

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

COUNCIL: 28TH APRIL, 2025

REFERENCE FROM CABINET: 20TH MARCH, 2025

“C301 RENEWAL OF THE FLYING START COMMISSIONED CHILDCARE CONTRACTS (SCH) (SCRUTINY – HEALTHY LIVING AND SOCIAL CARE) –

The Cabinet Member presented the report to seek authority to renew the childcare contracts for Flying Start commissioned childcare providers and network childminders. Councillor Williams said that the proposal continued the provision already in place and requested authority to extend the contract and the childcare offer.

Councillor Birch said it was so important for children to have early provision outside of the home as longitudinal studies had shown that children with such provision were better able to access education and enabled earlier identification of additional learning needs.

Councillor Sivagnanam said it was essential that children had the best start in life and such provision created fairer communities and would give children the best start in life.

This was a matter for Executive decision.

Cabinet, having considered the report and all the issues and implications contained therein

RESOLVED –

(1) T H A T the Director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, be authorised to renew the childcare contracts for Gibbonsdown Children’s Centre, Dechrau Dysgu and the Flying Start network childminders.

(2) T H A T the Director of Social Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Social Care and Health, be authorised to award the contract(s) for the service for an initial period of two years with an option to extend for up to a further two years, following the completion of the tender process.

(3) T H A T delegated authority be granted to the Monitoring Officer/Head of Legal and Democratic Services to prepare, complete and execute a contract with the childcare and childminding providers.

(4) T H A T use of the urgency procedure set out at Section 15.14 of the Council's Constitution be granted in order that contracts commenced in April 2025.

Reasons for decisions

(1) To enable the Directorate to continue to deliver high quality childcare within the Vale of Glamorgan, in a cost-effective way that met the requirements of Welsh Government Flying Start Guidance and the required standards of the Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW).

(2) To ensure the service was in place for the next two years with the potential to extend it for a further two years if required.

(3) To ensure the appropriate authority and documentation were in place to renew the contracts.

(4) To ensure that contracts could begin from the start of April 2025."