

Delegated Decision Notice

This form is the written record of a key, significant operational or administrative decision taken by an officer.

Decision type	<input type="checkbox"/> Key Decision	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Significant Operational Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Decision
Approximate value	<input type="checkbox"/> Below £500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> £500,000 to £1,000,000 <input type="checkbox"/> over £1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/> below £25,000 <input type="checkbox"/> £25,000 to £100,000 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> £100,000 to £500,000 <input type="checkbox"/> Over £500,000	<input type="checkbox"/> below £25,000 <input type="checkbox"/> £25,000 to £100,000
Director¹	Children and Families		
Contact person:	Charley Flood	Telephone number: 0113 535 1227	
Subject²:	Direct contract award to CoramBAAF for Training and Development Support for the National Strategy		
Decision details³:	<p>What decision has been taken? (Set out all necessary decisions to be taken by the decision taker including decisions in relation to exempt information, exemption from call in etc.)</p> <p>The Deputy Director for Children and Families Social Work has approved the decision to award a contract to CoramBAAF for the provision of Training and Development Support and associated learning in support of the National Adoption Strategy. The contract shall start on 01/06/2022 and expire on 31/07/2023 with the option to extend for a maximum of up two periods of 12 months.</p> <p>A brief statement of the reasons for the decision (Include any significant financial, procurement, legal or equalities implications, having consulted with Finance, PACS, Legal, HR and Equality colleagues as appropriate)</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The National Adoption Strategy set by government sets out a bold vision to deliver excellence in adoption services across England. The aim is to ensure that best practice becomes the norm so that every adopted child and their family can access the services and support that they need wherever they live and maximise children's outcomes in the short and long term.</p>		

¹ Give title of Director with delegated responsibility for function to which decision relates.

² If the decision is key and has appeared on the list of forthcoming key decisions, the title of the decision should be the same as that used in the list

³ Simply refer to supporting report where used as these matters have been set out in detail.

The aim is for all children with a plan for adoption to be found permanent loving families as quickly as possible where they will be safe and secure; adopters are recruited from all communities so that we have a range of approved parents able and well prepared to meet the needs of children waiting to be adopted and that children and families get the support they need when they need it.

The contract will be to develop a package of training webinars, learning sessions, and learning resources for practitioners and managers to improve best practice and meet the outcomes set out within the National Adoption Strategy.

Finance

Funding for this contract is available from the national adoption recruitment grant from the DfE. Regional Adoption Agencies (RAAs) leaders have once again agreed to collectively pool the resources, working collaboratively to achieve better outcomes for children waiting for adoption. The DfE have approved OAWY to act as a central repository for the grant funds on behalf of all RAAs, with Leeds City Council holding the funds as hosts of OAWY.

The Director of Children and Families approved the proposal for the Council to enter into an agreement and accept £19.5m grant funding from the DfE on behalf of OAWY for the period 2022/23 – 2024/25 on 27/04/2022 and call in ended 13/05/2022.

The maximum value of the contract is £75,800 for the year. As there is the option of two extensions for a period of 12 months each there is a total potential cost of £227,400 for the duration of the contract. The provider has submitted a breakdown of costs. A contract will be awarded and published on Yortender.

Legal and Procurement

This decision is in line with Contract Procedure Rule 9.5

Where the relevant Chief Officer considers there is genuinely no competition such that only a particular organisation or provider can meet the Council's specific requirements (e.g., when commissioning a unique product or service) a waiver of CPRs 9.1 and 9.2 need not be obtained. However, before making any decision the Authorised Officer must consult with PACS and the lack of relevant Chief Officer as part of a delegated Decision before the contract is entered into.

There is an urgent need to start this work from the 1st June to spend the funds within very tight timescales and before the end of the financial year, with a clear but wide-ranging package of work within the field of adoption. Adoption is a very specific and technical aspect of Children's Social Care and the providers in this field of work are limited. The range of work within this package requires detailed knowledge of adoption, adoption support, adoption recruitment, the planning of adoption for children, academic, practice and research. Understanding the breadth of this work with one provider who the RAAs can work with across these strands is critical to the delivery within the timescales for the work to be delivered effectively and efficiently. CoramBAAF has written material that has been developed but not yet published around good practice in adoption support and the RAAs need to be able to work with them to bring this to adoption practice in a timely manner to improve the support to children and families. This intellectual property is not available elsewhere within the sector in England and the RAAs are working to legislation and regulations within England.

CoramBAAF are the only provider within England who have this range of expert knowledge. There are other providers who deal with one element of the provision but for an effective and efficient use of resources, having one provider to deliver all of this makes the best use of resources within the constraints of the funding.

Due to the tight timescales that are set out in the grant, this work needed to start with immediate effect by a company that has the skills, knowledge, and expertise to deliver a high-quality training and development support package to achieve the outcomes set out by the government and outlined above.

CoramBAAF are a national membership organisation and work with adoption agencies and local authorities across the country to promote effective models of practice in the field of adoption in particular. They have access to professional networks and have access to immediate expert knowledge offering high quality information and advice. They are aware of the national adoption strategy and understand fully the key issues in the sector. They are ideally placed to work with the RAA's and provide the range of work required within the tight timescales set out in the grant.


	<p>There are no other companies that would be able to start to deliver this training and development support package immediately with the required level of skills and expertise.</p>
	<p>Brief details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the decision maker at the time of making the decision</p> <p>There are no other options to secure this service for the reasons above.</p>
Affected wards:	N/A
Details of consultation undertaken⁴:	Executive Member
	Ward Councillors
	Chief Digital and Information Officer ⁵
	Chief Asset Management and Regeneration Officer ⁶
	Others
Implementation	<p>Officer accountable, and proposed timescales for implementation</p> <p>National Adoption Strategic Lead</p> <p>Contract to start 1st June 2022</p>
List of Forthcoming Key Decisions⁷	Date Added to List:-
	If Special Urgency or General Exception a brief statement of the reason why it is impracticable to delay the decision
	If Special Urgency Relevant Scrutiny Chair(s) approval
	<p>Signature _____ Date _____</p>
	If not published for 5 clear working days prior to decision being taken the reason why not possible:

⁴ Include details of any interest disclosed by an elected Member on consultation and the date of any relevant dispensation given.

⁵ See Officer Delegation Scheme (Executive Functions) CDIO must be consulted in relation to all matters relating to the Council's use of digital technology

⁶ See Officer Delegation Scheme (Executive Functions) CAMRO must be consulted in relation to all matters relating to the Council's land and buildings.

⁷ See Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 2.4 - 2.6. Complete this section for key decisions only

Publication of report⁸	If published late relevant Executive member's approval	
	Signature	Date
Call In	Is the decision available ⁹ for call-in?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
	If exempt from call-in , the reason why call-in would prejudice the interests of the council or the public:	
Approval of Decision	Authorised decision maker ¹⁰ Julie Longworth, Deputy Director, Children and Families Social Work	
	Signature	Date
		30/6/22

⁸ See Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 3.1. Complete this section for key decisions only

⁹ See Executive and Decision Making Procedure Rule 5.1. Significant operational decisions taken by officers are never available for call in. Key decisions are always available for call in unless they have been exempted from call in under rule 5.1.3.

¹⁰ Give the post title and name of the officer with appropriate delegated authority to take the decision.

