

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

STATEMENT OF EXECUTIVE DECISION

The Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families, Councillor Kate Lymer has made the following executive decision:

APPROVAL TO EXTEND EXISTING CONTRACT WITH SENTINEL PARTNERS LTD FOR SUPPLY OF EARLY YEARS FUNDING SOLUTION

Reference Report:

Approval to Extend Existing Contract with Sentinel Partners Ltd for Supply of Early Years Funding Solution

Decision:

That an extension of the contract with Sentinel Partners Ltd for the provision of the online early years funding solution for a period of 2 years from 31 July 2022 to 30 July 2024 at an annual value of £26,200 (Total value £52,400) be approved.

Reasons:

Bromley Early Years Funding team annually distributes approximately £20M of early years funding to Bromley providers for approximately 6,500 children. Following a detailed market testing exercise in 2019, the contract for the provision of a digital early years' funding solution was awarded by exemption to Sentinel Partners whose system had the necessary functionality to process all seven of the early years funding streams and identify duplicate claims, as well as to pay monthly claims based on actual hours' rather than estimates as required by the Department for Education. In order to fully meet Bromley's specification, it was agreed at that time that Sentinel Partners would develop their off-the-shelf product to include provider and parent portals that provided a self-service option that was transparent and had a clear audit trail for funded hours used and claimed. Under the existing contract terms there is an option to extend this service for a further two years which will provide continuity and stability for service users as well as time to further develop and improve the product.

The proposed decision was scrutinised by the Children, Education and Families PDS Committee on 15 June 2022 and the Committee supported the proposal.

.....
Councillor Kate Lymer
Portfolio Holder for Children, Education and Families

TASNIM SHAWKAT
Director of Corporate Services & Governance
Bromley Civic Centre
Stockwell Close
Bromley BR1 3UH

Date of Decision: 16 June 2022
Implementation Date (subject to call-in): 23 June 2022
Decision Reference: CEFPH22010