

		AGENDA ITEM 5
		PAF/12/17
Committee:	People and Families Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	12 October 2017	
Enquiries to:	Name: Graham Hughes Designation: Senior Democratic Services Officer Contact details: 033301 34574 Graham.hughes@essex.gov.uk	

On 22 September 2017 the Cabinet Decision FP/902/07/17 Young Carers Service Redesign was called-in by Councillor Mike Mackrory with the support of Councillor's Stephen Robinson, Jude Deakin and Anne Turrell.

A copy of the decision can be found on the website of Essex County Council by entering the full FP reference number on the following page:
<http://cmis.essexcc.gov.uk/essexcmis5/Decisions.aspx>

In line with the procedure for handling the call in of a decision, an informal meeting was held on 27 September 2017. A copy of the Notification of Call-In and the note of that meeting are attached at Appendices A and B respectively.

On the basis of discussion at the informal meeting Councillor Mackrory indicated that he would contact his County Councillor colleagues before coming to a conclusion on whether or not to withdraw his call in of the decision. The call in was withdrawn on 28 September 2017.

As part of the informal discussions with Cllr Mackrory the Cabinet Member offered to support a formal scrutiny after six months of the contract commencing and a cross party review group to monitor its early implementation in the interim. The Committee are invited to consider building this into its work programming for next year.

Action required:

The Committee is invited to note the action taken in this matter and consider building in a review of the implementation of the Young Carers Service Redesign into its work programme for 2018.

APPENDIX A

Notification of Call-in

Decision title and reference number Young Carers Service Re-Design Ref FP/902/07/17	
Cabinet Member responsible Cllr Gooding	Date decision published 19/9/17
Last day of call in period 22/9/17	Last day of 10-day period to resolve the call-in
Reasons for Making the Call in Existing providers and others in the voluntary sector were not given the opportunity to submit bids for the Young Carers Service Re-Design before the decision was made. In addition the lack of IT resource identified by the People and Families Scrutiny Committee T & F group January 2017, Recommendation 2, is a barrier to some in the voluntary sector from even being in a position to participate in the process.	
Signed: Cllr M J Mackrory supported by: Cllrs Robinson, Deakin and Turrell	Dated: 19/9/17
For completion by the Governance Officer	
Date call in Notice Received 22 September 2017	Date of informal meeting 27 September 2017
Does the call in relate to a Schools issue No	If yes, date when Parent Governor Reps and Diocesan Reps invited to the meeting
Date of Scrutiny Committee Meeting (if applicable)	Date call in withdrawn / resolved 28 September 2017

APPENDIX B

Informal meeting to discuss the call-in of Cabinet Decision - Young Carers Service Re-Design (Ref FP/902/07/17) held at 3pm on Wednesday 27 September 2017 in C224/5, County hall, Chelmsford.

In attendance:

Members:

Councillor Tony Ball, Deputy Cabinet Member - Education
Councillor Jenny Chandler, Vice Chairman, People & Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee
Councillor Ray Gooding, Cabinet Member - Education
Councillor Mike Mackrory

Officers:

Hilde Dahmer, Policy & Strategy Advisor (Cabinet Office)
Tim Frances, ECC Commissioner Youth Work
Graham Hughes, Scrutiny Officer, Democratic Services
Michael O'Brien, Head of Commissioning Education & Lifelong Learning

Reasons stated for making the Call-In [Cllrs Mackrory, Deakin, Robinson and Turrell]

Existing providers and others in the voluntary sector were not given the opportunity to submit bids for the Young Carers Service Re-Design before the decision was made.

In addition the lack of IT resource identified by the People and Families Scrutiny Committee T & F group January 2017, Recommendation 2, is a barrier to some in the voluntary sector from even being in a position to participate in the process.

Councillor Mackrory restated the reasons for the call-in. He supported the aspiration and objective for the new service. His reason for the call-in centred on the procurement process and why the voluntary sector providers had not been invited to tender for the service. He referred to the Task and Finish Group report on procurement from the Corporate Scrutiny Committee that recommended that the voluntary sector should be encouraged and enabled to participate fully in ECCs procurement processes.

Background and rationale for the proposed decision

Councillor Gooding emphasised the significant background work undertaken in preparing the decision. Councillor Gooding agreed that where possible he would like to involve the voluntary sector in procurement processes and this has been done for other youth services. However, in this particular instance, the voluntary sector had not performed well enough under current contracts and were not considered capable of providing, nor had the capacity to provide, all the elements of the new proposed service, notably bespoke 1 to 1 support.

Young people had said that they wanted bespoke 1 to 1 support. As a result, the proposed contract required that young carers get these 1 to 1 assessments and bespoke support. Performance and market data collected to inform the decision confirmed that the voluntary sector currently undertake very little bespoke 1 to 1 assessment and support work and, even when specifically required to do so under current contracts, this has often not been done. Officers gave illustrative examples and data of very low current rates for bespoke 1 to 1 support in two particular areas.

ECC had been discussing with Essex voluntary sector providers the proposed 'direction of travel' for the past 3 years but the sector had been slow to respond and ECC had seen no significant change in their behaviour. Officers highlighted services for young carers in other parts of country where the approach and attitude seemed different in understanding and delivering what young carers actually wanted. i.e. a young carers service needing to provide more than just respite groups and activities. It was emphasised that services in Essex for young carers needed this same new approach and direction as seen elsewhere in the country.

Officers confirmed that there was no legal requirement for market testing of this type of contract. Instead, commissioners wanted the best provider to provide the all-round independent care and support needed by young carers.

Recruitment

The Cabinet Member and officers acknowledged it was possible that there could be some recruitment for the new proposed service from the voluntary sector.

Future review of contract performance:

The Cabinet Member offered:

- i. To support the People and Families Policy and Scrutiny Committee reviewing the contract performance after six months (i.e. Autumn 2018 -

after 1 April 2018 commencement of the contract) to see if contractual outcomes are being achieved. This review process could include speaking to young people about their experience of the service and links with services available within schools.

- ii. That, in the interim, he would also support a small cross party review group being established to monitor the early implementation and performance under the contract and take initial soundings from service users, raising any immediate issues of concern to the Cabinet Member, and which could then feed-into the above formal scrutiny exercise.

Conclusion and agreed actions:

[On the following day Cllr Mackrory confirmed that he would withdraw the call-in and accept the two offers for review made by the Cabinet Member above.]