

**Report to CABINET**

## **SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS) – retender of service.**

**Portfolio Holder:** Cllr. Mohon Ali, Education and Skills

**Officer Contact:** Gerard Jones, Managing Director Children and Young People (DCS)

**Report Author:**

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**Cabinet Date: 17 June 2024**

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### **Reason for Decision**

The current SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS) contract ends on 31 March 2025. Approval is sought to re-commission the contract through an open, transparent, robust, competitive procurement process. This will enable Oldham Council and its partners to continue to fulfil their statutory duties.

### **Recommendations**

To approve the re-commissioning of SEND IASS with the successful provider going live with the service on 1 April 2025.

Delegate contract award decision making responsibilities to the Director of Children's Services (DCS) in order for services to be delivered from 1 April 2025.

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**SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SEND IASS) – retender of service.****1 Background**

- 1.1 The SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) is due to end on 31 March 2025 with no provision to extend without breaching Corporate Procurement Rules.
- 1.2 The obligations and expectations of SEND information, advice and support services (SENDIASS) are set out in chapter 2 of the SEND Code of Practice. These are further clarified in minimum standards that provide a national framework to support the provision of impartial information, advice, and support, as set out in legislation and associated guidance. The service is free, impartial, and confidential. It is also offered directly to young people aged 16 to 25.
- 1.3 SEND IASS as a statutory service is funded jointly in Oldham by the Council and the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP).
- 1.4 All procurement activity will be via the Chest.

**2 Current Position**

- 2.1 The SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) contract is due to end on 31 March 2025 with no provision to extend without breaching Corporate Procurement Rules.

**3 Options/Alternatives**

- 3.1 **Option 1:** To approve the re-commissioning of SEND IASS on a five year plus up to two-year contract, with the successful provider going live with the service on 1 April 2025.

We are also seeking approval for delegated contract award decision making responsibilities to be awarded to the Director of Children’s Services (DCS) in order for services to be delivered from 1 April 2025.

- 3.2 **Option 2:** To extend the current contract for a further one year.

**4 Preferred Option**

- 4.1 **Option 1:** To approve the re-commissioning of SEND IASS for a period of five years plus up to two years, with the successful provider going live with the service on 1 April 2025.

We are also seeking approval for delegated contract award decision making responsibilities to be awarded to the DCS in order for services to be delivered from 1 April 2025.

**5 Consultation**

- 5.1 Consultation has been carried out with families and carers in partnership with Oldham’s Parent Carer Forum.

**6 Financial Implications**

- 6.1 Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.

**7 Legal Implications**

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- 7.1 Comments are contained in the report in the restricted part of the agenda.
8. **Oldham Equality Impact Assessment, including implications for Children and Young People**
- 8.1 Not required as the proposals relate to the continuation of an existing service.
- 9 **Key Decision**
- 9.1 Yes
- 10 **Key Decision Reference**
- 10.1 CHS-03-24
- 11 **Background Papers**
- 12.1 None
- 13 **Appendices**
- 13.1 None