

CABINET MEMBER DECISIONS JUNE 2019

CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

APPROVAL TO AWARD A FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROVISION OF FORENSIC TESTING SERVICES

Details of decision

The following recommendations were agreed:

1. Following consideration of the available options, the results of the procurement process, and commercially sensitive information provided in Part 2 of the report, approval was given for the Council to establish a Light Touch Framework for the period 1 August 2019 – 31 July 2021 (with the option for extension up until, but not exceeding, 31 July 2024).
2. Delegated approval was given to the Service Manager (Gateway to Resources) to 'call off' this Framework in order to secure the services of approved forensic testing laboratories as required.
3. Delegated approval was given to the Director of Commissioning to add new providers onto the framework for Surrey as appropriate.

Reasons for decision

As outlined in *Child First Commissioning Intentions for Children in Surrey 2017-22*, the Council is committed to ensuring children in Surrey to 'get the right help, care and protection at the right time so they can thrive'. Forensic Testing Services are linked to this commitment because these services help inform care planning decisions.

The current Forensic Testing Network is due to expire on 31 July 2019. Due to the value of Surrey's spend on these services, which are statutory and sometimes court ordered, a compliant route to market is required. The route to market chosen for Forensic Testing Services has been through the use of the Framework (procurement under the Light Touch Regime as outlined in Schedule 3 of the Public Contract Regulations (PCR) 2015).

This new Light Touch framework will have a focus on addressing the issues that have been presented in the current framework in regards to: timeliness and quality of reports, the pricing schedule and the setup of the framework being over-complicated for providers, social workers and the finance team. Robust and regular contract monitoring through the new Gateway to Resources team will have a strong focus on providers' performance and value for money and will ensure that the safety of children, young people and vulnerable adults remains a priority at all times.

(Decision taken by the Cabinet Member for Children, Young People & Families – 6 June 2019)

This page is intentionally left blank