

Appendix 1 - Options Appraisal for Birmingham Children's Trust contract from April 2023

CRITERIA ASSESSED	OPTION A: Do Nothing Existing Contract Extension option for 5 years utilised	SCORE	OPTION B: New Contract 10 years contract with a break clause in year 5	SCORE
Achieve improved outcomes for children and young people services delivered within the scope of CSC statutory duties for BCC	With the breadth of services included in the trust arrangement there will always be improvement work in some service areas at any one time. Services are showing improvement and overall, the experiences for children, young people and families are improving. Despite this positive evidence we still believe that a longer-term contract will enable the trust to be confident that it has the time and the leadership stability to embed improvement within the trust and any action required from the Council.	2	Having a longer-term contract provides more time for the Trust to complete its own improvement journey to achieve Good/Outstanding It is our view that by providing a long-term contractual commitment the Trust is more likely to gain traction on areas of their service portfolio that require improvement and need time to come to fruition, so they can plan changes and improvements further ahead.	4
A solution that makes best use of resources and offers VFM over the longer term	We acknowledge that the Trust represents value for money (Funding Sufficiency CIPFA report 2022) However, a shorter contract term potentially could minimise some opportunities for reduced transactional costs.	3	The ability to make longer term investment decisions to support the strategic direction of BCT/BCC may offer up greater savings opportunities and there could be other reduced transaction costs from being able to commit to things for a longer period, however it is not possible to test this assumption.	3
Offers sustainable support and influence on BCC Children and Families directorate improvement programme	The Trust's plays an important enabling role for the Council's improvement agenda. Both Trust and Council work are not separate when it comes to achieving the best outcomes for Birmingham's children, young people and their families they are intrinsically linked. It remains the aspiration for both the Council and Trust for an Ofsted judgement of 'Outstanding'.	3	The Trust's plays an important enabling role for the Council's improvement agenda. Both Trust and Council work are intrinsically linked when it comes to achieving the best outcomes for Birmingham's children, young people and their families. It remains the aspiration for both the Council and Trust for an Ofsted judgement of 'Outstanding'. We believe that by having a 10-year contract this will provide a more robust platforms to achieve this together and a commitment to a coordinated and sustainable approach to the longer-term strategy needs & the required infrastructure.	4
Sustainable Children's System Outcomes (BCP) for all CSC statutory duties of BCC	It is important to have and sustain stable senior leadership in order to engage with critical system infrastructure e.g., areas such as the Integrated Care Board, Independent Review of Children's Social Care 2022 and new policy initiatives from Government. Whilst 5 years provides stability a longer term further enhances that position.	2	One of the main successes of the Trust is that they have become an influential voice in a complex Birmingham Children's system. We believe that by offering a contract of 10 years the system we will have consistency which will allow them to sustain the influence and build on the progress they have made thus far.	4

Confidence in workforce supply for specialist roles e.g., social workers and support staff	Workforce supply has been a consistent issue raised by the Trust at each Operational Commissioning Group meeting. This option will offer an additional 5 years stability.	2	Workforce supply has been a consistent issue raised by the Trust at each Operational Commissioning Group meeting. By having a 10-year contract it will enable long term strategies for growing, training and retaining its social care workforce.	4
TOTAL		12		19

Score guidance

Score of 1	Very limited evidence
Score of 2	Limited level of evidence
Score of 3	Good level of evidence
Score of 4	Excellent level of evidence

Outcome of the Options Appraisal.

The results support the option B, to extend the current contract for a period of 10 years rather than 5 years, enabling greater stability and security for staff, which will in turn enable better recruitment and retention opportunities and reduce attrition of the current workforce as well as improving the outcomes and experience for children, young people and families through a stable, secure and skilled workforce.

It also offers an opportunity for BCC and BCT to work together on a 10-year partnership arrangement, developing longer term future strategies and investment into children, young people and families in the region.

Securing alignment and delivery of longer-term initiatives of mutual benefit between the Council and Trust such as the Family Hub and 'Early Help' programme and other planned joint commissioning opportunities.

Support the Council with its improvement journey specifically SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disability)