

## **Children's Services Service Delivery Review cover note**

A review of Council's Children's Services (including Out of School Hours service at Mittagong Public School and Family Day Care Coordination) commenced in 2018, with the following scope:

- Assess Council's suitability to deliver Children's Services
- Assess the impact of changes to funding model and impact of alternatives
- Assess the capability for the service to meet the changes to market demand and competition
- Assess the current and future availability of Family Day Care Educators
- Develop detailed recommendations for future service delivery

The review provided four options:

1. Direct service delivery role
2. Continue with FDC and withdraw from OOSH service.
3. Continue with OOSH service and withdraw from FDC.
4. Policy role.

Option 4 was recommended.

At the 27 November 2019 Council meeting the following was adopted:

1. THAT Council continue in direct service delivery for both Family Day Care and WOOSH for a period of three years, with the following focus:
  - a) Implement the Children's Services Business and Marketing Plan;
  - b) Utilise existing service budget reserve;
  - c) Develop and implement workforce plan for WOOSH; and
2. THAT a further service delivery review be conducted after two years, with the following scope:
  - a) Assess effectiveness of the Business and Marketing Plan;
  - b) Reassess issues and risks identified in the 2019 service delivery review;
  - c) Consider the financial model of the service;
  - d) Consultation with key stakeholders and staff; and
3. THAT the General Manager make representations to the appropriate State and Federal funding agencies seeking additional funds to support Children's Services.

A further review will be undertaken in early 2022, to ensure completion before November 2022, in order to satisfy point 1 and 2 above.