

24th March 2011

Scrutiny Representative on Project Boards Update

Name of Board: Professional Services Project Board

Reported by Scrutiny Representative: Cllr Jonathan Seed

Summary of the Boards work:

The Project Board is responsible for the overall direction and delivery of the consultancy value programme and the temporary agency staff project. They approve and monitor all major plans and authorise any major deviation.

Significant achievements or progress of the Board since the last update:

- The employment of Consultant and Agency staff by Wiltshire Council has been centralised and there is complete visibility of this by HR.
- A neutral vendor contract to streamline Agency and Contract Staff employment with Comensura has been entered into as partners with Dorset CC and this has proved highly successful. This contract will continue for two years unless the Government centralised agency system proves more attractive and this is written into our contract with Comensura.
- The new system has significantly reduced costs and we are looking at an overall spend of £6.7M this FY and this includes the costs of the Workplace Transformation Team.
- The Council had a recent amnesty to managers of undeclared staff and although we were expecting 70, a total of 260 posts were declared.
- The number of Agencies with which the Council places contracts has been reduced from 60 to 18 and there is further downward pressure on this number.
- The number of Invoices processed has been reduced from 220 down to 45, an 80% reduction
- All contracts are now agreed by HR

Current significant risks to the Council or issues/delays for the Board to resolve:

There is some limited risk attached to the final delivery of this project and the highest risk centres on a non signing agency. I understand that there are contingencies to deal with this risk.

Final Summary

I am happy that this has been a very worthwhile Project Board and I am confident that the Council has proper control of this area of staffing for the future. Barry Pirrie and Nicky Griffiths (the Board Lead Officer) are to be congratulated on the efficient running and conclusion of this project.