

## AGENDA MANAGEMENT SHEET

**Name of Committee**

**Cabinet**

**Date of Committee**

**16<sup>th</sup> June 2005**

**Report Title**

**RYOGENS Information System**

**Summary**

RYOGENS is an electronic information sharing system, enabling any agency using the system to identify and log concerns about children and young people. Current information sharing protocols allow the sharing of information about children and young people who are thought to be showing early signs of anti-social behaviour or offending. It is anticipated that this definition of concern will be expanded with the development of broader information protocols.

Warwickshire has operated as Lead Authority on the ODPM funded RYOGENS Project since May 2003, originally with Tower Hamlets and Lewisham. The latter has since withdrawn and Coventry, West Berkshire and Redcar & Cleveland have joined as second wave authorities

We have received about £4.5m funding from ODPM and to date have delivered on all targets with the exception of those that are affected by the DfES Children's Act agenda.

Originally ODPM planned to own the products, but senior civil servants have now rejected this idea, and they are now offering them to Local Authorities in the first instance.

The first stage in the ODPM process is to offer ownership to Warwickshire County Council.

**For further information please contact:**

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Offending Service  
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**Would the recommended decision be contrary to the Budget and Policy Framework?**

No.

☐

**Background papers**

**CONSULTATION ALREADY UNDERTAKEN:-**

Other Committees

Local Member(s) ☐

Other Elected Members

Cabinet Member ☐

Chief Executive ☐

Legal ☐

Finance ☐

Other Chief Officers ☒ Marion Davis, Eric Wood

District Councils ☐

Health Authority ☐

Police ☐

Other Bodies/Individuals ☐

**FINAL DECISION YES**

**SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:**

Further consideration by this Committee ☐

To Council ☐

To Cabinet ☐

To an O & S Committee ☐

To an Area Committee ☐

Further Consultation ☐

**Cabinet - 16 June 2005.**

**Youth Offending Service**

**Report of the Chief Executive and  
Head of Youth Offending Service**

**Recommendation**

Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendation for Warwickshire, subject to ODPM funding, to manage a process of transfer of the ownership of RYOGENS information sharing system from the ODPM to the software provider. This will require Warwickshire to take ownership of the product for a short, time-limited period.

**1.0 Introduction**

This report seeks Cabinet's approval for the County Council to negotiate with the ODPM to facilitate the transfer of ownership of the RYOGENS information system to a software provider. This will be achieved by short-term ownership of the RYOGENS system by the County Council.

**2.0 Background**

Warwickshire has been the lead Authority in this ODPM funded National Project, working in the first year with Lewisham and Tower Hamlets Councils, to develop an information sharing system to enable the identification and support of vulnerable children and young people.

The system has been successfully implemented in Warwickshire, supporting the multi-agency prevention work undertaken through the CHARM model, and it is currently being actively considered as a solution to the information sharing needs to support the integrated children's service developments.

During the second year a further three Authorities have implemented the use of RYOGENS and contributed to development of the system.

The ODPM originally indicated that they would be responsible for a national framework to sustain the products of the National Projects, but have now made a decision not to pursue this course.

### **3. Current position**

In the light of the ODPM's decision not to pursue a national framework for the products of the National Projects, a solution for the future of RYOGENS is needed. The arrangements have to be independent of ODPM finance other than a small amount possibly up to £50,000 to help a lead Authority co-ordinate arrangements in the first few months.

The RYOGENS Partnership Programme Board and the County Council Chief Executive have considered the options of:

- (i) The lead Authority (Warwickshire) taking ownership of the product, or in the event of this not happening,
- (ii) The product being available for "auction", initially to other Local Authorities, then possibly onto other public sector agencies or the private sector.

### **4. Conclusion**

The conclusion of lengthy deliberations and consultation about the options for the future ownership of the RYOGENS system is a recommendation that ownership should rest with the current provider of the RYOGENS software. It was concluded that, subject to ODPM financial support and legal advice, the best way of achieving this would be for Warwickshire to take initial ownership and transfer it to the software providers within 24 hours.

Concern was raised that In the event of Warwickshire not taking up the lead Authority ownership option the RYOGENS partnership would lose control over the process with ownership potentially passing to a body not of the Partnership's choice.

Discussions are currently taking place with ODPM to secure funding to cover the additional expenditure that will be incurred in managing this process and the aim is to facilitate transfer of ownership by 31st December 2005.

### **Recommendation**

The Cabinet is asked to approve the recommendation for the County Council to negotiate short-term ownership of the RYOGENS system with the ODPM, subject to ODPM financial support with a view to passing this onto the current provider of the RYOGENS software within 24 hours.

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Executive

Diane Johnson  
Youth Offending Service

Shire Hall  
Warwick  
6 May 2005