



**Report for:** Cabinet Member Signing

**Item number:** 6

**Title:** Deaf Outreach Services Contract

**Report authorised by:** Jack Newton, Director of Schools and Learning

**Lead Officer:** Karen Flanagan, Head of Integrated SEND and Eilika McAuley, SEN Advisor for Early Intervention & Inclusion

**Ward(s) affected:** None

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

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1. Haringey Council has been providing the Deaf Outreach Service (formerly known as the Hearing Impairment Outreach Service) to schools in Enfield on behalf of London Borough of Enfield (Enfield Council). Prior to the expiry of the current contract, Enfield Council conducted a competitive procurement process in accordance with the requirements of the Procurement Act 2023. Haringey Council submitted a tender for the delivery of the service and was successful in securing the contract.
- 1.2. This report seeks approval to enter into a contract with Enfield Council for the provision of a Deaf Outreach Services. The contract will be for an initial period of two (2) years, commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 with the option to extend up to a further one (1) year plus another one (1) year (total of four (4) years, if fully extended). The annual value of the contract is £376,000, with a total potential contract value of £1,504,000 over the maximum four-year term, inclusive of all extension options.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

- 2.1. N/A

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1. That the Cabinet Member for Children and Schools approves entering into a contract with London Borough of Enfield (Enfield Council) to provide the Deaf Outreach Services to Schools in Enfield Council in accordance with Contract Standing Order 2.01(c). The contract shall run for an initial period of two (2) years commencing on the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026 and expiring on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2028 with the option to extend up to a further one (1) year plus another one (1) year (maximum of total four (4) years, if fully extended). The annual contract value is £376,000, with an estimated maximum total contract value of £1,504,000 (exclusive of VAT and any indexations that might be agreed) over the full four (4) year term, should both extension options be exercised.

#### 4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1. Enfield and Haringey Council work closely together with the children who are identified as deaf or hearing impaired. Following a competitive procurement process conducted by Enfield Council, Haringey council has been successful in securing a contract for these services for up to 4 years inclusive (inclusive of the extension). Haringey Council also have the option to renegotiate cost in line with inflation or significant changes in caseload.

#### 5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1. **Do nothing:** Haringey Council has delivered the Deaf Outreach Service to Enfield Council for over 20 years and has established a strong working relationship with the borough. If Haringey Council chose not to enter into a new contract and allows the current contract to expire, this could result in staffing implications, including potential redundancies and the loss of specialist expertise, as staff work across both boroughs.

Additionally, it would have a significant impact on Enfield Council, which would be required to secure an alternative provider at very short notice, potentially within a matter of days. This may lead to disruption in service provision, reduced continuity of support for deaf children and young people in Enfield Council.

Furthermore, there is also a risk of reputational damage to Haringey Council and harm to its longstanding relationship with a neighbouring borough, particularly as Haringey has participated in the procurement process, has been successful in its tender submission, and has agreed in principle to continue delivering the service.

Given the significant operational, staffing, service continuity and reputational risks outlined above, this option is not recommended.

#### 6. Background information

- 6.1. Haringey Council has had a contract with Enfield Council for over 20 years to provide the Deaf Outreach Service (formerly known as the Hearing Impairment Outreach Service) which include specialist advice and assistance regarding education provision, policies and statutory duties for Enfield Council. Haringey provides the services for Enfield Council to deliver intervention advice and support from the Haringey Sensory Support Team. These teachers are employed by Haringey, but their salaries are met through this contract.
- 6.2. This contract will enable Haringey Council to deliver a unified service across the two boroughs, which enables Haringey Sensory Support Team to work more flexibly and efficiently in what would otherwise be a very small team. The increased capacity that the team has which covers two boroughs enables Haringey Sensory Support Team to develop specialisms within the service. This attracts more candidates to vacancies in what is a very difficult role to fill. There is a nationwide shortage of teachers of the deaf, but Haringey Council have so far always been able to fill any vacant posts.
- 6.3. On 17<sup>th</sup> April 2026, Enfield Council published a tender notice (UK4) notifying potential suppliers that the procurement was being run as a one stage process via an open procedure under the Procurement Act 2023 and is classified as a Light Touch Service, in accordance with Schedule 1 of the regulations. Haringey Council responded to the invitation to tender and subsequently was successful to be awarded a contract which will commence on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2026. The annual value of the contract is £376,000.
- 6.4. If Haringey Council had not been awarded this contract, this would have resulted in TUPE transfer to a new provider or staff redundancies.
- 6.5. Haringey will meet termly with Enfield Head of SEND and their commissioner to review the delivery of the contract. In that meeting Haringey will report on the KPIs which we have been agreed with Enfield Council. An annual report detailing the delivery in more detail which is shared with Enfield Schools Forum

## **7. Contribution to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024 - 2026 High level Strategic outcomes**

- 7.1. The objectives of the contract are aligned with the priorities within the Corporate Delivery Plan – Children and young people Outcome Areas specifically:
- Best start in life
  - Happy childhoods
  - Successful futures

Our vision for Haringey is that all children and young people are equipped, supported and able to achieve their full potential. This means providing high-quality, joined-up services that provide children, young people and families with holistic care and support, all the way through their childhood and adolescence.

## **8. Carbon and Climate Change**

- 8.1. The Council has set the date for a zero-carbon deadline of 2027, including core council operational buildings and all transport-related activities undertaken by the Council in the delivery of core services.
- 8.2. Practises will be adopted where possible to reduce climate impacts. This includes encouraging staff delivering the Deaf Outreach Service to Enfield Council to use sustainable transport methods for day-to-day travel to and from Enfield when carrying out the service.

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

### **9.1. Finance**

- 9.1.1. This report requests approval to enter into a contract with Enfield Council to provide the Deaf Outreach Services to Enfield Council for a period of two (2) years commencing on the 1st of September 2026 with the option to extend up to a further one (1) year plus another one (1) year (total 4 years), at the full discretion of Enfield Council. The annual value of the contract is £376,000 and £1,504,000 for the life of the contract (if the option to extend up to a further one (1) year plus another one (1) year extension is taken up).
- 9.1.2. The cost of this contract will be subject to review pending inflation or significant changes in caseload, any change will be considered in line with the budget setting process if applicable.
- 9.1.3. The contract costs will be processed through the Hearing Impairment Team Cost Centre E41247. The costs of the contract will be fully met from the approved general fund budgets allocated this Cost Centre.

### **9.2. Strategic Procurement**

- 9.2.1. The Council successfully engaged in a tender process for Deaf Outreach services run by Enfield Council and was the winning bidder.
- 9.2.2. As the value of the contract is at threshold for the application of the Procurement Act 2023 compliance with legislation rests with Enfield Council
- 9.2.3. Whilst the contract is awarded to Haringey via Enfield Council, nonetheless in accordance with CSO 2.01(c) Cabinet may approve contract awards of £500k or more.

### **9.3. Legal**

- 9.3.1 The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in the preparation of this report.
- 9.3.2 Sections 1(1)(b) and 1(3) of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970 permit the Council to enter into an agreement with another local authority to provide administrative, professional or technical services on such terms as the parties agree. This provides the statutory power for Haringey Council to provide the Deaf Outreach Service to Enfield Council.
- 9.3.3 The maximum contract value is £1,504,000. Approval is therefore required under CSO 2.01(c). The decision is also a Key Decision under CSO 2.01(e) and must be included in the Forward Plan and comply with the Council's applicable governance requirements.
- 9.3.4 Financial Regulation 9.11 requires Cabinet to approve contractual arrangements for work undertaken by the Council for third parties and external bodies. Under CSO 0.08 and Part Three, Section C, paragraph 3.6 of the Constitution, the Leader may allocate this decision to the relevant Cabinet Member.
- 9.3.5 The contract terms have been agreed between the parties. In accordance with CSO 17.12, the contract must be executed under seal as a deed.
- 9.3.6 The Director of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) confirms that there are no legal reasons preventing the Cabinet Member from approving the recommendations.

### **9.4. Equality**

- 9.4.1. The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:
- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share protected characteristics and people who do not
  - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not
- 9.4.2. The three parts of the duty apply to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

- 9.4.3. The decision in question is regarding approval to enter into a contract with the London Borough of Enfield (Enfield Council) to provide Deaf Outreach Services to children and young people with Special Educational Needs, who are attending the school in Enfield.
- 9.4.4. Providing the hearing support contract to the London Borough of Enfield will enable better outcomes for deaf children. Deaf children are at risk of achieving less positive educational and employment outcomes as well as being more likely to have negative mental health.
- 9.4.5. Providing the service across the two boroughs will help to mitigate these inequalities by providing more opportunities for children and families to network with other members of the deaf community. As the support service will have a broader range of expertise and be able to make use of economies of scale, it will lead to better outcomes for deaf children and will therefore have a positive impact on the age and disability protected characteristics.
- 9.4.6. As an organisation carrying out a public function on behalf of another public body, the Enfield Council 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 hearing impairment support service in Enfield does not result in any preventable or disproportionate inequality.

## **10. Use of Appendices**

- 10.1. Appendix 1 – Tender Notice (UK4)
- 10.2. Appendix 2 - Contract Award Notice (UK6) published by London Borough of Enfield on central digital platform

## **11. Background papers**

- 11.1. See Appendix 1 & 2

Appendix 1 - Tender Notice (UK4)

Appendix 2 - Contract Award Notice (UK6) published by London Borough of Enfield  
on central digital platform