

RECORD OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

Monday, 13 February 2012

Decision No: (CAB 11/12 7283)

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING
PORTFOLIO AREA:	CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND LEARNING
SUBJECT:	COLLABORATIVE PROCUREMENT OF INDEPENDENT FOSTERING AGENCY PLACEMENTS
AUTHOR:	Lin Clark

THE DECISION

- (i) To appoint the organisations set out in Appendix 1 to the frameworks and to delegate to the Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services, following consultation with the Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning and the Head of Finance authority to enter into contractual arrangements with such organisations and to do all such ancillary activities as may be necessary to give effect to the proposals contained in this report.
- (ii) To delegate to the Executive Director for Children's Services and Learning the authority to purchase Independent Fostering Agency placements via those Framework Contracts, where placements are bought at a pre-agreed price on a spot purchase basis as required.

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

1. The decision to go out to tender was based on the need to achieve better outcomes, improve choice and secure value for money in purchasing IFA placements.
2. A sub-regional collaborative approach to commissioning enabled Southampton to take advantage of increased scale, increased market power and transparency, and pooled commissioning capacity and capability.
3. Southampton City Council has a statutory requirement to meet the Sufficiency Duty placed on local authorities under 22 (G) of the Children Act 1989. It was recognised that a competitive tendering process would manage the market and ensure that the local placement needs of our children and young people could be met more effectively.

DETAILS OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

Option 1 - Do nothing. This option was rejected, as the present arrangements are non-compliant and cannot be proven to obtain value for money.

Option 2 – Set up frameworks for Southampton as a stand-alone exercise. This option was rejected, as analysis suggested that greater economies of scale, improved outcomes (e.g.; placement stability) and better value for money could be obtained through a collaborative procurement process with neighbouring authorities.

OTHER RELEVANT MATTERS CONCERNING THE DECISION

None

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None

CONFIRMED AS A TRUE RECORD

We certify that the decision this document records was made in accordance with the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2000 and is a true and accurate record of that decision.

Date:
13 February 2012

Decision Maker:
The Cabinet Member for Children’s
Services and Learning

Proper Officer:
Judy Cordell

SCRUTINY

Note: This decision will come in to force at the expiry of 5 working days from the date of publication subject to any review under the Council’s Scrutiny “Call-In” provisions.

Call-In Period expires on

Date of Call-in (if applicable) (this suspends implementation)

Call-in Procedure completed <i>(if applicable)</i>
Call-in heard by <i>(if applicable)</i>
Results of Call-in <i>(if applicable)</i>