

Single Member Cabinet Decision



Executive  
Forward Plan  
Reference

**E2634**

**Procurement of a new client data system for Children's  
(Social Care) Services.**

<b>Decision maker/s</b>	Cllr Dine Romero, Cabinet Member for Early Years, Children & Youth Cllr Paul Crossley, Council Leader
<b>The Issue</b>	<p>The contract for the existing IT/data system currently used by Children's and Adult Care Services ends in April 2015. Since the original procurement of this system in 2003, there have been a considerable number of advances and developments in such data systems for Children's Social Care. These developments reflect the regulatory changes made by Government, the enhanced requirements placed upon local authorities by Ofsted and the need for systems which can be used flexibly to deal with the major and multiple changes that can occur for a child, young person and their family. All of these developments along with our changes in working practices and in technology over the last ten years mean that our current system no longer meeting our needs.</p> <p>The procurement of a new IT system for Children's Social Care offers the opportunity to improve the quality of our response to children, young people and families; to respond efficiently to new Government requirements relating to performance reporting and provision of services and to focus more social work time on face to face work rather than on the recording, collecting and collating data. This in turn will mean that we are able to partly address workload pressures through making our processes more efficient. The procurement of a new system will also enable the Council to negotiate an improved contract for the on-going maintenance and development of a system that takes into account advances in technology and changes in systems and legislation that affect the way we manage our interventions with families.</p>
<b>Decision Date</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> May 2014
<b>The decision</b>	The Cabinet Member agrees to fully approve the capital funding of the procurement of a new IT/data system for Children's Social Care Services.
<b>Rationale for decision</b>	<p>The rationale is to ensure that Children's Social Care have a high-quality, modern IT system which meets our requirements and enables us to support our most vulnerable children and families effectively.</p> <p>The current system will shortly be out of contract and the suppliers have stated that they are no longer developing the current version.</p>
<b>Financial and budget implications</b>	The total cost of purchasing and implementing a new data system for Children's Social Care Services will be £700,000. This figure is based on recent market testing carried out by the IT Transformation Service and the Commissioning Team.

	<p>In addition, there will be an annual maintenance and development cost of between £77,000 and £85,000, this is currently accounted for within existing budgets and therefore is not an additional cost.</p> <p>It is proposed to fund the cost of purchasing the new data system with an application to utilise Council Earmarked Reserves.</p> <p>The improved functionality of a new system will allow the service to produce key data and performance information more efficiently. At present extensive additional time has to be spent on manual changes to data to comply with Government Personal Social Care returns, this would be avoided. Required capabilities of any new application will mean accessible information, which provides details of key events and the contact details of other involved professionals. These will improve the maintenance of clear and safe planning for our young people and families.</p> <p>IT developments for Adults social care and financial processing will be managed as:</p> <p>(1) Adult social care: as part of the re-tendering of the existing Community Care and Health contract.</p> <p>(2) financial processing: the final outcomes of the Care Bill are required to inform what technical solution would be most appropriate to meet the Council's needs</p>
<p><b>Issues considered</b></p>	<p>Social Inclusion; Customer Focus; Young People; Equality (age, race, disability, religion/belief, gender, sexual orientation); Human Rights; Impact on Staff; Other Legal Considerations</p>
<p><b>Consultation undertaken</b></p>	<p>Cabinet colleagues; Staff; Other B&amp;NES Services; Stakeholders/Partners; Section 151 Finance Officer; Chief Executive; Monitoring Officer</p>
<p><b>How consultation was carried out</b></p>	<p>Consultation was carried out through discussions, presentations and soft market testing.</p>
<p><b>Other options considered</b></p>	<p>Since 2003 there have been significant changes in the requirements of Children's social care and the context in which the service operates with the Council has changed substantially with adult social care and health services now being delivered by Sirona. New legislation in the Care Bill affecting Adult Services and the forthcoming requirement to have an integrated Adult/Health system based upon the unique NHS number means that a shared system no longer, therefore, meets our divergent requirements. We need a child-centric system to support the changes in our ways of working and to deliver the best possible service to our vulnerable families.</p> <p>Consideration was given of joining with another local authority to share their existing IT system. However this option is not possible under current contractual arrangements and we would need to adopt the processes and working practices of the other authority which would restrict our flexibility in delivering support and services in a way that is tailored to our residents' needs.</p>

<b>Signatures of Decision Makers</b>	 
<b>Date of Signature</b>	19 May 2014 <span style="margin-left: 200px;">19 May 2014</span>
<b>Subject to Call-in until 5 Working days have elapsed following publication of the decision</b>	