

Request for Adoption of Capital Estimate - Proposed Works at White Horse 1 o'Clock Club

1. The Early Years service of ESCW occupies the White Horse 1 o'clock club, E1 0ND. It is one of the delivery sites in the Ocean Children's Centre (CC) locality. The CCs deliver a range of services for families with children under 5. These include educational psychologist, family support, educational activities, support in accessing the 2 year old funded places, training, volunteering and employment support.
2. As part of the service challenge process, the Early Years service is proposing to make better use of some existing sites. Both the Commodore Street and White Horse sites are currently under-utilised because of staffing difficulties in covering the sites in the locality. It is proposed to relocate services from Commodore Street to White Horse so there will be greater staff capacity to deliver more sessions and support for disadvantaged and vulnerable families. It will create a hub for families in the area. The relocation will then enable Commodore Street to be used for delivery of places for 2 year olds.
3. The government has set targets for each local authority to create places for vulnerable and disadvantaged 2 year old children. Tower Hamlets has a target of 2,300 places by September 2015. This is a statutory duty. The Commodore site could provide 180 places in an area that has limited provision and high levels of poverty. This service will work in conjunction with Harry Roberts nursery school and children's centre to meet government targets and to meet the needs of the local families, support transition and school readiness.
4. It is proposed to fund the works to White Horse 1 o'clock club from the capital grant for provision of early education for disadvantaged 2 year olds.
5. It is recommended that a capital estimate of £275,000 is adopted to fund the works to White Horse 1 o'clock club.
6. It is recommended that the works to White Horse 1 o'clock club are procured using a suitable pre-tendered framework, in accordance with the Council's procurement procedures.