

Contract Title: Extension of Children and Family Centre contracts	
Contractor Name: Early Years Alliance; Kelvin Grove and Elliot Bank; Donderry	
Directorate: CYP	
Contract Classification	A - Time elapsed to undertake full procurement, contract extension/variation needed & C - Extension/variation required but permissible extensions have been exhausted
Initial Contract Value and Initial End Date	Total contracts value: £1,995,129 (Three providers: Early Years Alliance, Donderry School, Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove) The contracts for Children and Family Centres began on 1 st April 2017 with a combined value of £1,995,129 The contract awards were for a period of 3 years, with an option to extend for a further 24 months. The contracts were extended in 2019 for 12 months, and extended for a further 12 months in 2020, with contracts due to end on 31 st March 2022.
Is the contractor providing the service? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fully • Partially • Not during COVID-19 • If not or partially, is there an expectation that “more service” will be provided later? 	Partially The Lewisham Children and Family Centre offer is delivered by three independent providers, who have had different approaches. All universal services by school providers stopped during the various lockdowns, some priority face to face meetings are delivered where social distancing can be maintained and all other service delivery has been over the phone, online, and via video calls. Particularly vulnerable families have continued to be offered face to face support where social distancing and local tier categories have allowed. Early Years Alliance (EYA) have developed a virtual offer of specific programmes, some universal provision, but mainly targeted programmes. Where appropriate group programmes have been developed for 1:1 or smaller group virtual delivery with notable success in the transition of the domestic abuse and therapeutic support offer. Referrals into the service have reduced, which is to be expected as schools are one of the primary referral sources. Referrals dropped by 64% in Q1 20/21 compared with the same quarter in 19/20. We expect this to continue to pick up again as partner agencies start their recovery plans and schools return. Approaches to outreach are different for different providers, school providers are offering food banks from sites and using this as a mechanism to engage with families, whereas EYA are using digital methods to engage with families and developed a vulnerable families list of over 200 families accessing targeted or specialist services. They also developed a signposting

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	<p>directory to important services and developed a virtual timetable for universal services via the Lewisham Children and Family Centre website to combat isolation.</p> <p>Many families reported running out of basic play equipment so EYA have developed partnerships with Creative Homes to develop activity packs for families which have been distributed, they have also developed partnerships with Lewisham Information Service to deliver virtual coffee mornings and with Tea Dance for Little People to produce weekly online activities such as songs and storytelling.</p> <p>Providers have continued to work with partners to deliver an outreach service by having regular attendance at the MPV virtual walk and talk sessions and attending the Mindful Mums virtual sessions to promote the LCFC website and virtual timetable.</p> <p>There has been an increase in social media use and traffic and an increase in engagement through social media with regular posts about food, reading and performing, parenting issues and music.</p> <p>The Lewisham Children and Family Centre website was updated to reflect what was currently available and have received many support enquiries through this approach particularly relating to housing issues or homelessness, food banks, new babies and support requirements, children’s behaviour, activities and sleep routines.</p> <p>Targeted families have received regular screening and check in calls with support for accessing food, medicines and essentials, home schooling issues, child behaviour issues and domestic abuse. As well as via the phone, support is delivered through Zoom calls with many programmes being adapted to be delivered virtually. With notable success in the complex transition of domestic abuse programmes such as The Freedom Programme and CODA from face to face to virtual delivery.</p> <p>Parenting Programmes such as Triple P, Incredible Years and PIPT have been digitalised as both 1:1 and group programmes.</p> <p>Extensive digital training has been provided to staff to ensure they can operate systems and support access to families, as well as confidently identify safeguarding concerns in an online environment.</p>
Any COVID-19 Wave 1 Extension? If so, what?	Yes – 12 month permitted extension: 1 st April 2021 – 31 st March 22, with a reduction in budget applied of £325,129. £220,000 of this was to deliver the corporate savings agenda, and £105,129 re-purposed to support the in house targeted family support service.

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Wave 2 Contract Extension Value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Total: £1.67m• £1.3m : Early Years Alliance (Pre School Learning Alliance)• £0.2m: Donderry School• £0.17m: Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove
Period of Extension	1 st April '22 – 31 st March '23
Wave 1 Background	
What are the reasons for this extension and how is it related to COVID-19?	<p>The initial timeline to deliver a new contract by March 2022 aimed to begin a consultation process in January 2021, redesign the specifications alongside our Early Help and Prevention programme and strategy, and specifically our Health Visiting service, and launch an ITT in Summer 2021. This timeline has been delayed and will be difficult to achieve for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The impact of Covid-19 on officer time makes this timescale less viable. The commissioning service have had significantly less capacity to engage in the consultation and redesign that is needed for this service.• Similar pressures across the sector mean that there is a significant risk that the market would be small, and there has been no capacity to develop the local market over the last 12 months. The local VCS would be potential providers of some elements of Children’s Centre services.• The planned public consultation to support service redesign is not possible due to Purdah. It would still be possible to undertake this consultation after the elections, however this would mean that the procurement process is very tight, and would leave little slippage in terms of completing a full consultation and implementing the findings from this. We need to ensure the consultation process is robust due to the size and length of the new contract, and sensitivity around the budget reduction made this year and planned to be made through this procurement. <p>In addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This contract is a core part of the early intervention offer for children and families in Lewisham. Having more time to pilot and develop Family Hubs approach, and embed the new Early Help system, would be beneficial before agreeing a new and lengthy contract.• A process of service development and change has begun with the providers following the Covid-19 pandemic and the cuts applied to the last year of the service. These developments will continue throughout the extension period, ensuring that the service is continually improving for families in Lewisham. The extension period will provide the

	<p>time for proposed service developments to be tested and evaluated against the developing internal Early Help provision to inform any future service specification.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having longer to embed our internal services will provide a fuller opportunity for the consideration of different delivery models, including insourcing, in the future. 																
<p>How has the contractor/supplier used the Council's money during COVID-19?</p>	<p>The service has adapted quickly and effectively, providing extensive virtual delivery of support for families and CYP – including evidence based programmes, and becoming part of the partnership response to family support during the pandemic.</p> <p>The service is planning for a return to face to face work as the 'roadmap' out of lockdown is progressed, and have fully planned to be able to quickly mobilise.</p>																
<p>Can we/should we get any money back?</p>	<p>Not applicable, as the service was largely maintained. Additionally, £325,129 has been reduced from the contracts in 2021/22 – with a £220k saving, and the rest re-purposed into targeted family support.</p>																
<p>Additional Information</p>																	
<p>Financial Implications</p>	<p>The report seeks approval to extend the contracts for Children and Family Centres services as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Early Years Alliance (Pre School Learning Alliance) for a period of 12 months from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 at a cost of £1.3m • Donderry School for a period of 12 months from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 at a cost of £0.2m • Eliot Bank and Kelvin Grove for a period of 12 months from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023 at a cost of £0.17m • The total cost of the extensions is £1.67m <table border="1" data-bbox="562 1058 1099 1386"> <thead> <tr> <th>Year</th> <th>Value</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>2017/18</td> <td>£1,995,129</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2018/19</td> <td>£1,995,129</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2019/20</td> <td>£1,995,129</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2020/21</td> <td>£1,995,129</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2021/22</td> <td>£1.67m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2022/23</td> <td>£1.67m</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>£11,320,526</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Year	Value	2017/18	£1,995,129	2018/19	£1,995,129	2019/20	£1,995,129	2020/21	£1,995,129	2021/22	£1.67m	2022/23	£1.67m	TOTAL	£11,320,526
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Legal Implications/Comments	All 3 contracts are category A contracts across their original potential 5 year terms. Rule 17 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules allows for extensions of contracts in certain circumstances. These include necessary changes to purchase new works, services or supplies from the contractor and not included in the original procurement, or for changes to deal with unforeseen circumstances. This can only be relied on where a change of contractor would cause significant inconvenience (or substantial duplication of cost) or, a change of contractor cannot be made for economic or technical reasons. In addition, the change must not result in an increase in price of more than 50% of the total value of the contracts across their term. This price limit applies to each separate change however, it must not be used as a means of circumventing the procurement rules. The proposed one year extensions requested meet the circumstances set out in Rule 17. The decisions are key decisions and should go in the forward plan.
Equalities Implications	<p>Children and Family Centre Services provides universal and targeted services for all families with children in Lewisham. The majority of families have children aged between 0-5, and the majority of adults are women.</p> <p>The Council's equalities objectives are addressed in the contract documentation and formed part of the criteria used in the tender evaluation.</p> <p>An EAA will be completed as part of the redesign for future tendering.</p>
Climate Change & Environmental Implications	Providers will be expected to comply with the Council's Environmental and Climate Change requirements, so as to minimise the environmental impact of the service.
Crime and Disorder Implications	None
Health and Wellbeing Implications	The service provides a range of targeted services for children and families in Lewisham. Extending the contract would allow continuation of these services without disruption. The service works to the priorities of the national Healthy Child Programme, the local Early Help and Prevention agenda and the Lewisham CAMHS Transformation Plan and is monitored against a number of key performance indicators.
Social Value Implications	A number of staff employed by the provider are Lewisham residents.

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For reference (Contract Classification) –

Classification Type	Details
A	Time elapsed to undertake full procurement, contract extension/variation needed
B	Currently unfavourable market conditions necessitate contract extension/variation
C	Extension/variation required but permissible extensions have been exhausted
D	Extension/variation required (specific issues)
E	Contract permitted extension(s)
F	No extension needed, service due to end
G	Procurement planning currently underway but new service not expected to be in place within 12 months
H	Procurement planning currently underway and new service to be in place within 12 months