

Record of Delegated Executive Decision(s)

1. Subject of decision

Independent Fostering Agencies - Sub-Regional Procurement Proposal

2. Name and Title of Decision Maker

Jacqui Old, Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding

3. Details of any Conflict of Interest and any Dispensation granted in respect of such Interest

None

4. Executive summary

On 24 June 2019, Cabinet granted approval for

- (i) the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding, in consultation with the Elected Mayor, Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Learning, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, the Head of Resources and the Head of Law and Governance to proceed with the procurement exercise being led by Newcastle City Council that will establish a sub-regional Flexible Procurement Arrangement (also known as Collaborative Procurement Solution) for letting contracts with Independent Fostering Agencies (IFAs), for a period of 18 months, with an option to extend for a further 12 months; and
- (ii) the Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding, in consultation with the Head of Resources, the Head of Law and Governance and Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to enter into the Flexible Procurement Arrangement following the procurement and subsequent call off contracts under the arrangement.

The Authority has participated in the collaborative procurement exercise led by Newcastle City Council and the outcome of the evaluation panel was agreed on 23 August 2019.

This report seeks approval to enter into a Flexible Procurement Arrangement as anticipated in recommendation (2) above to appoint a number of Independent Fostering Agencies to provide fostering placements for children and young people.

5. Alternative Options considered

The Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding does not approve that the Authority enters into the Flexible Procurement Arrangement.

6. Decision(s)

The Head of Health, Education, Care and Safeguarding authorises the Authority to enter into the Flexible Procurement Arrangement for contracts with Independent Fostering Agencies.

7. Reasons for the Decision(s)

This sub-regional collaborative arrangement is in keeping with regional priorities leading to more efficient service delivery. The Authority will benefit from a standardised and transparent pricing structure, consistency of quality across all providers and a more developed local market which can provide a range of placements to meet the needs of children and young people.

If the recommendation is not approved, the existing framework will expire in September 2019 and the need to purchase external placements will continue. The Authority will need to undertake a separate procurement exercise without the benefits of collaborating with the rest of the sub-regional group.

8. Date Decision Made

12 September 2019

9. Is this decision subject to call-in and if so expiry date of call-in period

Yes, the call-in period expires at 5.00pm on Monday 23 September 2019.

10. Date of Publication

16 September 2019

11. Implementation Date (if decision not called in)

Monday 23 September 2019

Please note the report upon which this decision was taken is not for publication by virtue of paragraph 3 of part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended).