

Derbyshire Services for Schools

Schools Forum Update October 2016

The Derbyshire Services for Schools website (www.services.derbyshire.gov.uk) has been live since the end of January 2016, and has been widely accessed by schools across the county and positively received by the vast majority of users.

In total, over 1,600 school and academy users have access to the system, with schools requesting new users on a daily basis. All schools in Derbyshire have logged onto the system to access and purchase services through the site.

Currently, the system is primarily used by schools to purchase annual packages or one-off services. 50 different providers are listed on the system, offering over 200 individual services or products - all designed to positively benefit schools and academies.

Since the system launched earlier in the year, we have launched a range of new services online including access to the **Fischer Family Trust** site, our **HR Trade Union Facilities Time** package and dedicated **Budget Advice and Planning support for Academies**.

Nine months after its launch, the Derbyshire Services for Schools team are working hard to improve the site and the services for schools programme in general.

Over the next 12 months, the following key updates are planned:

Rolling Contracts

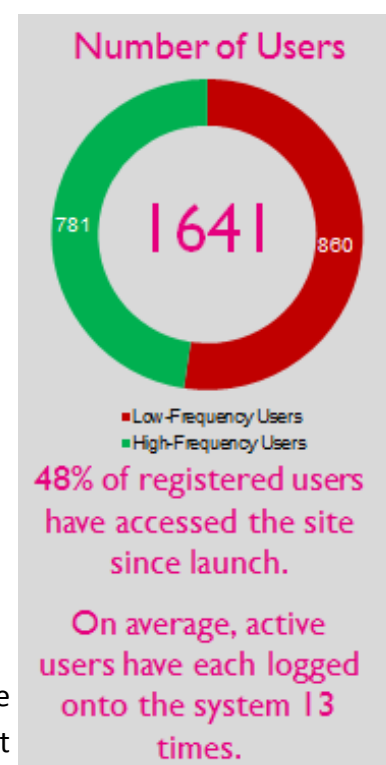
In response to requests from schools in the recent Services for Schools survey, we will be introducing rolling contracts for many of our services in 2017-18.

We're already aware that majority of our schools purchase the same services each year, and our provider teams work hard to ensure that prices fluctuate as little as possible from one year to the next.

With this in mind, the introduction of rolling contracts will help to ensure that schools easily access key services every year.

After an initial purchase in 2017-18, the introduction of rolling contracts means that, by not opting out, schools are agreeing to their contract rolling forward into the following year.

As part of this process, schools will be reminded of all relevant notice periods and we'll closely monitor potential price increases, so that any rolling contract is renegotiated if prices increase above a limited threshold.



Rolling Contracts (Continued)

In the run-up to launch, we'll fully explain to all schools how the rolling contacts process will work, and we'll be working closely with schools to ensure that the system makes sense and is easy to use.

As with all Services for Schools activities, if you wish to be involved in the testing process, or would like to contribute to our development planning, please contact the team via email (services4schools@derbyshire.gov.uk) or telephone (01629 538191).

Resources Pages

Over the autumn we're developing and launching new Resources pages on the site. These pages will provide additional information about all our services - from policies and procedures to training videos and newsletters.

Resources page content is intended to support and improve a schools trading activity. Content will be relevant and easy to access, although some pages will only be available to schools purchasing particular annual packages.

The launch of the Resources function also forms part of a wider plan to rationalise content housed on our DCC websites. Broadly, this means that traded content will be part of Derbyshire Services for Schools, while statutory content will be part of the replacement LID system (Derbyshire Schools Net). We'll ensure that both systems complement each other and link together, so that you'll always be able to find the information you're looking for.

Communication and Access

Over the summer we reviewed our schools user base, turning on the alert setting for Headteachers, Business Managers and key administration staff in schools to make sure our main users are aware of what's happening on the system.

We're continuing this process, and we'll also be contacting schools in the next few months to ensure that the right people continue to have the correct level of access on the site. There is no limit on the number of log-ons available to a school, and we want to ensure that we provide the right access to all schools and academies in Derbyshire.

Training

In early 2017, Schools will be able to access and book training courses through the system. This part of the system is still in early development and we'll be providing full details and comprehensive training closer to the launch date.

Feedback

Feedback from schools and academies is vital to us, and input from schools forum members is a key part of this process. Please contact us by phone or email with any comments about the topics raised in this document, or any other traded services issues.

