

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Renewal of contract to deliver the independent visitors service
Date of decision:	25/06/2018
Decision maker:	Director of Children's Wellbeing
Authority for delegated decision:	A decision was undertaken by the director for children's wellbeing on 24 July 2015 to award contract to NYAS to deliver the independent visitors service.
Ward:	All wards
Consultation:	Consultation has been undertaken with NYAS, who are willing to take up the option to renew the contract.
Decision made:	To exercise the option to renew the contract with NYAS to deliver independent visitors service for a further 20 months, from 1 August 2018 to 31 March 2020.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The current contract is scheduled to end on 31 July 2018, and there is an option to renew for up to 2 years. Renewing for a period of only 20 months will mean the contract and any future re-commissioning will align with financial years.</p> <p>The original decision was based on a maximum contract value of £26k per annum. Renewing the contract would be at an annual value of £25,708, which includes a 5% increase on the current contract value of £24,484 per annum. This is deemed a fair increase; based on inflation over the life of the contract and providing IV matches for up to 17 looked after children. Finance has confirmed there are sufficient funds in the budget for this.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>The existing contract ceases on 31 July 2018 and if the option to renew for a further 20 months is not exercised, the council will not be compliant with its statutory duty, under the Children's Act 1989. Therefore alternative arrangements for providing independent visitors will need to be put in place.</p> <p>Prior to and during the life of the contract, there are robust quality assurance processes in place to ensure provider delivers a quality service.</p>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do nothing. This is not recommended as it is a statutory duty under the Children's Act 1989 that every looked after child has the right to request and independent visitor. • Go out to tender. This is not recommended as there are no issues with regards service performance. Furthermore there is an option to renew the contract at a cost of £25,708, which is deemed good value for money and it is not anticipated savings would be achieved by re-tendering.

Details of any declarations of interest made:	N/A

Signed..... Date: 25/06/2018