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Press release

West London Boroughs combine to reduce costs

The West London Alliance has selected Oxford Computer Consultants (OCC) to provide a tailor-made computer system to support their adult social care efficiencies programme. The system is due to go live in May 2011 with costs for design and implementation secured through a grant from Capital Ambition, London's regional improvement and efficiency partnership.

West London Alliance (WLA) consists of the London boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Hammersmith and Fulham, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow. They purchase around £330m a year on adult social care from the voluntary and private sectors. The main areas of purchasing are care home placements of around £180m a year and home care of around £51m. Combined, the six boroughs have the greatest spend on adult social care of any single local government body in England.

The councils used to buy services on an individual basis through a variety of means such as spot purchasing, block contracts and PFIs. However research showed that the boroughs often pay different rates to the same suppliers for similar services.

The management information system (MIS) will help to manage their combined spend on adult social care services and underpin the effective delivery of their adult social care efficiencies programme.

Linda Sanders, Chair of the ASC Efficiency Programme and Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing, London Borough of Hillingdon, says: "By working together the West London boroughs can get better prices from the market and reduce the costs of services by simplifying and standardising their processes. Underpinning this approach is the intelligent use of data and the ability to share information between boroughs."

John Boyle of OCC said that: "OCC is drawing on its extensive experience of providing successful IT to adult social care services. These include OCC's eMarketPlace™ and ContrOCC technologies. These have enabled over 50 UK local authorities to support the personalisation agenda by providing information and advice about care and support needs to citizens.

Ends

NOTES to Editor:

About the West London Alliance

With the support of the WLA the West London boroughs aim to improve services and become more efficient by working in collaboration.

In September 2009, the boroughs agreed to establish the WLA Adult Social Care Efficiencies Unit to develop and deliver a collaborative programme of efficiencies across the sub-region. A small team of procurement experts works with borough staff and suppliers to improve services and reduce costs where practical.



Supported by the WLA, the West London boroughs are developing similar collaborations for children's services, passenger transport and property and asset management.

For more information about the West London Alliance, please contact Ian Nichol, WLA Director ian.nichol@lbhf.gov.uk or see www.westlondonalliance.org.

About Oxford Computer Consultants Limited

Oxford Computer Consultants Limited (OCC) is a company dedicated to research and software development. OCC has been successful by developing innovative software to meet the challenge of the Government's personalisation agenda and to allow Local Authorities, Service providers and service users to efficiently access and share information. OCC are pioneers in applying emerging software techniques to e-business applications. OCC have researched and developed commercial solutions that rely on interoperability in order to help exchange data between organisations by developing an approach shared by all of the stakeholders.

For more details see (www.oxfordcclg.co.uk/products.html).