

Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date 26th September 2018

Subject: White Rose Children Looked After Interim Residential Framework Agreement

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Purpose of this report.

1. On 15th August 2018, the Children and Families Directorate sought approval from Councillor Lamb, as Chair of the Children and Families Scrutiny Board, to take a key Officer Delegated Decision under the 'Special Urgency' provision. This decision related to a one year extension of the existing White Rose Children Looked After Interim Residential Framework Agreement, as set out within the provisions of the contract.
2. The decision to extend this contract had to be taken before 17th August 2018 or the current contract would expire and a new procurement would be required to purchase residential placements for children looked after across the region.
3. Whilst notification of this pending decision had been included on the Council's List of Forthcoming Key Decisions back in June 2018, satisfying statutory requirements, subsequent timelines linked to the Council's decision making processes had not been adhered to due to an administrative oversight.
4. Under the Council's Executive and Decision Making Procedures Rules, where a Director receives a report which he/she intends to take into account in making any Key Decision, then he/she will not make the decision until the report has been available for public inspection for at least 5 clear working days. It was this element of the process that had not been satisfied. In order to regularise this oversight, officers sought the relevant Scrutiny Board Chair's approval under Special Urgency to take this decision.

5. Having obtained Councillor Lamb's approval to take this decision under the Special Urgency provision, a Delegated Decision Notification (DDN) form, together with the relevant report upon which the decision was based, was published on the Council's website on 16th August 2018. A copy of the DDN and accompanying report are appended for information (please note that the exempt Appendix 1 to the report has not been included).
6. At the request of the Chair, the Council's Chief Executive, Deputy Director of Children and Families and Executive Board Member for Children and Families will be attending today's meeting to brief the Scrutiny Board on the circumstances that resulted in the need to utilise the Special Urgency provision in this regard, as well as steps being taken to ensure that the Council's decision making processes are being adhered to in future.

Recommendation

7. Further to the Board's discussion, Members are asked to determine what, if any, further Scrutiny action it may wish to undertake.

Background documents¹

8. None.

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.