

Committee: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY	Date: 11 January 2010	Classification: Unrestricted	Report No.	Agenda Item No. 6.1
Report of: Assistant Chief Executive		Title: Cabinet Decision Called-in: Children, Schools and Families – Contract Awards		
Originating Officer(s): Amanda Thompson Team Leader, Democratic Services		Wards: All		

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The attached report of the Corporate Director, Children Schools and Families was considered by the Cabinet on 1 December 2010 and has been “Called In” by Councillors Carli Harper-Penman, Ann Jackson, Denise Jones, Anwar Khan and Bill Turner. This is in accordance with the provisions of Part Four of the Council’s Constitution.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Committee consider the contents of the attached report, review the Cabinet’s provisional decisions arising and decide whether to accept them or refer the matter back to Cabinet with proposals, together with reasons.

Local Government Act, 1972 Section 100D (As amended)

List of “Background Papers” used in the preparation of this report

Brief description of “background paper”

Cabinet report - 1 December 2010

Name and telephone number of holder
and address where open to inspection

Amanda Thompson
02073644651

3. THE CABINET'S PROVISIONAL DECISION

3.1 The Cabinet after considering the attached report provisionally agreed:-

That the Acting Corporate Director Children, Schools and Families be authorised to award the contracts for services to BUPA Healthcare and Allied Healthcare on behalf of the Authority as below:

Provider	CQC Grade	CQC Inspection Grade	Contract Value	Contract period
BUPA Healthcare	Nursing Care	3* (excellent)	£750,000	1 February 2011 – 31 January 2014
Allied Healthcare	Personal Care	2* (good)	£1,042,587	1 February 2011 – 31 January 2014

4. REASONS/ALTERNATIVE COURSE OF ACTION PROPOSED FOR THE 'CALL IN'

4.1 The Call-in requisition signed by the five Councillors listed above gives the following reasons for the Call-in:

'We are concerned at the decision to transfer this contract to the private sector. We would like:

A full equalities impact assessment to be undertaken of the change in provision

We note the Council's support of the London Living Wage and would like a full impact assessment of the change in provider.

We would like a full assessment of the capacity of current and existing service providers to provide culturally matching care where appropriate and are concerned about the capacity of the BUPA/Allied to do so.

We would like a full assessment on the impact on children, families and future local capacity of the decision to contract with BUPA/Allied in the context of providing local and accessible public service

We would like the opportunity to explore in greater depth why local service providers were unsuccessful

We are concerned that the switch to direct payments and the actual capacity of those currently employer to switch to direct payments and if their employers are able to support this

We would like full details of services which are currently being provided and details of services which will now not be protected as a result of the change in provider given the savings quoted

We are concerned at the lack of consultation with service users and their families despite the details of the consultation exercise in the Cabinet report

We are concerned that other public services may also be privatised and what precedent this will set

What efforts has the Council made to obtain advice from other local authorities which have also outsourced their services in this way to these companies?

Even the rating of one of the service providers is 'good' as opposed to 'excellent'. What does the Council intend to do to provide excellent services to disabled children in the Borough, which we assume is what they aspire to do?

How realistic is it that families/children will be able to 'keep' their current worker if desired – how many are likely to do so?

5. CONSIDERATION OF THE “CALL IN”

5.1 The following procedure is to be followed for consideration of the “Call In”:

- (a) Presentation of the “Call In” by one of the “Call In” Members followed by questions.
- (b) Response from the Lead Member/officers followed by questions.
- (c) General debate followed by decision.

N.B. – In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Protocols and Guidance adopted by the Committee at its meeting on 5 June, 2007, any Member(s) who presents the “Call In” is not eligible to participate in the general debate.

5.2 It is open to the Committee to either resolve to take no action which would have the effect of endorsing the original Cabinet decisions, or the Committee could refer the matter back to the Cabinet for further consideration setting out the nature of its concerns and possibly recommending an alternative course of action.