



**Report for:** Cabinet Member Signing: 10 April 2025

**Item number:** 6

**Title:** Request to grant permission to accept funding from the Department of Education and Department of Health and Social Care and Variation and Extension of the Contract for the provision of Parent Infant Psychology Service

**Report authorised by:** Ann Graham, Director: Children's Services

**Lead Officer:** Caroline Brian, Assistant Director for Children and Young People Commissioning and Programmes

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non-Key Decision:** Key Decision

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1. The Family Hubs Programme is part of a national funded initiative, jointly managed by the Department for Education and the Department for Health and Social Care. Funding is provided to 75 upper-tier local authorities with high levels of deprivation. Haringey is one of the Local Authorities which has received funding.
- 1.2. Family Hubs offers a range of support services to families across the borough from pregnancy, through to childhood, and up to age 19 (or 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities). These services are available both in person and online.
- 1.3. This report provides an update on the grant funding from the Department of Education (DfE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) for the continuation of the Family Hubs Programme in Haringey. Also, it seeks approval to accept this grant funding of approximately £1.3 million in accordance with Contract Standing Orders (CSO) 21.01 (Approval for Receipt of Grants from External Bodies).
- 1.4. To successfully continue delivering the Infant-Parent Mental Health element of the programme, this report seeks approval to vary the terms of the existing contract for the provision of Parent Infant Psychology Service (PIPS) delivered by Whittington Health NHS Trust and extend for further period of 12 months at cost of £265,955 in accordance with CSO 18.03. The total aggregate value of the contract will be £757,865 including proposed variation/extension.

## **2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

2.1. Not applicable

**3. Recommendations**

3.1. For the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families to:

3.1.1. in accordance with CSO 21.01 to grant a permission to accept external funding from Department of Education (DfE) and the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) estimated to be £1.3m for financial year 2025/2026 to continue the Family Hub and Start for Life Programme; and

3.1.2. approve the variation of the contract terms for the provision of Parent Infant Psychology Service provided by Whittington Health NHS Trust, and to extend for a further period of twelve (12) months from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025, at a cost of £265,955, as permitted under CSO 18.03. The total aggregate value of the contract will be £757,865 (excluding VAT) including proposed variation/extension.

**4. Reasons for decision**

4.1. The Family Hubs programme's core aim is to improve family services including Start for Life services, particularly in areas with the highest levels of deprivation and disproportionately poor health and educational outcomes. Accepting this external funding will enable the Council to continue with our commitment to successfully deliver the Family Hubs Programme in 2025-2026. This Programme is needs led, responds to resident demand and provides multi agency services that are accessible locally.

4.2. The Council has received late notification of grant funding for the continuation of the Family Hubs Programme for the 2025/26. To ensure compliance with the grant conditions and the uninterrupted provision of services to families and Family Hub staff, it is recommended that the terms of the existing contract for PIPS be varied to allow for an extension of an additional 12 months. Given the time constraints and resource availability, this course of action is deemed to be in the best interest of the Council.

4.3. The need to establish and initiate service delivery is driven by the requirements to allocate and expend the DfE grant funding within the timescales outlined in the submitted Family Hubs Delivery Plan. Sourcing an alternative provider would necessitate the establishment of new presence within the borough, along with the time-consuming process of integrating into referral pathways and networks. This alternative approach is both resource-intensive and not cost effective to the programme and service users.

**5. Alternative options considered.**

5.1. Do nothing (Grant funding): The Council could decide not to accept the grant. As such the council will lose the opportunity to continue the delivery of the

Family Hubs Programme which is a key objective within our partnership strategies: Haringey Early Help Strategy and Haringey Early Years Strategy. Therefore, this option was not considered viable.

- 5.2. **Option 1: Do nothing (PIPS)** - The council will not meet the requirement of the grant conditions for the Family Hubs Programme if it does not provide a perinatal mental health offer which would result in clawback of funding and non-delivery of services to local families.
- 5.3. **Option 2: Competitive quotation process (PIPS)** – Going to tender or not to vary the existing contract – going to tender would not be a viable option due to limited time available as well as not be able to attract good market due limited period of funding as well as the need for clinical requirements which would be a challenge to meet requirements. Such a delay would lead to impactful present gaps in service preventing vulnerable families having access to this highly critical service.

## 6. Background information

- 6.1. It has been confirmed that Haringey will receive continuation funding for 2025-2026 of approx. £1.3m. The funding for 2025–26 allows the opportunity to consolidate, embed and enhance your family hub network and start for life services offer. This means continuing to deliver the minimum expectations.
- 6.2. The Parent Infant Psychology Service (PIPS) offer is a key component in the support to families and staff within the Family Hubs. This service includes direct one-on-one work with families and their infants, as well as delivering the group sessions and training for Family Hub staff to enhance their awareness and understanding of positive parent-infant relationships
- 6.3. PIPS helps to address problems in parent-infant relationships such as excessive crying and sleeping or eating difficulties. The goal of PIP is to identify any past experiences of the parents that are impacting their current relationship with the infant and assist them in resolving this issue. PIP is a supportive intervention and examines how the history of the mother and infant are affected in daily interaction such as sleep, feeding, playing, and stimulation.
- 6.4. Whittington Health NHS Trust (Whittington) has been delivering an expansion of PIPS since 2023 within the Hubs, collaborating with various partners to ensure its services are accessible to all. The provider is continually enhancing their service offer through joint efforts and consultations with others within the family hub network.
- 6.5. With Whittington's existing presence and experience in borough, they are able to mobilise swiftly to deliver the contractual requirements through an expansion of their current service offer to include community-based outreach, working with other professionals, to support both targeted and broad outreach to meet the needs of the specific cohort of parents and infants requiring this service. The service provides value for money as an extended,

upscaled offer from the existing offer, linked into local referral pathways to ensure targeted reach for the benefit of the target cohort of parents and infants in need of this service.

6.6. Furthermore, Whittington Health NHS Trust is strongly positioned to deliver the required service, utilising their existing core structures, referral pathways and management frameworks to deliver the service in a cost-effective manner.

6.7. To ensure that the service can continue to deliver DfE requirements and strategic functions as set out within the Early Help Strategy for the whole period of the contract.

#### 6.8. **Contract Performance**

6.8.1. Key Performance Indicators and methods of measurement are integrated within the service specification and will be monitored through contract monitoring meetings, site visits and reports.

6.8.2. To date PIPS has made a significant and positive impact towards supporting a wide range of families from different cultures and social backgrounds.

#### 6.8.3. **PIPS-led services have been involved with:**

- 115 families through the Bump to Baby antenatal groups since November 2023
- 16 families have received PIPS Nurse Specialist 1-2-1 appointments since November 2023
- 11 families through the Saplings Young Parents Group since July 2024

6.8.4. Feedback received from mothers and fathers attending the provider's Bumps To Babies, a therapeutic antenatal group offer, has been overwhelmingly positive. Upon completion comments have been received such as:

- *I am very new to all this. They always think about things and answered any doubts – they are happy to help with any concerns that I have.*
- *It is a great group, to help prepare for motherhood, and for labour. Its building strength and relationships for women, which is so important for us first time mothers. I am so glad that I came.*

6.8.5. PIPS has supported services involved approximately 112 families across the borough until the end of August 2024, including Health Visiting baby weigh-ins, stay & plays, baby groups, Midwife antenatal clinics, and Breastfeeding support. The Family Hub, along with new options introduced by PIPS, has facilitated referrals to the Bump-to-Baby group, specialist Nurse 1-2-1 appointments, and the Saplings drop-in group, as well as cross-referrals among these services and standard PIPS offerings.

### 7. **Contribution to strategic outcomes**

7.1. The objectives of the Family Hubs Programme are aligned with several council priorities specifically:

- Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 – 2026
- Early Years Strategy 2023 – 2026
- Early Help Strategy 2024 – 2027

## **7.2. Corporate Delivery Plan**

### **7.2.1. Theme 3: Children and young people**

- Outcome 2 Happy Childhoods - All children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family networks and communities.

## **7.3. Early Years Strategy**

### **7.3.1. Our vision is for all children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family and in our community.**

- **Strategic Aim 1:** To work in partnership with our parents and carers to build resilience and enjoy family life.
- **Strategic Aim 2:** To support parents and babies before and after birth to create the conditions where stress is reduced, positive bonds and attachments can form, and language and communications skills develop so that children are ready for life, enjoyment, and learning.
  - Priority Two: To embed and develop an integrated, multiagency approach to support both pre- and post- birth and childhood through enhanced Children's Centre partnerships and locality based 0-19 Family Hubs.
- **Strategic Aim 3:** To narrow the gap in attainment for different groups of children, ensuring there is equitable access to early education and childcare for all children across the borough.
- **Strategic Aim 4:** To ensure all families have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy Early Years, by improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities for all children.
- **Strategic Aim 5:** Developing partnerships and joined up infrastructure to deliver equitable outcomes and make best use of resources

## **8. Statutory Officers comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Assistant Director of Legal and Governance, Equalities)**

### **8.1. Finance**

#### **8.1.1. This request is to grant permission to accept funding from the Department of Education and Department of Health and Social Care and Variation of the Extension of the Contract for the provision of Parent Infant Psychology Service.**

- 8.1.2. The cost of the variation to the contract for the provision of Parent Infant Psychology service for 2025/26 will be £265,955 per annum.
- 8.1.3. This cost will be fully funded and met from the grant Family Hub on cost centre E43111.

## **8.2. Strategic Procurement**

- 8.2.1. Strategic Procurement notes the contents of this report and have been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 8.2.2. The request to accept the grant funding is in accordance with the Contract Standing Orders 21.01. This funding will facilitate the Council to continue delivering the Family Hubs Programme for another year which aims to improve the health and education outcomes for babies, children, and families living in Haringey.
- 8.2.3. The Family Hub Project Manager to ensure system and processes are in place to enable the Council to fulfil its obligations set out in grant agreements and mitigate risk of having to repay grant funding, either in full or in pro-rata.
- 8.2.4. The contract referenced in section 3 was awarded under below threshold for Public Contracting Regulation 2015 (PCR 2015), 'Light Touch' regime.
- 8.2.5. From January 2024, the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulation 2023 (PSR) has superseded the PCR 2015 for the procurement of healthcare services. Consequently, the Council is now required to ensure compliance with the PSR when commissioning, procuring or modifying contract for healthcare services.
- 8.2.6. The recommendations stated in section 3 above meet the criteria detailed in Regulation 13 (Modification of contracts and framework agreements during their term) of the PSR:
- **Regulation 13.1(d):** A modification made at the discretion of the Council to utilise grant funding to continue delivering PIPS, as the DfE and DHSC have only confirmed the grant allocation for one year; and
  - **Regulation 13.2:**
    - (a) the modification does not make the contract materially different in character, as the recommendation is to continue the same service for additional period of one year; nor
    - (b) the cumulative change in the lifetime value of the contract since it was entered into is more than £500,000. The value of the proposed contract variation is £265,955, and there are no earlier modifications.
- 8.2.7. The recommendation to vary the terms of the existing contract for the provision of Parent Infant Psychology Service to allow extension for further period of 12 months is in line with the CSOs 18.03.

### **8.3. Legal**

- 8.3.1. The Director for Legal and Governance was consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 8.3.2. Pursuant to the Council's Contract Standing Order (CSO) 21.01 Cabinet has authority to approve the receipt of a grant where the value of the grant is £500,000 or more and as such the recommendation in paragraph 3.1.1 is in line with the provisions of the Council's CSO.
- 8.3.3. The recommendation in paragraph 3.1.2 of the report to vary the contract terms for the provision of Parent Infant Psychology Service provided by Whittington Health NHS Trust, and to extend for a further period of twelve (12) months from 1st May 2025, at a cost of £265,955 is permitted under the Council CSO 18.03 and Regulation 13 of the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023.
- 8.3.4. The Director for Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing the approval of the recommendation in the report.

### **8.4. Equalities**

- 8.4.1. The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act;
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
  - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 8.4.2. The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/fait, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.
- 8.4.3. As an organisation carrying out a public function on behalf of a public body, the Provider will be obliged to have due regard for the need to achieve the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty as stated above. Appropriate contract management arrangements will be established to ensure that the delivery of the service requirements does not result in any preventable or disproportionate inequality.
- 8.4.4. The proposal outlined in this report is the variation and extension for the provision of PIPS. The proposal is not anticipated to have a disproportionately negative impact on any group with a protected characteristic.
- 8.4.5. This decision will ensure the council can continue to successfully deliver the Family Hubs Programme which will have a positive impact on service users, namely residents who are pregnant or in maternity and children and young



people who benefit from access to the hubs. The provision of sex-specific services for females, such as breastfeeding support, also means that the decision will have a positive impact on this protected characteristic.

9. **Use of Appendices**

9.1. None

10. **Background Papers**

10.1. The Family Hubs grant was received and approved by Cabinet in December 2022 via the Haringey Family Hubs Programme report.