

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Roger Gough
Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform

DECISION NO:

14/00153

Part Exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act – accompanying report, not for publication.

Non-key decision

Subject: SEND Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Services

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform I agree to enter into joint commissioning arrangements and award a contract to the preferred bidder, as identified by the tendering process currently underway, for the delivery of Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Services

Reasons for decision:

This decision ensures that the Council is compliant in relation to its duties as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014 in relation to Mediation and Disagreement Resolution services and will provide a better service for families whilst offering a small annual core cost saving.

Financial Implications:

It is estimated that Kent's annual contribution for the core service will be £12,480.00 in the first year and £7,480.00 in years 2 and 3. The exact price of the core subscription service is dependent on the cost submitted by the successful tenderer.

Under the PAYG arrangements it is estimated that each Mediation or Disagreement Resolution meeting will cost in the region of £1,000, and will include the cost of a qualified mediator with knowledge in SEND, all pre meeting preparation, reports writing and venue costs. The precise cost of each Mediation or Disagreement Resolution (DR) Meeting is dependent on the price submitted by the successful tenderer.

Legal implications:

Advice has been provided via the central procurement team, who are satisfied with the actions taken. Advice was also sought and provided from Legal Services in relation to the Collaborative Agreement between the LAs and they are satisfied about the action taken.

Equalities implications:

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and it is anticipated that the expansion to the service will impact positively on young people with special education needs and disabilities and the parent(s) or Carer(s) of children with special education needs and disabilities in each of the member Local Authority areas

Cabinet Committee recommendations:

To be entered after the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee meeting on 16 December for consideration by the Cabinet Member when taking the decision. The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee endorsed the decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Education and Health Reform to enter into joint commissioning arrangements and award a contract to the preferred bidder for delivery of Mediation and Disagreement Resolution Services as identified by the tendering process currently underway.

Other consultation:

A collaborative and multi local authority partnership with 15 other South East local authorities Region.

Any alternatives considered:

No viable alternatives

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

Roger G
signed

19th DECEMBER 2014
date