

Delegated Cabinet Member Decision (Grant Value up to £150K – 3 years) Report

Decision Maker and Portfolio area:	Helen Lockwood – Deputy Chief Executive – People & Place
Date of Decision:	30th May 2019
Subject:	Commission to deliver Phonics training on both a universal and targeted basis to primary schools across the borough.
Report Author:	Clare Cheetham
Ward(s) Affected:	Is Ward Member consultation required? No

Reason for the decision:

This report seeks exemption from contract procedure rules in order to create a suitable commissioning route for the Council to commission Ruth Miskin Training to deliver a programme of Phonics training, coaching and mentoring support as part of a borough wide *Literacy Strategy*.

The programme will support schools to develop a consistent approach to teaching Phonics. The intention is to work with and develop the 14 schools that are currently using this approach, as well as bringing on 5 new schools per year over 3 academic years.

The funding will be used to provide:

Launch event (half-day) with Ruth Miskin for headteachers and reading leaders	'Every child in our school can read'
Ongoing training every September and January for new staff	3 centrally organised two-day trainings – paid for by LA
Reading Leader training	One per term for all reading leaders including 121 tutoring to reach slowest progress 20% pupils
RMT project lead data analysis	Half termly analysis of school progress data and meeting with Oldham lead and ongoing contact/trouble-shooting/support

Training for new schools/ schools trained over two years ago that have not had termly Development days	Two days in-school training for up to 45 people, two places on a regional training for reading leader/EYFS lead, three Development days – one per term
Support for <i>Read Write Inc.</i> schools trained in last two years	Three Development days – one per term

This request is made in the context of the investment (c£6m) provided to Oldham, as an Opportunity Area (OA), by the Department for Education (DfE). Formal approval for the receipt of the section 31 grant funding to resource the Opportunity Area programme was granted through a Cabinet Report on the 6 June 2016. The OA is committed to joint funding the programme by providing access to funds of up to £50K for the academic year 2019-20.

Summary:

This report seeks exemption from Contract Procedure Rules under 21.3e in order to utilize expertise from Ruth Miskin Training and create a suitable and consistent commissioning route for the Council.

What are the alternative option(s) to be considered? Please give the reason(s) for recommendation(s):

Option1: Commission Ruth Miskin Training to deliver the programme (as outlined above).

Option2: To not commission the training. - This Option would pose a significant risk in the following areas:

- Breakdown in relationships with Oldham Primary Schools who are keen to engage in the programme.
- Potential reputational risk to the Council due to:
 - Lack of strategy to improve Phonics outcomes across the borough.
 - Lack of availability of universal, targeted and bespoke training to schools using this particular approach
 - Lack of cohesive approach and consistency of support and messages affecting quality of support to children and education settings

Recommendation(s):

That permission is given to commission Ruth Miskin Training to deliver the programme outlined.

Implications:

*What are the **financial** implications?*

The cost of the Commission will be £50k per academic year up to and including the 2021/22 academic year. The funding for the first academic year will be from the Council's Opportunity Area grant allocation, with the remaining funding being met from within the existing School Improvement Service budget.

The School Improvement Service funding required is expected to be spread across financial years as below, assuming the commission is not extended beyond August 2022:-

2019/20 – 0
2020/21 - £33k
2021/22 - £50k
2022/23- £17k

These costs will be taken into account when setting the services budget for future years.

(James Postle)

*What are the **procurement** implications?*

OMBC CPR's 21.3 (e) enable flexibility to award a contract and waive CPR's in exceptional circumstances, where Procurement is of a specialist or unique nature. The procurement supports this requirement due to the specialist nature of this service to Oldham's young children population and early years skills development. that can only be carried out by Ruth Miskin. Mohammad Sharif 05/06/2019 Interim Sourcing.

What are the *legal* implications? There is provision under Rule 21.3 (e) of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to grant an exemption from the Rules in exceptional circumstances where the services proposed to be purchased are of a specialist or unique nature. It would appear from the narrative in the body of the report that the phonics training provided by Ruth Miskin is of a specialist and unique nature. I also understand that Ruth Miskin is the sole provider of this training methodology. (Elizabeth Doyle)

What are the *Human Resources* implications? None

***Equality and Diversity Impact Assessment* attached or not required because (please give reason)** Not required

What are the *property* implications None

Risks: *(compulsory for all decisions)*
Note: What risks are involved with the decision or the actions resulting from the decision, and what steps are being taken to manage this? Reports should be forwarded where appropriate to the Head of Corporate Governance

Co-operative agenda As a Co-operative Council, Oldham is committed to delivering high quality outcomes for Oldham's young people. The proposed approach will continue to support Oldham's *Early Years, Better Communication Strategy* across all early years settings. (Jonathan Downs, SPP)

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution? Yes

Has the relevant Finance Officer confirmed that any expenditure referred to within this report is consistent with the Council's budget? Yes

Are any of the recommendations within this report contrary to the Policy Framework of the Council? No

List of Background Papers under Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972:

Title	Available from
Opportunity Area 2017-2020 Plan	https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/675046/Social_Mobility_Delivery_Plan-Oldham.PDF

Report Author Sign-off:	
Clare Cheetham	
Date: 17th June 2019	

Please list any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description
1	Service Specification

Background:

Proposals:

Conclusions:

In consultation with

(Relevant Executive Director/Director  Date: _____

SERVICE SPECIFICATION

Service Specification No.	
Service	Ruth Miskin Phonics Specification
Authority Lead	Oldham Council
Provider Lead	Ruth Miskin Training
Period	September 2019 – August 2022
Date of Review	Termly (throughout)

1. Population Needs

1. NATIONAL AND LOCAL CONTEXT

1.1 National Context

Oldham has been identified as an Opportunity Area (OA) by the Department for Education (DfE). The aim of the OA is to ensure children get the best start in the Early Years, build teaching and leadership capacity in schools, increase access to university, strengthen technical pathways for young people, and work with employers to improve young people's access to the right advice and experiences.

1.2 Local context

Oldham has a pressing need to improve school performance:

- On average Oldham's children start school at a lower level of development than most of the UK.
- Key Stage 2 outcomes although improving fall well below the national average. Oldham's national ranking is 135th out of 152 Local Authorities.
- Pupils in Oldham make below average progress at secondary school, by the time they take their GCSEs, attainment is below the England average.
- Phonics scores in Oldham have only seen a slight increase since 2016 of 1%. This is 1% behind the national increase of 2%, meaning that the gap for all pupils has widened from -4% to -5% over the last 3 years.
- Oldham's score of 77% put them 149th out of 150 local authorities for Phonics in 2018.

This programme will:

- support schools to develop a consistent approach to teaching Phonics. The intention is to work with and develop the 14 schools that are currently using this approach, as well as bringing on 5 new schools per year over 3 academic years.
- Host a launch event (half-day) with Ruth Miskin for headteachers and reading leaders
- Provide ongoing training every September and January for new staff

- Provide termly Reading Leader training and networking opportunities
 - Support RMT project lead data analysis
 - Provide training for new schools/ schools trained over two years ago that have not had termly Development days
- Provide support for *Read Write Inc.* schools trained in last two years

2. Outputs and Outcomes

2.0 Direct Influence on Outcomes

- Improving outcomes in Phonics for pupils in participating schools.
- Improving the leadership of phonics in participating schools.
- Deployment practices in schools will shift from proven ineffective practices to those which have a greater impact on outcomes for pupils.
- Building capacity to take forward the longer term strategy - in particular by improving leadership.
- Improvement supports Borough wide strategy and Opportunity Area priorities.

3.1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

3.1.1 Aims

The aim of this commission is to improve Phonics outcomes across Oldham.

3.1.2 Objective

To provide ongoing phonics training and follow up support to schools through regular delivery of universal, targeted and bespoke support for schools.

- Coaching, mentoring and networking opportunities for headteachers and reading leaders.
- Build and develop a pipeline of Phonics experts across the borough.
- Help to support the development of an effective approach to teaching Phonics across Oldham.

Local delivery will include:

- All staffing and resources required to deliver the agreed training programme.
- All costs associated with delivery will be met by the Provider.
- Reporting progress and raise any emerging issues with Clare Cheetham (Education Improvement Manager).
- Engaging in regular email and telephone contact with schools to support delivery.
- Providing evidence of work undertaken.
- Provide ongoing progress reports to be shared with the Opportunity Area Board and the Director of Education, Skills and Early Years.

- To contribute to the collation of information and evidence of impact for inclusion in any Evaluation and Impact Reporting.
- A contract monitoring meeting will be held on a termly basis between the LA and commissioned organisation to discuss progress and monitor performance of the contract.

The Local Authority, will retain the following responsibilities:

- Informing the commissioned organisation of any issues which may affect delivery.
- Making available a key contact (Clare Cheetham – Education Improvement Manager) for the Schools and the commissioned organisation.

3.2.1 General requirements

- The Provider will ensure compliance with relevant guidance for data protection under the General Data Protection Regulations 2018 (GDPR) and confidentiality in relation to any child/pupil level information/data discussed within the context of the project.
- The Provider will ensure that all documentation used during the project contains the Opportunity Area and Oldham Council branding.
- Oldham Council will make available to the Provider a named contact for the duration of the contract.
- Oldham Council will arrange quality assurance and performance monitoring meetings.
- Oldham Council will arrange financial monitoring meetings.

3.2.2 Skills and Competencies

The successful commissioned organisation will:

- Have a proven track record of delivery.
- Be able to demonstrate that it can undertake this commission in such a way as to achieve professional benefits for all staff involved in the programme.
- Be committed to Oldham Council's co-operative values and strategic approach to school improvement.
- Be able to demonstrate the administrative and leadership capacity to ensure the efficient and effective execute the commission.

3.3 Governance arrangements

3.3.1 The commissioned organisation will liaise with Clare Cheetham (Education Improvement Manager) throughout the duration of the contract.

3.4 RELATIONSHIPS WITH OTHER SERVICES

- Schools and academies in the Oldham area.
- Oldham Council School Improvement Lead – Clare Cheetham (Education Improvement Manager) to quality assure the contract as described above.
- Opportunity Area Board.

4. Applicable Service Standards

- NA