

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 17th SEPTEMBER 2009

REPORT OF DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S SERVICES

APPROVED SCHEME OF DELEGATION – CONTRACTS EXCEEDING £50,000

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to provide an update to Members, in accordance with the Constitution of the Council, of those instances where delegated authority has been used by the Director of Children's Services with respect to the acceptance of tenders and to the appointment of Contractors.

1.0 Capital contracts

1.1 School's Capital Funding for 2009-10 was approved by Cabinet on 28th May 2009. Tenders for capital contracts in excess of £50,000 are listed below.

Scheme	Contractor	Amount £
Bidston Avenue Link and Reception	KGM Ltd	380,341
Stanton Road HORSAs replacement	EJ Horrocks	808,883
St Bridget's classroom replacement	Whitefield & Brown	478,035
Brookhurst Primary PVI classroom	Portakabin	191,533
Pensby High (Girls) lift installation	JKS Construction Ltd	78,875
Brackenwood Infants PVI classroom	Danzer Ltd	236,221
Greenleas Primary classroom extension	Broadless Construction	324,549
Woodchurch Road Primary Extended Schools/caretakers house	Paragon Building Services	105,222
Elleray Park extension	EJ Horrocks	258,873
Park Primary demolition	North West Construction	68,890
Thornton Hough Primary extension	Broadless Construction	308,912

ICT Harnessing Technology Contracts

This programme totalling £1.6m in 2009-10 is funding from capital grant and a small amount of match funding. The programme provides connectivity and internet access for Wirral's schools. Contracts let in excess of £50,000 are listed below:-

Scheme	Contractor	Amount £
Broadband connectivity for Wirral schools for 3 years	North West Learning Grid	60,000 p.a.
Home internet access (re computers for pupils)	02	500,385 (2 years)
Internet filtering	Asavie	54,756 p.a.

ICT Harnessing Technology for Targeted Groups

This is a capital grant totalling £156,000 to be spent by 31st August 2009. This funding provides lap tops and internet access for Wirral's Looked After Children currently in Key Stages 3,4,5, FE and HE education. Contracts in excess of £50,000 are:-

Scheme	Contractor	Amount £
217 laptops and internet filtering	Stone Computers	85,860
Internet Connectivity	Orange	62,496 (3 years)

Advocacy for Children Tender

This contract provides an independent advocacy service for children and those up to 24, particularly those that have been in care. The service has been re-tendered and awarded to the current supplier SCS Kinder (formerly Safeguarding Children's Services Ltd) at a cost of £61,956 for 12 months from 1st September.

Play Practitioner Project

This contract, funded by the Big Lottery is sponsored by Wirral Play Council. The Play Practitioner project will be funded for three years from 16th of February until 15th February 2012. The total funding for the Play Practitioner Project over 3 years will be £137,360.

The project employs a full time Senior Play Practitioner and two part-time play workers to provide supervised open access play provision for children aged 5-13 years in five identified areas of need across Wirral. Each session is a minimum of two hours, five times a week in various locations.

Community Play Ranger

The Play Ranger contract, funded by the Big Lottery is also provided by Wirral Play Council. The project will be funded for three years from 16th February until the 15th February 2012. The total funding available for the Community Play Rangers Project over 3 years will be £284,092.

The project employs 1 full-time Community Play Ranger and 7 part-time Play Rangers providing supervised open play sessions in parks, open spaces, community areas and informal play areas for children aged 5-13 years. These are in four areas; Birkenhead, South Wirral, Wallasey and West Wirral with a minimum delivery of 30 play sessions per week

1.2 Out of Authority Placements

The Schools Budget has an amount of £3,948,000 for Independent School Fees. This budget makes education provision for a number of children with SEN whose needs cannot be met in maintained schools. The placements not previously reported costing in excess of £50,000 per annum are listed below.

2009-10 Out of Authority Placements

Start Date	School	Ref	£
16.06.09	Lakeside School	BJ	52,221
02.07.09	Eden Grove School	JG	137,730

1.3 Children's Residential Care Placements

The Children and Young People's Budget has an amount of £5,372,700 for Independent Residential Care of Looked After Children. The placements not previously reported costing in excess of £50,000 per annum are listed below. Expenditure in this area is expected to be significantly over budget.

Start Date	Provider	Swift Reference	Annual Projected Cost
24.04.09	Care Today	436234	129,546.00
24.04.09	Active 8	109809	71,800.00
22.07.09	Keys Care	109809	182,160.00
14.04.09	Horizon Care	157770	60,868.00
17.07.09	Keys Childcare	144814	92,500.00
19.02.09	Care Today	22174	126,568.00
22.04.09	Fullwood Care	138276	92,036.00
01.03.09	New Pathways Childrens Services	24431	128,968.00
23.01.09	New Pathways Childrens Services Ltd	439867	246,183.00
21.08.08	Orchard Care (Fostering)	49999	63,336.00
23.05.09	Crystal Care Solutions	7967	133,064.00
11.06.09	Good Foundations	48626	97,167.00
19.06.09	Keys Care	49525	141,450.00
25.06.09	Eastmoor Secure Unit	38335	72,450.00
29.06.09	Milestones	187686	104,504.40
29.06.09	Good Foundations Ltd	187688	91,200.00
29.06.09	Good Foundations Ltd	187685	111,026.00
20.07.09	Milestones	431917	94,053.96
03.07.09	Modus Ltd	450734	185,508.00
30.07.09	MCJA Supporting Futures	430141	77,000.00

1.4 Extension to existing contracts

A contract with a value of more than £50,000 has been extended for 6 months (1st July-31 December 2009):

Contract with Connexions

Positive Activities for Young People

£169,500

Connexions will continue to employ personal advisors to ensure that targeted young people are involved in worthwhile, interesting, useful activities that will assist their personal development.

A commissioning process is underway for the delivery of this expanded service. The current contract has been extended to align with the main Connexions contract.

1.5 Contract with only one supplier

The Integrated Children's System

The Integrated Children's System (ICS) is an electronic case record system for children's social care. Every council that has a social services responsibility must maintain an Integrated Children's System that complies with the latest business requirements published by the DCSF. The latest requirements known as 'ICS –

Phase 1C' were published on 30th June 2008 and carry with them a target date for local implementations of 31st October 2009.

As 'ICS – Phase 1C' represents an update of the original set of requirements, there is only one viable provider for this software. Northgate Public Services, the supplier of the current Wirral ICS system have therefore supplied the necessary software updates to deliver an 'ICS – Phase 1C' compliant system at a cost of £40,000 for the software along with £10,000 of services to support the upgrade process.

This work has been funded in the Capital Programme mainly through capital grant.

Childminders SLA 2009/11

The National Childminding Association has been commissioned to set up a childminder network on Wirral. The network will include training, assessment and monitoring of provision, to enable childminders to become accredited. The contract will cost £44,860 in 2009/10 and £42,312 in 2010/11 and is funded from Surestart Grant.

2.0 Financial implications

2.1 There are no financial implications other than those identified above.

3.0 Staffing implications

3.1 There are none arising from this report.

4.0 Other Implications

4.1 There are no implications arising out of this report in terms of equal opportunities, ethnic minorities, the elderly or the disabled; nor are there any LA21, community safety, planning, anti poverty, social inclusion and Local Member support implications.

5.0 Background papers

5.1 There are none.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the report is noted.

Howard Cooper
Director of Children's Services