

**COMMISSIONER NEWSAM'S MEETING**  
**Thursday, 2nd April, 2015**

Present:- Commissioner Newsam (in the Chair).

Also in attendance:- Councillor Watson, Deputy Leader with responsibility for Children's Social Care.

**1. IMPROVEMENTS TO ICT USE WITHIN SOCIAL CARE - PROGRESS UPDATE AND RECRUITMENT APPROVAL**

Ian Thomas, Director of Children's Services, presented an update on the progress of the Social Care Systems Improvement Project. It set out the project timelines and funding requirements for the creation of the key posts in the Project Team.

In late 2014, following Commissioner Newsam's appointment as Children's Commissioner, the Council had been instructed to address the severe deficits in the ICS system as a matter of urgency and procure a replacement system.

The Social Care Systems Improvement Board had been established, meeting twice a month, to oversee 3 distinct workstreams which would address the issues raised by Professor Jay and the Ofsted findings:-

Workstream 1 – Immediate System and Process Improvements  
Workstream 2 – Social Care System – Market Testing and Procurement  
Workstream 3 – Greater use of Mobile Technologies

Good progress was being made against each of the 3 workstreams as detailed in the report submitted.

For the new system to successfully meet the requisite timetable, a large project team would need to be created to deliver the work. Based upon experience in delivering other large system replacement projects and following consultation with other authorities who had completed similar exercises, it was estimated that 28.5 new staff would be required. The total complement of staff would not be required for the full duration of the project.

The total cost of funding the new posts would be approximately £1.4M over 3 years, a mixture of Capital and Revenue funding as appropriate.

It was proposed that the following posts be recruited to immediately:-

- Programme Manager (Adults and Children)
- Project Support Officer
- Adults Social Care Project Manager
- Children's Social Care Project Manager

- ICT Project Manager
- 2 x System Application Design
- Junior System Developer
- Senior System Developer
- Reporting and Data Preparation

The cost of the above 10 posts would be £719,000 over 3 years.

Commissioner Newsam expressed concern that this item had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. However owing to the urgency of the decision, and that any further delays would impede the swift implementation of the decision, Commissioner Newsam consented to the matter being treated as a matter of urgency.

Commissioner Manzie was consulted following the meeting and agreed to the report being considered without having been publicised in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

Minded to Grant:- (1) That the £719,000 capital investment to immediately recruit to the 10 key project roles be approved and the likely further investment of approximately £686,000 for the creation of a project team to deliver the new Case Management System.

(2) That a further report be submitted for the selection of a preferred system including detail on funding requirements.

## **2. EXTENSIONS AND ADAPTATIONS TO THE HOMES OF FOSTER CARERS AND ADOPTERS**

It was noted that this item had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

Resolved:- That this item be deferred for inclusion in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions and resubmission to Commissioner Newsam upon completion of the 28 days.