p>Conversations to be held with both the Connexions Service and The Children's Society to secure agreements that the proposed reductions will be at management level and not the front line.</p>			x

### Stage 1: Purpose of the proposal

No	Question	Details
1.	<b>Clearly set out the purpose of the proposal</b>	Percentage reduction to the current contract values for contracts held with The Children's Society. This translates into a 17% reduction against the total value of the contracts held with The Children's Society. The area of reduction is focused on non statutory provision.
2.	<b>Who will this proposal affect?</b>	A new contract is out to tender and is looking to secure developments in the provision of advocacy and independent visiting services alongside the maintenance of support, guidance and counselling services. A new approach to the delivery of participation and engagement will follow once this reduction has been made that will find a new way of delivering the services that were once part of the Children's Society contract.
3.	<b>What is the intended</b>	A new contract is out to tender and is looking to secure developments in the provision of advocacy and independent visiting

No	Question	Details
	outcome?	services alongside the maintenance of support, guidance and counselling services. A new approach to participation and engagement will follow once this reduction has been made that will find a new way of delivering the services that were once part of the Children's Society contract.

## Stage 2: Evidence, Consultation and Engagement

No	Question	Details																														
4.	Have you considered the available evidence?	No but providers have been involved in the development of the new specification.																														
5.	How have you consulted on the proposal?	We have consulted in the following ways: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Viewpoint panels and general public questionnaires have been completed (online &amp; paper)</li> <li>Public "budget consultation" meetings have taken place (Focus Groups)</li> </ul>																														
6.	Who have you consulted with?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members of the public (see above)</li> </ul>																														
7.	How many people responded?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approx 300 responses to questionnaires (Viewpoint questionnaires and general public questionnaires)</li> <li>100 people attended public budget consultation events (Focus Groups)</li> </ul>																														
8.	Outline the key findings?	<p>Reduce grants to the voluntary sector e.g. Connexions, Children's Society. (Potential saving: £50,000)</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th colspan="2">Questionnaires</th> <th></th> <th colspan="2">Focus Groups</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>109</td> <td>37%</td> <td>Yes</td> <td>12</td> <td>20%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>157</td> <td>54%</td> <td>No</td> <td>21</td> <td>36%</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>293</b></td> <td><b>91%</b></td> <td>Base on performance</td> <td>26</td> <td>44%</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td><b>Total</b></td> <td><b>59</b></td> <td><b>100%</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Questionnaires			Focus Groups		No	109	37%	Yes	12	20%	Yes	157	54%	No	21	36%	<b>Total</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>91%</b>	Base on performance	26	44%				<b>Total</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>100%</b>
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9.	What amendments may be required as a result of the consultation?	None – as providers are involved in development																														
10.	How will the results be published?	The results from the public questionnaires and public budget consultation events will be published on the Councils website																														

### Stage 3: Impact Assessment

No	Question	Details	
11.	<b>Identify the potential positive and negative impacts on specific groups</b>		
		<b>Positive Impact</b>	<b>Negative Impact</b>
	All groups in society generally	N/A	N/A
	Older or younger people	Children and Young People will receive same level of direct service provision. An independent visitors service will be developed and the scope of previous advocacy arrangements will be extended.	The support to Young Peoples Panels and the delivery of Total Respect Training maybe may be potentially affected by this proposal.
	People with caring responsibilities	N/A	N/A
	People with a disability	Children and Young People will receive same level of direct service provision. An independent visitors service will be developed and the scope of previous advocacy arrangements will be extended	The support to Young Peoples Panels and the delivery of Total Respect Training maybe may be potentially affected by this proposal.
	Women or men	N/A	N/A
	People who are black or from a minority ethnic background (BME)	Children and Young People will receive same level of direct service provision. An independent visitors service will be developed and the scope of previous advocacy arrangements will be extended	The support to Young Peoples Panels and the delivery of Total Respect Training maybe may be potentially affected by this proposal.
	People who are lesbian, gay or bisexual	Children and Young People will receive same level of direct service provision. An independent visitors service will be developed and the scope of previous advocacy arrangements will be extended	The support to Young Peoples Panels and the delivery of Total Respect Training maybe may be potentially affected by this proposal.
	People who are transgendered	Children and Young People will receive same level of direct service provision. An independent visitors service will be developed and the scope of previous advocacy arrangements will be extended	The support to Young Peoples Panels and the delivery of Total Respect Training maybe may be potentially affected by this proposal
	People who are in a marriage or civil partnership	Children and Young People will receive same level of direct service provision. An independent visitors service will be	The support to Young Peoples Panels and the delivery of Total Respect Training maybe may be potentially affected by

No	Question	Details	
		developed and the scope of previous advocacy arrangements will be extended	this proposal
	People with particular religion or belief / no belief	Children and Young People will receive same level of direct service provision. An independent visitors service will be developed and the scope of previous advocacy arrangements will be extended	The support to Young Peoples Panels and the delivery of Total Respect Training maybe may be potentially affected by this proposal
	Women who are pregnant / on maternity leave	Children and Young People will receive same level of direct service provision. An independent visitors service will be developed and the scope of previous advocacy arrangements will be extended	The support to Young Peoples Panels and the delivery of Total Respect Training maybe may be potentially affected by this proposal
12.	<b>What are the impacts of your proposals to other agencies?</b>	The reduction in grant is going to impact directly on Children's Society and savings should be found from non statutory arrangements.	
13.	<b>Does your proposal link to other decisions you are making?</b>	No	
14.	<b>Is there scope for your proposal to eliminate discrimination, promote equality of opportunity and/or foster good relations?</b>	As part of the tendering process we would look to ensure that the successful contractor would not discriminate and the Advocacy and Independent Visitor Services are aimed at ensuring the wishes and feelings of children and young people are heard.	

#### Stage 4: Course of Action

No	Action	Details
15.	<b>State a course of action</b>	<b>Outcome 1: No major change required</b> - CIA has not identified any potential for adverse impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken as providers are involved in development
16.	<b>Identify any plans to alleviate any negative impacts</b>	TUPE rights will be considered as part of the new contract arrangements.

## Stage 5: Monitoring

No	Action	Details
17.	<b>Outline plans to monitor the actual impact of proposals</b>	The contract will be monitored against agreed outcomes established during the commissioning of the services.

**COMBINED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (PARTS 1 & 2) NEEDS TO BE SENT TO THE BUSINESS SERVICES TEAM FOR QUALITY ASSURANCE. IT WILL THEN BE SENT TO THE FINANCE BOARD AND USED AS PART OF THE DECISION MAKING PROCESS BY COUNCILLORS.**

### Notes:

- *The Equality Duty needs to be an integral part of the decision making process. Decision makers must consider what information he/she has and what further information may be needed in order to give proper consideration to the Equality Duty.*
- *Commissioned services – No delegation. Public bodies are responsible for ensuring that any third parties which exercise functions on their behalf are capable of complying with the Equality Duty, are required to comply with it and that they do so in practice.*

## Action plan / mitigating actions

Please detail below any actions / mitigating actions you need to take: -

No.	Action	Reason for action / mitigating action	Responsibility	Deadline date
1	Set up meeting for commissioners and providers to agree core specification and actions	To progress opportunity	Russell Knight	November 2011 – complete
2	Agree service specification	To progress opportunity	Russell Knight	November 2011 – complete
3	Send out applications (Tenders)	To progress opportunity	Russell Knight	January 2012
4	Evaluation of applications to take place between 6 Feb and 17 Feb (involving young people on panel)	To progress opportunity	Russell Knight	February 2012
5	Award contract	To progress opportunity	Russell Knight	29 <sup>th</sup> February 2012
6	Contract to start 1 May 2012.	To progress opportunity	Russell Knight	1 <sup>st</sup> May 2012