

SCHOOLS MANAGEMENT FORUM

PAPER DESCRIBING THE REQUESTED CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS THE ANNUAL COST OF LIQUIDLOGIC CHILDREN'S SYSTEM (LCS) SOFTWARE

16th September 2020

1.0 PURPOSE OF THIS PAPER

- 1.1 This paper sets out details of the contribution that the Local Authority is seeking from schools towards the annual cost of LCS software.

2.0 WHAT IS LIQUIDLOGIC CHILDREN'S SYSTEM (LCS)?

- 2.1 The Liquidlogic Children's System is a software system and database that supports all aspects of social work with children and allows case management and record keeping for children in need, looked after children, adoption and child protection cases.
- 2.2 LCS is used extensively by Children's Services to store details about vulnerable children, their families, circumstances, education, important life events and other related data.
- 2.3 The stored data is used in the preparation of court files and papers, as well as to support day to day work with children and to help keep them safe.

3.0 What are the benefits to schools of the Authority operating this system?

- (i) Social workers and other professionals are able to provide schools with up to date information on vulnerable children to support planning and decision making.
- (ii) Social workers can provide schools with chronological information and background, regardless of how many school moves the child may have taken part in.
- (iii) Information provided by schools is stored within the system and is available to social workers who may take over a case, removing the need for the school to provide information multiple times and ensuring the information is stored securely.
- (iv) Having one central and definitive store of (sensitive) data ensures that information provided by any stakeholders, including schools, can be accessed by all professionals at the right time, supporting improved decision making which benefits the child, family and school.
- (v) The Safeguarding and Compliance Officer can rapidly access a child's data and information if a school expresses a concern about the welfare or safety of the child.

Agenda Item 7

4.0 How much does LCS cost?

4.1 The annual cost of operating the LCS system for Children's Service is £71,317.49.

5.0 What contribution towards the cost of LCS is sought?

5.1 The Local Authority is requesting a contribution from schools of 45% of the total annual cost of LCS, which amounts to £32,093.

**Paper prepared by Trevor Dunn
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