

Delegated Cabinet Member Decision (DFE Grant 150,000) Report

Decision Maker and Portfolio area: Merlin Joseph, Health and Wellbeing

Date of Decision: 15.02.19

Subject: Communication, speech and language local campaign

Report Author: Paula Healey

Ward(s) Affected: Is Ward Member consultation required? No

Reason for the decision:

A key recommendation in the Bercow 10 years On Report¹ was that the Department for Education (DfE) should strengthen the place of communication and language in its strategy to improve social mobility by supporting OAs to develop plans to improve communication and language skills across the age range, not just in the early years.

As a result, Oldham has been awarded 150 k to support its OA programme. The OA Board has agreed to utilize this funding to deliver a local communication campaign for improving communication, speech and language across all key stages.

The aim of the campaign is to make children and young people's communication everybody's business and to give a range of audiences access to information, tools and resources which they could use to play their part in helping children and young people communicate to the best of their ability.

Therefore, permission is being sought to receive the DFE grant for the purpose outlined above and to engage in a competitive tender process through The CHEST North West procurement portal.

Summary:

This report seeks approval to accept the Section 31 grant to tender for a contract with an expert national organisation to deliver a local campaign for improving communication, speech and language.

¹ <https://www.bercow10yearson.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/337644-ICAN-Bercow-Report-WEB.pdf>

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

Option 1: Deliver the campaign using existing council resources.

This poses a significant risk due to lack of resources, capacity and expertise to deliver and coordinate a comprehensive and specialist campaign.

Recommendation(s):

To approve receipt and use of the DFE grant; and commissioning route.

Implications:

What are the financial implications?

The £150k DfE grant to fund a local communication, speech and language campaign is currently anticipated to be an unringfenced s31 grant that will be required to be locally ringfenced to Education and Early Years. The tender process to be undertaken should ensure that the campaign is delivered within the grant funding envelope.

(James Postle)

What are the *procurement* implications? The Procurement exercise will be taking for this on Chest Portal once the Specifications are ready.
Mohammad Sharif 12/02/2019.

What are the legal implications?

The Council is required to follow its own Contract Procedure Rules in tendering a contract for services unless there are exceptional circumstances which meet one or more of the specific requirements in Rule 21.3 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. Therefore, the opportunity should be advertised to ensure that the Council receives value for money for the services provided to the Council. (Elizabeth Cunningham Doyle)

What are the Human Resources implications?

None

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

None

What are the property implications

None

Risks:

Risk

Risk to delivery timescales due to the commissioning process or inability to recruit a suitable organisation

Mitigation

Identify appropriate capacity and prioritise procurement process.

Alert national organisations of the intention to commission a provider to deliver and coordinate a local campaign

Commissioning does not represent value for money or have the desired impact on CSL outcomes.

We will utilise a robust commissioning methodology and will specify output and outcomes desired from the grant
We will work with procurement, finance and legal services to develop robust monitoring and evaluation arrangements.

Co-operative agenda

As a Co-operative Council, Oldham is committed to delivering high quality outcomes for Oldham's children and young people.

The receipt of grant funding will ensure that Oldham's commitment to giving all children and young people the best start in life can be met, supporting essential language development skills in young people across the borough.

(Jonathan Downs; Strategy, Partnerships and Policy)

Has the relevant Legal Officer confirmed that the

Yes

recommendations within this report are lawful and comply with the Council's Constitution?

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

Reason(s) for exemption from publication:

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

Title	Available from

Report Author Sign-off:	
Date:	

Please list any appendices:-

Appendix number or letter	Description

Background:

Proposals:

Conclusions:

In consultation with

(Relevant Executive Director/Director



Date:

15/2/19