



OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that the following decision(s) have been made today by Cabinet Members at the London Borough of Hillingdon:

Title of decision	SEND Mediation Services
Reference No.	1412
Date of decision	Thursday 15 May 2025
Call-in expiry date	Thursday 22 May 2025
Relevant Select Committee	Children, Families and Education Select Committee
Relevant Wards	N/A

Decision made

Cabinet Members making the decision	Councillor Ian Edwards, Leader of the Council Councillor Susan O'Brien – Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Education
Decision	Approved The Leader of the Council, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education: 1) Approved the interim commissioning arrangements for mediation services with Global Mediation until 31st March 2026 at a value of £162,600 2) Approved the extension of legacy arrangements with KIDS to conclude all outstanding mediation services for 2023/24 and 2024/25 of £164,573.
Reason for decision	<p>It is a statutory requirement (set out in the SEND code of practice 2015) that families have access to a mediation service if the Council makes a decision not to issue an EHCP after an assessment.</p> <p>'The local authority must also inform the child's parent or the young person of their right to appeal that decision and the time limit for doing so, of the requirement for them to consider mediation should they wish to appeal, and the availability of information, advice and support and disagreement resolution services'.</p>

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	Relevant legislation: Section 36 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and Regulation 10 of the SEND Regulations 2014
Alternative options considered and rejected	<p>1. Do Nothing This was not a viable option as a compliant contract must be in place under Procurement regulations.</p> <p>2. Not commission a Mediation service There is a statutory duty on the Council to offer a mediation service to families where an EHCP request is declined, or if families would like to dispute an EHCP. Therefore, this is not a viable option.</p>
Classification	Part II - Members' Only and Not for Publication
Link to associated report	That this report be declared as exempt from publication as it involves the disclosure of information in accordance with Section 100(A) and paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), in that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.
Relevant Officer contact & Directorate	Gary Binstead – Head of Commissioning (Education & SEND)
Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted	N/A

Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in

[Internal Use only]	
When can this decision be implemented by officers?	<p>Officers can implement Cabinet Member decision in this notice only from the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period which is:</p> <p>5pm on Thursday 22 May 2025</p> <p>However, this is subject to the decision not being called in by Councillors on the relevant Select Committee. Upon receipt of a valid call-in request, Democratic Services will immediately advise the relevant officer(s) and the decision must then be put on hold.</p>

Councillor scrutiny call-in of this decision	<p>Councillors on the relevant Select Committee shown in this notice may request to call-in this decision. The request must be before the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period above.</p> <p>Councillors should use the Scrutiny Call-in App (link below) on their devices to initiate any call-in request. Further advice can be sought from Democratic Services if required:</p> <p>Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps (secure)</p>
Further information	<p>These decisions, where applicable, have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>This is the formal notice by the Council of the above executive decision, including links to the reports where applicable.</p> <p>If you would like more information on this decision, please contact Democratic Services on 01895 250636 or email: democratic@hillingdon.gov.uk.</p> <p>Circulation of this decision notice is to a variety of people including Members of the Council, Corporate Directors, Officers, Group Secretariats and the Public. Copies are also placed on the Council's website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Democratic Services London Borough of Hillingdon Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge UB8 1UW</p>