

**ANGUS COUNCIL**

**CHILDREN AND LEARNING COMMITTEE - 17 AUGUST 2017**

**VISIBLE LEARNING TRAINING**

**REPORT BY MARK ARMSTRONG, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR-PEOPLE**

**ABSTRACT**

The report advises committee of the progress made in implementing the Visible Learning training programme in Angus schools, seeks committee's homologation of the decision by officers to award a contract for the second cohort of the programme and seeks committee's approval to award, in due course, a contract for the third cohort of the programme.

**1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- (i) Notes the progress made in delivering the Visible Learning training programme to staff in the Schools and Learning service
- (ii) Homologates the decision taken by officers to award a contract to OSIRIS Educational Limited for the second cohort of the programme
- (iii) Approves the use of Osiris Educational Limited for future training cohorts as deemed necessary by the Head of Schools and Learning

**2. ALIGNMENT TO THE ANGUS COMMUNITY PLAN/SINGLE OUTCOME AGREEMENT/CORPORATE PLAN**

This report contributes to the following local outcome(s) contained within the Angus Community Plan and Single Outcome Agreement 2013-2016:

- Adults maximise their potential through learning opportunities
- Our children and young people are confident individuals, effective contributors, successful learners and responsible citizens.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The Schools and Learning Service having considered its position in terms of training strategies concluded that the Visible Learning programme uniquely met the specific Angus requirements for in-service training of teachers and school support staff in methods of improving learning. OSIRIS Educational Limited have the sole intellectual property rights to deliver the Visible Learning programme in the UK and for that reason it was considered that in respect of the procurement process to be followed that the negotiated procedure without publication was appropriate in this particular case. Visible Learning is a professional development programme which draws on the research of over 50,000 studies (over 250 million students) and represents the largest ever evidence based research in to what actually works best in schools to improve learning. It helps to create a culture of learning within the school and encourages reflective practice and collaboration between teachers. It also increases the level of language used about learning with pupils, parents and staff.

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The Visible Learning programme is currently being delivered to two cohorts of staff across Angus schools. The first cohort comprises 200 staff who commenced training in May 2016 and will complete the training in 2019. The value of the contract for this cohort was £99,970 and an exemption from Financial Regulations to allow the contract to be awarded directly to OSIRIS Educational Limited was sought from the Council's Exemption Co-ordinator. This

was granted with reference to Financial Regulation 16.24.10 (a) which allows a contract to be considered for exemption on the grounds that the supply can only be provided by one supplier for reasons connected either with exclusive intellectual property, artistic or product rights or with technical compatibility with existing Council assets or infrastructure.

- 4.2 The second cohort comprises 448 staff who commenced training in May 2017 and will complete the training in 2020. The value of the contract for this cohort was £190,460. The value for this contract was too high for an exemption from Financial Regulations to allow the contract to be awarded directly to OSIRIS Educational Limited to be sought from the Council's Exemption Co-ordinator. Training for this cohort began on 16 May however contractual arrangements were not finalised until 4 May meaning there was no time to have the contract approved by committee before the start date of the training and it was decided therefore to proceed with award of the contract and to seek homologation of this decision by Children and Learning Committee at a future meeting- this now being one of the functions of this report.
- 4.3 It is anticipated that a third cohort of staff will be trained however at this point in time the numbers of staff to be trained and the timescales have not been finalised.

## **5. PROPOSALS**

- 5.1 It is proposed that Angus Council will continue to implement the Visible Learning programme both through the existing cohorts and through a further cohort to be established in due course. The size of the additional cohort has not yet been established but based on the size of the previous cohorts may be in the region of 200 staff. This training will be delivered by Osiris Educational Limited. This will be reviewed should another training provider enter the marketplace.

## **6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The value of the contracts for the first two cohorts was £293,160 and these provided training for some 648 staff. The cost therefore equates to £452.41 per individual for three years of training. The size of a third cohort has not yet been established but if it comprises 200 staff then the cost based on the cost of the first two cohorts is likely to be in the region of £90,400 giving a total value for all three cohorts of £383,560. This can be funded from Schools and Learning's professional learning budgets and individual school contributions from Pupil Equity Funding.

**NOTE:** No background papers, as detailed by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to a material extent in preparing the above report.

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