

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A NON-KEY OFFICER DECISION CHILDREN'S WELLBEING DIRECTORATE

ITEM:	Digital multi-media advocacy
Officer Title:	Director for children's wellbeing
Date of Decision:	17/05/2017
Purpose:	To approve the implementation of a pilot digital multi-media advocacy solution for children and young people with disabilities and their families.
Decision:	A contract to provide an online multi-media advocacy platform for children and young people with disabilities be awarded to Rix Wiki/Multi-Me for a period of 24 months at a cost of £26,951; and by virtue of this decision an exemption to paragraph 4.6.13.2 of the council's contract procedure rules shall be granted to enable the direct award because there is no other provider in the market.
Reasons for the Decision:	<p>The direct award pilot will run for 24 months and allow us to evaluate how effectively the integrated Multi Me / RIX Wiki platform supports collaborative, person-centred working, promotes the voice of the child and family in assessments and reviews, facilitates information holding and sharing under the control of the child, young person or family and evidences achievement. Other councils and institutions are using one of these platforms but this will be a new integrated platform combining the functions of both apps therefore a pilot is proposed initially.</p> <p>The evaluation will be completed at the end of year 1 will inform future decisions regarding procuring licensing and support package for roll out to children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and potentially other populations.</p>
Consultation:	<p>No formal consultation has taken place in relation to this pilot project. However, information and feedback events were held on 28 February 2017 for families, young people and officers from all agencies. There was an overwhelmingly positive response from these events. Informal engagement with families through Herefordshire Carers Support meetings and school events echoed this.</p> <p>A recent early support principles audit indicated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only about half the respondents felt that professionals work in partnership with families. • Only about half the respondents felt that their knowledge of their child was used as a core part of any assessment, plan or review. • About 40% felt there was a process for identifying family strengths, needs and wishes. • About 40% thought that information was shared between practitioners, with family consent, so that the family only has to 'tell it once'. • Only a third thought that there was continuity of care through

	<p>different stages of a child's life.</p> <p>The multi-media advocacy platform is intended to address these areas. The proposal, as part of the pilot, is to formally evaluate the platform and include focus groups with children, young people and families to enable them to express their views, which will inform any future procurement decision.</p> <p>Partnership considerations: Implementing this proposal will involve partnership working with health, education and social care colleagues. Health colleagues are represented in CYPP and the CWD strategy group and were also invited to the event referred to above and all of the consultees from partner agencies were supportive of the approach.</p>
Options Considered:	<p>There are no digital alternatives currently developed that provide the required functions, which are secure and designed for use by people with learning disabilities and which have been used by councils, special schools and colleges. This proposal is for a combined platform providing a unique range of functions including information storage and selective sharing, circle of support, social networking, goal setting, and multi-media self-advocacy.</p> <p>The alternatives to a family-owned digital option include the current paper based family records and current means of inter-agency information sharing. Neither of these empower families to share information selectively, support person-centred planning, enable use of multi-media to describe the child and family and their needs and preferences, to produce and share plans and programmes. They do not support collaborative working or facilitate communication between the circle of support.</p>
Declaration of Interest:	N/A

Officer Name: Chris Baird

Officer Title: Director for children's wellbeing

Signature:

Date: 17 May 2017