

Improvement Priority – Vfm 3 Implement a commissioning approach which delivers value for money and ensures best provider

Accountable Officer – Wayne Baxter



Why is this a priority	The council needs to strengthen its governance arrangements to reduce the risk of challenge and create efficiencies through improved commissioning. To ensure commissioning is undertaken in a consistent and robust manner across the authority, the Procurement Unit is developing a One Council Approach to Commissioning (OCATC) Framework which focuses on improving outcomes. This approach will also contribute towards raising our Use of Resources assessment score under the Comprehensive Area Assessment.
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Graphs - There are no graphs for this priority.

Overall progress to date and outcomes achieved

Overall Summary


The council is committed to delivering the OCATC Framework as a mechanism to ensure officers take a consistent and improved approach in commissioning. The OCATC will ensure prioritisation according to local need, demonstrate value for money in service delivery and provide continuous improved outcomes for service users. The overall progress has been rated as amber because the introduction of the framework is taking longer than expected. The OCATC development has been lead by the Procurement Unit. Guidance documents and resources for the framework have been published. There has been a significant amount of Directorate-consultation to ensure that it takes into account the needs of Directorates and the requirements of other relevant commissioning frameworks. CLT sign-off for the framework has been delayed due to issues raised by some Directorates and further implementation is awaiting resolution of these issues.

Achievements since the last report

- The Procurement Unit has restructured in order to adopt a category-management approach to procurement and improved governance support across the authority. These changes will improve efficiency, consistency and value for money.
- The commissioning function in Adult Social Care has restructured to improve VfM, consistency and efficiency
- The council collaborates on a range of procurements and leads on shared services such as the management of Approved Lists in the region.
- The council makes use of e-procurement methods including e auctions, the mandatory use of purchasing cards and leading the regional Supplier and Contract Management System.
- The procurement 'Certificate of Competency' is being rolled out to improve capacity and capability.
- The OCATC project has delivered some key products and the framework has been mapped to key assessment criteria strengthening the overall approach. A Corporate Commissioning Project Group has been established to deliver specific work packages and ensure commitment to the framework.
- The council has a range of strategic partnerships to ensure effective prioritisation of services according to local need.
- The council identifies needs and gaps in provision through partnership work (such as in the Skilled for Success contract) and through the JSNA.

Challenges/Risks

- The authorities in the region continue to work closely to deliver shared services and systems.
- To provide a OCATC Framework which addresses the needs of the council.
- Identifying improved outcomes through commissioning activity, through service re-design and partnership working to ensure the best provision.
- Use the OCATC to develop formalised shared governance arrangements with partners.

Council / Partnership Groups			
Approved by <i>(Accountable Officer)</i>	 pp Wayne Baxter	Date	3 rd November 2009
Approved by <i>(Accountable Director)</i>	Nicole Jackson	Date	

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Key actions for the next 6 months				
	Action (Desired Achievements)	Contributory Officer / Partner	Milestone / Actions	Timescale
1	The Procurement Unit restructure will have ensured improved market intelligence, improved consistency in evaluation processes and contract management processes.	Wayne Baxter	Completion of restructure	Dec 2009
2	Leeds will continue to act as Programme Manager for the RIEP's Smarter Procurement work stream to develop regional projects and partnerships.	Wayne Baxter	Annual reports to RIEP.	April 2010
3	The OCATC Framework is embedded and utilised by commissioning officers across the council.	Wayne Baxter	Delivery of key products. Web tool goes live	March 2010
4	Further roll-out of the Certificate of Competency training package	Wayne Baxter	Practical use of the learning to be captured through case studies.	April 2010
5	The Corporate Commissioning Project Group will identify improved commissioning outcomes from the service areas, which will be shared across the authority	Wayne Baxter	Commissioning outcomes will be added to the group's standard agenda and fed into the OCATC Framework resources	April 2010
6	The OCATC will develop mechanisms for developing shared governance arrangements.	Wayne Baxter	Build into the Corporate Commissioning Project Group's work package and agenda for the events	April 2010

Performance Indicators										
Performance indicators aligned to the Improvement Priority										
Reference	Title	Owner	Frequency & Measure	Rise or Fall	Baseline	2008/09 Result	2009/10 Target	2009/10 Quarter 2	Current Predicted Full Year Result	Data Quality
BP-04bi	Use of Resources score for commissioning & procurement	Corporate Procurement	Annual Num. 1-4	Rise	N/A new key line of enquiry for 2009 assessment		3	2	Confirmed result	No concerns