

# SHEFFIELD CITY COUNCIL

## Education, Children and Families Urgency Sub-Committee

### Meeting held 21st July 2022

**PRESENT:** Councillors Dawn Dale (Chair) , Anne Murphy, Paul Turpin, Ann Whitaker.

#### **1. WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING**

1.1 The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting and outlined housekeeping arrangements.

#### **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

2.1 Apologies were received from Councillor Mick Rooney, with Councillor Anne Murphy substituting; Councillor Brian Holmshaw with Councillor Paul Turpin substituting; and Councillor Colin Ross.

#### **3. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

3.1 No items were identified where resolutions may be moved to exclude the public and press.

#### **4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

4.1 Councillor Anne Murphy declared a personal interest as a respite foster carer.

#### **5. RENEWAL OF CONTRACT WITH NEXUS MULTI-ACADEMY TRUST TO DELIVER THE MEDICAL NEEDS EDUCATION SERVICE**

5.1 The Director of Commissioning, Strategic Commissioning Manager and Commissioning Officer presented a report setting out a proposal to commission the Medical Needs Education Service by way of a service contract with a 2-year term and a value of £2,608,860.

5.2 The report set out the intention of the Council to issue a direct award of a service contract to Nexus Multi-Academy Trust, the current service provider, and officers provided additional information about current performance, including finance, impact and pupil voice.

5.3 Officers confirmed that as part of the commissioning cycle, termly monitoring takes place to ensure that there are sufficient places to meet demand, and that work is going on across the system to support the health and wellbeing of young people, ensure that they are supported in the most appropriate way and reduce the need for services such as this.

5.4 Sub-Committee members welcomed the suggestion of a future discussion on the 'whole system' approach to health and wellbeing support, including health and social care colleagues, and hearing from young people including Looked After

Children.

5.5 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families Urgency Sub-Committee:-

- (i) approves the commissioning of a service contract with a term of 2 years and a value of £2,608,860, for the provision of the Medical Needs Education Service.
- (ii) notes the intention of the Council to issue a direct award of a service contract to Nexus Multi-Academy Trust subject to Officer approval by way of a separate decision report.

5.6 **Reasons for Decision**

5.6.1 The Council has a duty under S19 Education Act 1996 to make arrangements for the provision of suitable education for those children of compulsory school age who, by reason of illness, exclusion from school or otherwise, may not for any period receive suitable education unless such arrangements are made for them. Renewal of this contract will allow the Council to meet these statutory duties.

5.6.2 The proposed contract is not advised to be subject to the competition requirements under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The funding for the service will derive from the High Needs element of the Dedicated Schools Grant. As such the proposed contract is in accordance with Department for Education guidance on contracts which are not “public contracts” for the purposes of the PCR 2015. The current arrangements are due to expire, and if the Council is to continue to make this service available to schools, new arrangements will be required from September 2022.

5.7 **Alternatives Considered and Rejected**

5.7.1 The option to not renew this contract was rejected because it would leave the Local Authority unable to meet statutory duties relating to pupils with medical needs that make them unable to attend school.

6. **GREEN PAPER CONSULTATION ‘SEND REVIEW; RIGHT SUPPORT: RIGHT PLACE: RIGHT TIME’**

6.1 The Director of Education & Skills, and Head of Access and Inclusion presented a report providing details of Sheffield City Council’s response to the Department for Education green paper ‘SEND review: right support, right place, right time’.

6.2 Officers reported that the co-chairs, deputy chair and group spokesperson had been briefed as the response had been developed, and that in the new Committee System of governance, this green paper consultation response required Committee approval.

6.3 Sub-Committee members welcomed the inclusion of a report on Alternative Provision on the November agenda of the Policy Committee.

6.4 **RESOLVED UNANIMOUSLY:** That the Education, Children and Families

Urgency Sub-Committee:-

- (i) approves the response to the Department for Education green paper 'SEND review; right support, right place, right time'

**6.5 Reasons for Decision**

- 6.5.1 Contributing to the consultation will provide Sheffield City Council's feedback to a national consultation on provision for children with SEND and how it should be managed in the future.

**6.6 Alternatives Considered**

- 6.6.1 None – all local authorities have been asked to provide a response to the consultation by the Department of Education.

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