

Decisions associated with providing school to school support through the Leeds Leading Learning Partnership (LLP) for the period 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2026

Date: 17/08/2021

Report of: Leeds School Improvement Team

Report to: Director of Children and Families

Will the decision be open for call in? Yes No

Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? Yes No

What is this report about?

Including how it contributes to the city's and council's ambitions

- This report seeks approval to receive traded income of £118,785 per annum and reimburse schools and academies to the value of £42,050 per annum for time and expertise associated with providing school to school support through the Leading Learning Partnership (LLP). It also seeks approval to invoke Contract Procedure Rule 7.2 to procure services from Huntington Research School without competition up to the value of £1,500 per annum and to spend circa £2,000 per annum on venue hire by way of Contract Procedure rule 7.2.
- The LLP meets the Best Council Plan and Child Friendly City key priorities for improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Children and Families is recommended to approve the following decisions associated with providing school to school support through the LLP for the period 01/04/2021 to 31/03/2026:
 - receive traded income of £118,785 per annum for the 11-19 Learning Improvement Team to facilitate the network and reimburse schools and academies to the value of £42,050 per annum for the time and expertise of Learning and Teaching Specialists (LTSSs) and one CEIAG lead professional.
 - invoke Contract Procedure Rule 7.2 to procure services from Huntington Research School without competition up to the value of £1,500 per annum.
 - procure venues, usually school conference facilities, at an estimated cost of £2,000 per annum invoking Contract Procedure Rule 7.2.

Why is the proposal being put forward?

- 1 The LLP, in partnership with Huntington Research School, is a system led professional learning programme for 11-19 schools and settings, facilitated by LCC 11-19 Learning Improvement team. Each school who becomes an LLP member benefits from support in 13 individual subject specialisms. The system leaders consists of 26 Learning and Teaching Specialists (LTSs) and one Careers education, information, advice and guidance (CEIAG) lead professional from schools and academies across the city. The LTS team plan and facilitate subject leader networks on behalf of the local authority (LA) in order to meet its priorities in the Children's and Young Peoples Plan.
- 2 This is a long established arrangement, which has successfully run since its inception in April 2010. However, over time a significant number of schools have become academies, so rather than money transferring internally between different LCC accounts, income and payments now also transfer between LCC and external bodies (academies). The 0-19 Learning Improvement team therefore wish to formally record a delegated decision to capture this financial partnership arrangement.
- 3 The LTSs have the subject expertise and knowledge which ensures that the subject leader development meetings are relevant, focussed and subject specific. They are high quality practitioners working in local Leeds schools and academies and therefore have the credibility which attracts our customers and offers first hand expertise.
- 4 Huntington Research School are tasked by the Department for Education to deliver research based training to all schools in the Yorkshire and Humber region apart from Bradford (who have their own research school). To enhance our LLP programme we use the Research School to deliver additional research based training events. This comes at a charge to our service for their time in planning and delivering the events. We use them because they are expected to work with Leeds schools and they do in other situations too but it adds some gravitas to the programme and encourages buy in.

What impact will this proposal have?

Wards Affected:

Have ward members been consulted? Yes No

- 5 This partnership arrangement benefits schools city-wide and no specific wards are affected by the decisions in this report.
- 6 These decisions will ensure there is ongoing clarity and compliance in respect of governance and contract procedure rules associated with the LLP.
- 7 There are no direct or indirect costs to Leeds residents / businesses as a result of these arrangements.
- 8 The professional development meetings impact on the following Best Council Plan KPIs:
 - Tackles poverty and reduces inequalities- Improving writing skills for all pupils at secondary.
 - Improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes
 - Helping young people into adulthood, to develop life skills and be ready for work
 - Progress 8 score for Leeds at the end of Key Stage 4 (end of year 11)

- 9 An Equality Impact Screening form has been completed which demonstrates no detrimental impact on equality, diversity, cohesion and integration.

What consultation and engagement has taken place?

- 10 Consultation is not required legally in relation to this arrangement.
- 11 The LLP is a peer support network and partnership between LCC, schools and Huntington Research School. There is regular and ongoing consultation between partners to ensure the partnership priorities are responsive to national policy changes and the school improvement needs identified by members.

What are the resource implications?

- 12 The LLP is a traded service product, which generates income for the 0 – 19 Learning Improvement service budget. The standard price per school is £4,500 per year, for three terms commencing in April with alternate packages for special or small schools.
- 13 The learning improvement team includes all costs to the service within the traded prices to ensure a full cost recovery model is maintained. Costs and delivery are monitored and evaluated to ensure the service is relevant to the needs of schools and represents value for money.
- 14 In accordance with the spending restrictions arising from COVID-19, this contract is considered a priority because it is income generating and does not represent any cost to the council.
- 15 The value of school reimbursement is £41,150 per annum, with an additional £900 for CEIAG Lead professional, an estimated £2,000 for venue hire. This totals £44,050 per annum or £220,250 over a five period.
- 16 The value of spend with Huntington Research School is up to £1,500 per annum; a maximum of £7,500 over five years.
- 17 The value of income expected from traded activity is £118,785 per annum; £593,925 over five years.

What are the legal implications?

- 18 The receipt of traded income of £118,785 per annum and reimbursement to schools and academies of £42,050 is neither a procurement nor an employment arrangement by LCC. This is a key decision based on the value over five years. The intention to take this decision was published on the list of forthcoming key decisions on 27th July. Names of schools to be reimbursed are not included in this report as they can change from year to year.
- 19 The decision to procure services from Huntington Research School is administrative and is taken under Contract Procedure Rule 7.2, low value procurement, whereby the relevant Chief Officer can approve a direct appointment where they believe it represents Best Value for the Council or considers there is genuinely no competition such that only a particular organisation or provider can meet the Council's specific requirements.
- 20 The procurement of venues will also be taken under Contract Procedure Rule 7.2, low value procurement. These tend to be school conference facilities and decisions as to which venues are made based on availability and suitability.

What are the key risks and how are they being managed?

- 21 The main risk associated with these arrangements are that schools do not continue to buy into the service and as a result the 11-19 Learning Improvement team are not able to operate the partnership at full cost recovery. This risk is mitigated through consultation and partnership working with schools to determine priorities.
- 22 There are also risks associated with future unknowns such as pandemics and changes to the service. The 11-19 Learning Improvement team have had to be responsive to changes and innovative to deliver services that schools value and will continue to do so.

Does this proposal support the council's 3 Key Pillars?

Inclusive Growth Health and Wellbeing Climate Emergency

- 23 The LLP meets the Best Council Plan's, Child Friendly City key priorities for Improving educational attainment and closing achievement gaps for children and young people vulnerable to poor learning outcomes. The LLP subject leader meetings support schools in the core area of EAL, disadvantaged and reading which are national and local priority areas.
- 24 The LLP meets priorities outlined in the Annual Standards Report. Enabling the LA to support schools to raise standards for vulnerable learners – particularly EAL. Subject leader meetings include aspects of developing, diversifying and decolonising the curriculum; a significant priority and area of challenge for school leaders locally, nationally and globally.

Options, timescales and measuring success

a) What other options were considered?

- 25 The Learning Improvement Team do not have the secondary expertise in all 13 areas of the curriculum and so delivering this in-house was discounted.

b) How will success be measured?

- 26 A key success measure currently concerns attendance at the networks. This is because over the last year the 11-19 Learning Improvement Team have delivered the networks virtually and due to other issues around the pandemic attendance has been low. Success will also be measured using feedback and evaluation from participants and setting based senior leaders.

c) What is the timetable for implementation?

- 27 There are three networks per year for each subject area; one per term starting from April.

Appendices

- 28 Appendix 1: Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration screening form.

Background papers

- 29 None.