

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet Member for Children and Education Services
2.	Date:	16th February, 2015
3.	Title:	eSuite Data Management System - continuation of support and maintenance
4.	Directorate:	Children and Young People's Service

5. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek member approval to suspend Standing Order 47, which will permit exemption from normal contract standing orders to enable the continuation of support and maintenance of eSuite (eStart and eNurseries) (provided by Capita Children's Services), the existing performance and activity monitoring software system currently used by the 12 Children's Centres which will remain open from 1st April 2015.

The continuation of the current Children's Centres activity and performance management system is essential to ensure evidence of performance in line with the SureStart Children's Centre Statutory Guidance can be provided during Ofsted Inspections and to help inform future service delivery to ensure services meet the needs of local vulnerable families.

The cost of this support and maintenance contract for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 is £18,765.21

Budget has been profiled to cover this as it is an ongoing annual cost.

6. Recommendations

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT:

- **the contract for support and maintenance of the eSuite software for 2015/16 valued at £18,786.21 be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 47 and the contract be awarded to Capita Children's Services**

7. Proposals and Details

In January 2006, quotations were invited from a number of providers to supply a performance and activity monitoring system for all Phase 1 Children's Centres, this was then extended to include all Phase 2 and 3 Children's Centres. CPFR solutions were the successful system provider (now part of Capita Children's Services). All 22 Children's Centres in Rotherham currently use the eSuite data management system to record information about all the families they support and each contact they make with them, prior to 1st April 2015 all data held for the 22 Centres will be merged, based on family address, to the 12 Centres which are remaining open.

This system is essential to enable us to monitor essential delivery requirements of Children's Centres including the required 'reach' and delivery and uptake of services generally as well as by 'vulnerable groups'. The system is also required to facilitate the monitoring of all Children's Centres activity against the Sure Start Children's Centre Statutory Guidance and Ofsted Children's Centre Inspection Guidance.

It is unfeasible to invite tenders from alternative suppliers due to the compatibility of the system which would necessitate full replacement of the current Children's Centres system and whilst still maintaining access to the records of the 24,000 children and their families currently registered with a Children's Centre (this includes children aged over 5 years who previously accessed Children's Centre services), incurring excessive costs.

As such a request is made for the support and maintenance of the eSuite data management system to be exempt from the provisions of Standing Order 47 and the contract be awarded to Capita Children's Services.

The cost of this support and maintenance contract for the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016 is £18,786.21 for 12 Children's Centres.

Budget has been profiled to cover this as it is an ongoing annual cost.

8. Finance

The costs outlined above are profiled within the Children's Centre budget, as indicated.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

The eSuite data management system is essential to enable Children's Centres to record and provide evidence of their performance against the Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance during Ofsted Inspections.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

The availability of this software system will ensure information is available to:

- Evidence delivery of the Children's Centre Core Purpose
- Evidence delivery of services in line with the Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance
- Evidence delivery of services in line with the Ofsted Children's Centres Inspection Guidance
- Support completion of Children's Centres Self Evaluation
- Enable local and borough analysis of activity

- Evidence uptake of activity within designated 'reach' and geographical areas
- Evidence uptake of activity by 'vulnerable groups'
- Enable comparisons between centres and identification of best practice
- Support day to day management of centres through securely holding family data

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Background Papers:

- Childcare Act 2006
- Sure Start Children's Centres Statutory Guidance 2010
- Ofsted Children's Centres Inspection Guidance

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