

**CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES
1 FEBRUARY 2011**

**AGREEMENT UNDER SECTION 76, NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE
ACT (2006)
CHILDREN'S SPECIALIST NURSING SERVICES**

Report by Director of Children, Young People & Families

Introduction

1. The Council has the responsibility to support access to education for children with special educational needs and the responsibility to ensure improvement in the health outcomes for Oxfordshire Looked After Children and ensure those young people leaving care are enabled to access continuing health advice and services.
2. To support the delivery of these responsibilities the Council has contracts in place with Community Health Oxfordshire. These contracts are due to end 31 March 2011.
3. In reviewing the nature of these services it was judged appropriate to propose that for the financial year 2011-12 the Council should continue to contribute to these services via a section 76 grant arrangement with NHS Oxfordshire (the PCT).
4. This arrangement will enable the PCT to commission a specialist nursing service under a single NHS contract. This would bring the advantages of integrated service delivery, which should achieve a greater improvement to outcomes and value-for-money than could otherwise be achieved through the Council securing services under separate contractual arrangements.
5. However because there will be changes to the way health services are commissioned and there is a need for the Council to reduce its budgets, it is recommended that the proposed s76 grant agreement should be for one-year, from April 2011 to March 2012.
6. This would provide continuity of service during a period of change and the flexibility to review this investment in the context of new health, social care, schools and public health policy. This review will be undertaken during 2011-12.
7. The following provides a summary of the services to which the s76 grant agreement would contribute:
 - ~ The provision of in-school nursing care in Oxfordshire Special Schools during school days in term-time, to enable children aged 2-19 years, and who have complex needs, to access education.

- ~ The co-ordination and development of health services for Oxfordshire Looked After Children in order to improve their health outcomes and ensure those young people leaving care are enabled to access continuing health advice and services.
- ~ The requirement on the Council to collect, collate and track data on the emotional health of Looked After Children using the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ).

Financial and Staff Implications

8. The agreement would be for payment to the PCT by the Council of £235,917 for the financial year 2011-12 to be allocated as follows:
 - (a) Children with complex needs - £177,917
 - (b) Children Looked After - £58,000
9. There are no staff implications for the Council.

RECOMMENDATION

10. **The Cabinet Member is RECOMMENDED to agree that the Council make a grant under section 76 of the National Health Service Act (2006) to NHS Oxfordshire (the PCT) to fund the delivery of specialist nursing services to:**
 - (a) children with complex needs to facilitate their access to education and**
 - (b) children looked after to facilitate their access to health services.**

MEERA SPILLETT
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Background papers: Nil

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