

Record of decision taken under delegated powers by a council officer



Title:	Provision of Educational Psychologists
Divisions Affected:	Children, Families and Lifelong Learning
Key Decision:	No
Reason Key:	Not a key decision
Decision taken under delegation by virtue of:	'Approval to Procure' as per Procurement and Contract Standing Orders paragraph 1.6.

Summary

The Educational Psychology Service has been under increasing pressure to meet the statutory timeframes of the EHCP process for children with SEND. There has been a recovery plan in place to address the backlog whilst managing the rising numbers of requests, but this has not been successful in addressing the challenge due to the limited ability to recruit educational psychologists.

The current SCC EP staffing (internal) is at 50% despite being the focus of corporate support for recruitment and retention.

The internal team providing these assessments can offer 27 assessments per week but with the use of locums and associate EPs this rises to 38 assessments per week.

The predicted demand for assessments until December 2023 is 1886 advice required over 43 weeks which suggests that there will be 44 assessments required per week.

Therefore, the core team and locums require additional support to manage business as usual and to address the backlog of 729.

To address the majority of the backlog, the service has identified a provider able to deliver immediately on the current backlog of assessments over next 13 months from 1st April 2023 – 30th April 2024.

Decision made:

It was AGREED that:

1. A contract is awarded to **Sanctuary Personnel Limited** under the ESPO STRATEGIC HR SERVICES (2022) **Framework 3S_22**. Lot 1d - Education.

Reasons for Decision:

Following the recovery plan to address the backlog, a suitable provider has been identified and able to tackle immediately the backlog of assessment.

Based on the urgent delivery of this project SCC engaged Sanctuary Personnel Limited who can ensure immediate delivery on the backlog of assessments with a targeted commitment over the next 13 months and they met the defined business request in line with our approved practice.

Decision taken by:	Liz Mills - Director of Education and Lifelong Learning
Decision taken on:	31/03/2023
To be implemented on:	31/03/2023

Alternative options considered.

See Procurement Report

Summary of any financial implications

See Procurement Report

Declarations of conflicts of interest

See Procurement Report

Consultation/Process Followed

Consultation required by Procurement included the following;

- Liz Mills – Director – Education & Lifelong Learning
- Susan Harris - IN Psychology & Autism Strategy
- Approval to Procure signed by Rachael Wardell & Leigh Whitehouse

Background Documents

Procurement Report

Exempt:

Yes