

## STUDY OF EARLY EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT (SEED)

PROJECT REFERENCE NUMBER: EOR/SBU/2011036

**Variation to contract with:** National Centre for Social Research

**Dated:** 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014

**Contract number:** 2011/036

**Variation number:** 1

Amendments have been made to the contract for the Study of Early Education and Development (SEED). The changes cover revised:

- i. Design and timings for the longitudinal survey of children;
- ii. Proposals for ensuring the quality of the BAS assessments;
- iii. Costs and invoicing schedules; and
- iv. Reporting timetables.

It should be noted that there is no change to the aims and objectives of these surveys, or to the end date of the survey.

The longitudinal survey of children will now sample children from six termly cohorts born across two years from September 2010 to August 2012 and interview all the sample three times when children are aged two, three and four. Further detail is provided below. Amendments to the contract are indicated in clause one to twelve in Schedule 1 Amendments below.

Revised costs and invoicing schedules are provided in Schedule 2 below.

This contract variation makes the alterations set out in Schedule 1 Amendments to Schedule 1 of the original contract and replaces Schedule 2 of the original contract with Schedule 2 Amendments below. This Variation to contract should be considered in conjunction with the two papers discussed at the March 2013 Advisory Group meeting. These papers are attached as Annexes to the variation to contract<sup>1</sup>. All alterations to the contract pursuant to this variation, were agreed in writing by email and implemented by the parties in April 2013, save in respect of "Additional project management time to resolve sampling issues" which was agreed in October 2013.

The contractor shall complete the Project on or before 30<sup>th</sup> October 2020.

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Clause 11.

Section 5 Timetable on page 34, 35, 36, 37, 38 and 39 of the Contract shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

### **"TIMETABLE**

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<sup>1</sup> Annex 1 cover the initial re-design paper submitted to DfE on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2014, and Annex 2 covers the final re-design paper submitted to DfE on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

A high level overview of the timetable for the evaluation is provided below. The Contractor shall develop more detailed timetables in consultation with the Department as the evaluation progresses.

<b>Overview timetable of key tasks</b>					
<b>Timing</b>	<b>C1: Longitudinal Study of Children</b>	<b>C2: Study of Early Years Settings</b>	<b>C3: Intensive case studies of good practice</b>	<b>C4: Value for Money study</b>	<b>C5: Qualitative studies of a. children with SEN/Disabilities b. Childminders</b>
<b>Year 1: 2013</b>					
January – March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research aims finessed and agreed with Department.</li> <li>• Contract agreed and signed.</li> <li>• Advisory Group established and first meeting held.</li> <li>• Introductory meetings between NatGen Consortium and DfE early years policy leads.</li> </ul>				
January – April 2013	Sample design and feasibility testing – explore access to Eligibility Checking Service data and HMRC Child Benefit records and DWP benefits records.				
April 2013- June 2013	Sample frame development in conjunction with DWP and sample checking				
July- August 2013	Sampling commences				
September 2013 – December 2013	Undertake baseline interviews with cohorts one, two and three				
<b>Year 2: 2014</b>					
January 2014 - March 2014	Undertake baseline interviews with cohort four. Undertake age three interview with Cohort one.				
February 2014 – March 2014					Finalise sample and recruit child minders
April 2014					Fieldwork with childminders
April 2014 - August 2014	Undertake baseline interviews with cohort five. Undertake age three interview with Cohort two.				

April 2014 – April 2016		Settings fieldwork – visits to sampled settings			
September 2014 - December 2014	Undertake baseline interviews with cohort six.  Undertake age three interview with cohort three.			Draw sample and make initial contact with settings	
October 2014	Longitudinal Study of Children - interim descriptive baseline report for (cohorts C1-C3)				
<b>Year 3: 2015</b>					
January 2015 - March 2015	Undertake age three interview with cohort four.				
January 2015 – October 2015				Detailed cost data from settings visits collected	
April 2015 - May 2015	Longitudinal Study of Children - baseline report (all cohorts)		Draw sample from settings quantitative field work and finalise design		
April 2015 – August 2015	Undertake age three interview with cohort five.  Undertake age four interview with cohorts one, two and three.				
May 2015 – June 2015		Study of early years settings quality (interim quant report)	Recruit case studies		
May 2015 - June 2015					Finalise sampling strategy and recruit respondents for SEN/D qualitative study

July 2015- November 2015			Fieldwork with settings and parents		
July 2015 – February 2016	Undertake age three interview with cohort six.				Fieldwork among case study families with children with SEN/Disabilities & settings
<b>Year 4: 2016</b>					
February 2016		Synthesis of quantitative setting quality data and qualitative findings			
March 2016				VFM (interim report)	
April 2016					Report on qualitative study of children with SEN/D
April –August 2016	Undertake age four interview with cohorts four, five and six.				
July 2016	Report on longitudinal Study of Children (analysis all cohorts at age 3)				
<b>Year 5: 2017</b>					
January – April 2017	NPD EYFS data available for cohorts one, two and three.				
May 2017	Report on Longitudinal study of Children (analysis of all cohorts prior to entry to reception)				
<b>Year 6: 2018</b>					
January – March 2018	NPD EYFS data available for entire sample, including cohorts four, five and six. NPD phonics data available for cohorts one, two and three.				
October 2018	(9) Longitudinal study of children (overview/analysis of all components to date + EYFS profiles)				
<b>Year 7: 2019</b>					

January – March 2019	NPD Phonics data available for entire sample, including cohorts four, five and six. NPD KS1 data available for cohorts one, two and three.				
<b>Year 8: 2020</b>					
January – March 2020	NPD KS1 available for entire sample, including cohorts four, five and six.				
October 2010	Final report (synthesis of all components + Phonics/KS1 analysis, and final CBA)			Value for money analysis	

A more detailed timetable of the main tasks for 2013 is provided below. The Contractor shall work up detailed timetables for future years of the evaluation in consultation with the Department as the evaluation progresses.

2013 Timetable	
Date	Task
January 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set-up meeting. Agree scope and budget.</li> <li>• Sign Letter of Intent.</li> <li>• Start work on sample design and feasibility testing: explore access to ECS and CB data.</li> </ul>
February 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start work on developing questionnaire and test instruments (C1).</li> <li>• Start work on communications plan including branding and website.</li> </ul>
March 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit redesign paper.</li> <li>• First Advisory Group meeting.</li> <li>• Introductory meeting between NatCen Consortium and DfE early years policy leads.</li> <li>• Develop sample frame (C1).</li> <li>• Agree questionnaire outline with DfE (C1).</li> <li>• Pre-pilot work on test instruments (C1).</li> </ul>
April 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draw sample for pilot and main stage (C1).</li> <li>• Draft pilot questionnaire and survey documents to DfE (C1).</li> <li>• Agree branding and launch website.</li> </ul>
May 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign off questionnaire and survey documents for pilot (C1).</li> <li>• Programming and testing (C1).</li> </ul>
June 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sign off CAPI pilot programme (C1).</li> <li>• Send letters to parents (C1).</li> <li>• Pilot interviewer briefings (C1).</li> <li>• Pilot fieldwork starts (C1).</li> <li>• Start drafting fieldwork materials (C2)</li> </ul>
July 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pilot fieldwork ends (C1).</li> <li>• Check pilot data (C1).</li> <li>• Pilot debrief and post-pilot recommendations (C1).</li> <li>• Sign off questionnaire amendments and survey documents for</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>main stage (C1).</li> <li>Implement programme changes and test (C1).</li> </ul>
August 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sign off CAPI programme (C1).</li> <li>Interviewer briefings (C1).</li> <li>Send letters to parents (C1).</li> </ul>
September 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First tranche of baseline interviews starts (C1).</li> <li>Finalise fieldwork materials (C2).</li> </ul>
October/November 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review early data (C1).</li> <li>Start coding (C1).</li> <li>Pilot fieldwork (C2).</li> </ul>
December 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>First tranche of baseline interviews ends.</li> <li>Review materials and fieldwork strategy (C2)</li> <li>Finalise sample design and materials (C5).</li> </ul>

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#### Clause 12

Section “6 Outputs” on pages 38 and 39 of the contract shall be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

#### “ OUTPUTS

The Contractor shall report findings, even if preliminary, to the Department as soon after data collection as possible to ensure the Department receives on-going analysis and information to inform policy and spending decisions. The Contractor shall aim to provide findings within three month of delivery of cleaned data.

The table below shows timetables points at which the Contract shall provider interim or full findings to the Department.

Reporting timetable	
Timing	Description
May 2014	<b>Component 5. Qualitative study of Childminders</b> Report on qualitative studies with childminders
October 2014	<b>Component 1. The Longitudinal Study of Children</b> Interim baseline report from two-year-old cohorts (C1-C3) focusing on take-up
April 2015	<b>Component 1. The Longitudinal Study of Children</b> Report on baseline data for all two year old cohorts.
August 2015	<b>Component 2. Study of early years settings, quality, characteristics and processes</b> Interim descriptive quantitative report on data collected from settings
October 2016	<b>Components 2 and 3: Study of early years settings, quality, characteristics and processes and Case studies of good practice</b> <b>Synthesis of quantitative and qualitative findings exploring quality</b>

	<p><b>in settings.</b></p> <p>Report of findings from intensive cases studies of good practice</p>
March 2016	<p><b>Component 4. Value for money</b></p> <p>Interim report on costs, evidence linking short and longer term outcomes and break-even analysis</p>
April 2016	<p><b>Component 5. Qualitative studies of children with SEN/disabilities</b></p> <p>Report of findings from interviews with families and children with SEN and disabilities and findings from interviews within settings</p>
July 2016	<p><b>Component 1. The Longitudinal Study of Children</b></p> <p>Interim quantitative report 1</p> <p>Analysis of two and three year old cohorts at three years – early impacts and cohort analysis</p>
May 2017	<p><b>Component 1. The Longitudinal Study of Children</b></p> <p>Interim quantitative report 2</p> <p>Analysis of two and three year old cohorts prior to entry into reception – impacts and cohort analysis, particular emphasis on readiness for school.</p>
October 2018	<p><b>Component 1. The Longitudinal Study of Children</b></p> <p>Interim quantitative report 3</p> <p>Overview and syntheses of findings from previous analyses – drawing on all Components of the study</p> <p>Analysis of two and three year old cohorts' EYFS profiles –impacts and cohort analysis.</p>
October 2020	<p><b>Final reporting</b></p> <p>Final overview and synthesis drawing on results from all Components</p> <p>Analysis of outcome measures from NPD including Phonics and KS1 attainment – impacts and cohort analysis</p> <p>Final cost-benefit analysis</p>

## SCHEDULE 2 AMENDMENTS

### Eligible expenditure

- 1.1 The Department shall reimburse the Contractor for expenditure incurred for the purpose of the Project, provided that:
- The expenditure falls within the heading and limits in the Table below; and
  - The expenditure is incurred, and claims are made, in accordance with this Contract.
- 1.2 Funding for this project has been approved to and including the 2014-15 financial year. Funding for milestone payments following the 2014-15 financial year are subject to review. Payments listed below after the 2014-15 financial year are therefore subject to change, and the project is subject to early termination in the event that the approval of the required funding is withdrawn.

### Table

#### Key to Components of the Evaluation:

- Component 1 – Longitudinal Study of Children
- Component 2 – Study of Early Years Settings
- Component 3 – Intensive Case Studies of Good Practice in Early Years Settings
- Component 4 – Value for Money Study
- Component 5 – Qualitative Studies of Children with SEN/D and Childminders.

Project Milestone	Payment Amount	Payment Date
<b>2012/13 Financial Years</b>		
• Sample design and questionnaire design underway for Component 1.		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2013
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>180,213</b>	
<b>2013/14 Financial Year</b>		
• Sample drawn for Component 1. • Pilot questionnaire completed for Component 1. • Pilot fieldwork completed for Component 1.		31 <sup>st</sup> July 2013
• Component 1: Baseline interviews underway (Cohorts C1, C2, C3). • Component 5: Scope and sample design agreed.		31 <sup>st</sup> December 2013
• Component 1: W2 pilot completed. • Component 1: baseline C4 interviews completed, and W2 C1 interviews completed. • Component 5: Sample drawn and childminders recruited. • Component 2: scope agreed.		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014
• Additional project management time to resolve sampling issues		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2014
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,078,216</b>	

<b>2014/15 Financial Year</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 5: Childminder interviews completed.</li> <li>Component 1: baseline C4 interviews completed, and W2 C2 interviews completed.</li> <li>Component 2: Visits underway.</li> <li>Component 5: Draft report on study of childminders for</li> </ul>		30 <sup>th</sup> June 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 1: short draft report on baseline data for 2 year old cohorts C1-C3.</li> </ul>		29 <sup>th</sup> August 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 1: baseline C6 interviews completed, and W2 C3 interviews completed.</li> </ul>		31 <sup>st</sup> December 2014
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 4: VIM sample drawn and contact with settings underway</li> </ul>		30 <sup>th</sup> January 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 1: W2 C4 interviews completed.</li> <li>Component 1: W3 pilot completed.</li> </ul>		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2015
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,331,439</b>	
<b>2015/16 Financial Year</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 3: Sample of settings drawn and design agreed.</li> <li>Component 1: Draft report on baseline data for all cohorts (C1-C6) submitted.</li> </ul>		29 <sup>th</sup> May 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 1 – W2 C5 interviews completed, and W3 C1-C3 completed.</li> <li>Component 2 - Interim setting quality report (based on 2 year old settings).</li> </ul>		30 <sup>th</sup> July 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 4 - cost data collected.</li> <li>Component 3 - case studies recruited.</li> <li>Component 5 - Sample design finalised and recruitment underway for SEN/D study.</li> </ul>		30 <sup>th</sup> September 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 1 – W2 C6 interviews completed.</li> <li>Component 3 - fieldwork with settings and parents underway.</li> <li>Component 5 - case study fieldwork underway.</li> </ul>		31 <sup>st</sup> December 2015
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 4: Interim report on costs submitted.</li> <li>Component 5: SEN/D fieldwork with families and settings underway.</li> <li>Component 3: fieldwork with settings and parents completed.</li> <li>Component 2: setting quality visits completed.</li> <li>Component 3: report on case studies of good practice.</li> </ul>		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2016
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1,225,289</b>	
<b>2016/17 Financial Year</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Component 2: synthesis report based on setting quality visits and findings from component 3.</li> <li>Component 1: W3 C4-C6 interviews completed.</li> <li>Component 5: Report on Study of Children with SEN/D.</li> <li>Component 1: interim report on analysis of aged 3 survey data (W2 survey).</li> </ul>		31 <sup>st</sup> July 2016
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>503,298</b>	
<b>2017/18 Financial Years</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Components 1 and 4: On-going analysis.</li> <li>Component 1: interim report on cohorts C1-C6 prior to entry to reception.</li> </ul>		31 <sup>st</sup> July 2017

• Components 1 and 4: On-going analysis.		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2018
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>198,648</b>	
<b>2018/19 Financial Years</b>		
• Component 1: interim report on C1-C6 with analysis of EYFS data and synthesis of all components to date		30 <sup>th</sup> September 2018
• Component 4: on-going analysis.		
• Components 1 and 4: On-going analysis.		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2019
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>219,527</b>	
<b>2019/2020 Financial Years</b>		
• On-going analysis and reporting.		30 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
• On-going analysis and reporting.		31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>216,886</b>	
<b>2020/21 Financial Years</b>		
Final report drafted.		30 <sup>th</sup> September 2020
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>57,788</b>	
<b>EVALUATION TOTAL excluding VAT</b>	<b>£5,011,304</b>	

All NatCen's costs are quoted exclusive of VAT. Since NatCen is a registered charity whose activities are not-for-profit, under the VAT (Education) Order 1994 we are classed as an 'eligible' body. VAT will be charged at the prevailing standard rate at the date of invoice for all non-exempt services and for services supplied to non-eligible bodies.

NatCen reserves the right to add VAT to its charges in respect of any services in the event VAT is determined to be chargeable.

Expenditure for the financial year 2012-2013 shall not exceed **£180,213** exclusive of VAT.

Expenditure for the financial year 2013-2014 shall not exceed **£1,078,216** exclusive of VAT.

Expenditure for the financial year 2014-2015 shall not exceed **£1,331,439** exclusive of VAT.

Expenditure for the financial year 2015-2016 shall not exceed **£1,225,189** exclusive of VAT.

Expenditure for the financial year 2016-2017 shall not exceed **£503,298** exclusive of VAT.

Expenditure for the financial year 2017-2018 shall not exceed **£198,648** exclusive of VAT.

Expenditure for the financial year 2018-2019 shall not exceed **£219,527** exclusive of VAT.

Expenditure for the financial year 2019-2020 shall not exceed **£216,886** exclusive of VAT.

Expenditure for the financial year 2020-2021 shall not exceed **£57,788** exclusive of VAT.

Total Project expenditure including VAT charged to NatCen by subcontractor shall not exceed **£5,017,065.00**.

All other provisions of the contract shall remain amended.

**This Variation 1 is hereby agreed**

**Authorised to sign for an on behalf of the Secretary of State for Education**

**Signature**

**Name in CAPITALS**

**Position and Address**

**Date**

**Authorised to sign for and on behalf of the Contractor**

**Signature**

**Name in CAPITALS**

**Position and Address**

**Date**

## Evaluation of Early Education in England: Proposed redesign

**Date:** 4 March 2013

**Prepared for:** DfE

### Summary

In designing the original proposal for the Evaluation of Early Education in England we made assumptions about how the eligibility criteria would apply for two-year-olds under the new policy, drawing on the experience of the two-year-old pilot and our understanding of the policy roll-out. During January and February 2013, we learned that key aspects of the process for determining eligibility and the ages of children who are entitled to the offer won't apply as we had thought. This has resulted in us needing to redesign Component 1 of the evaluation.

This document sets out our understanding of the eligibility criteria for the two-year-old offer and how it is to be implemented. We then go on to explain the implications for our original design and set out a fresh design to address these implications. Importantly this design no longer relies on using the Eligibility Checking Service prior to sampling.

The key changes are:

- The cohorts of two and three-year-olds we propose to follow
- Increasing the sample size of two-year-olds and reducing the sample size of three-year-olds (with the overall sample size remaining the same)
- A post-hoc comparison design

These changes do not affect:

- The start and end dates of fieldwork
- The questionnaire material
- Other components of the evaluation
- The overall cost.

