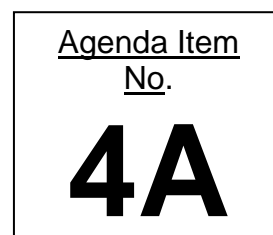


HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNCIL

TUESDAY, 21 JULY 2015 AT 10.00AM



FUTURE FUNDING FOR THE HOME VISITING SERVICE

Report of the Director of Childrens Services

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Executive Member: Richard Roberts, Children's Services

1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1 To set out the background relating to the petition, 'Open tender process for the Home-Visiting Services 2015', the terms of which are set out below:-

"Ensure that the service currently provided by Home-Start to meet the needs of families facing social isolation, mental health problems, disabilities and other issues that prevent them accessing other statutory services is tendered openly in 2015. County are currently recommending that no funding is made available for a 'Home-Visiting service' meaning many families in Hertfordshire will go unsupported. The recommendation is that the families currently supported by Home-Start and Home-Start volunteers will be absorbed by current statutory services such as Children Centres and Health Visitors who are already working to full capacity. To stop Hertfordshire from losing this vital Home-Visiting service please show your support by signing below"

2. Background and relevant information to the petition

- 2.1 Childrens Services Cabinet Panel received a report on the future of the home visiting service on 24 June 2015. The Panel agreed to recommend to Cabinet, which will meet on 13 July 2015, the following:

"That Cabinet agrees:-

- a) that the current home visiting service, currently with nine Home-Start contracts, not be retendered when they expire in September 2015;*
- b) to allocate up to £200,000 of transitional support to the Home-Start providers to enable them to make the necessary adjustments with the families they support,*

their volunteers and their organisation; the allocation of such costs to be determined by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Executive Member for Children's Services;

- c) to note the savings of £390,000 which would accrue from 2016/17; and*
- d) that Hertfordshire County Council meets its obligation to Home-Start as set out in the 'Compact agreement between Hertfordshire County Council and the voluntary sector'."*

2.2 At the date of writing this report, Cabinet has yet to meet, but will have done so by the date of this meeting of Council, and the decisions taken by Cabinet will be reported to Council.

2.3 The report that will have been considered by Cabinet is attached as Appendix A to this report. That report deals with the issues raised by the petition and provides to Cabinet the information required for a decision to be made.

Background Information

Report to the Children's Services Cabinet Panel, June 2015