

What is the Childcare Development and Sustainability Service?

- The Childcare Development and Sustainability Service (CDSS) aims to improve outcomes for families, children and young people, by making sure they can access high quality, sustainable and affordable childcare
- The service supports Bristol City Council to meet its statutory duty to secure sufficient childcare for working parents of children aged 0-14 (up to age 18 for disabled children)
- The service delivers these aims and objectives through three key functions:
 1. Development of new childcare provision
 2. Making childcare provision more sustainable (or future-proof)
 3. Supporting quality improvement of childcare provision

Why is the service being recommissioned?

- Bristol City Council has historically commissioned one external provider to support the childcare sector and help it to achieve its legal duty to secure enough childcare for working parents.
- The outcomes set out in the CDSS contract have generally been effectively delivered by providers, and there would be significant up-front costs for the local authority to bring the service in-house.
- In 2019 Bristol Association for Neighbourhood Daycare Ltd. (BAND) was awarded a contract to deliver the Childcare Development and Sustainability Service. This contract will expire at the end of December 2021, and has already been extended as far as is possible

What are our commissioning priorities?

- Supporting the continued provision of high-quality and safe childcare, including a focus on the One City Plan priority of developing an early years workforce which is ACE (Adverse Childhood Experience) aware
- Developing a service that is focused on addressing the challenges of COVID-19 for childcare providers
- Supporting the One City Plan objectives of increasing childcare affordability for working parents and carers
- Looking for cost savings and efficiencies in delivery, in light of the likely ongoing financial pressure local authorities will face in response to COVID-19 – although the current contract value will not be reduced

What are our procurement recommendations?

- Bristol City Council proposes to recommission the Childcare Development and Sustainability Service as one citywide contract with limited changes to the current service specifications
- The contract would be delivered at its current value of £305,000 per year for one year, with the potential for a further one-year extension.

What are the next steps?

| Stage (<i>all dates provisional and subject to change</i>) | From | To |
|--|------------|------------|
| Consultation on draft commissioning strategy and proposals | 15/03/2021 | 25/04/2021 |
| Opportunity for providers to submit tenders to deliver Service | 12/07/2021 | 06/08/2021 |
| TUPE and implementation | 01/10/2021 | 31/12/2021 |
| New contract start | 01/01/2022 | 31/12/2022 |

How can I find out more?

For more information including legal, policy, and data context please see the full [Draft Commissioning Strategy 2021](#)
Or contact Bristol City Council Children’s Commissioning Team – jcu@bristol.gov.uk – for any further information