

Freedom of Information – Response – 26797

I am writing to request information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
 Please provide the following information:

1. What was the total Agency spend from 1st March 2025 – 31st November 2025. Please break this down between qualified social workers and other staffing categories.

The table is broken down into staff in a social worker role by all other non-social work roles across all directorates.

Job role	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	Grand Total
Other	399,553.52	329,152.64	489,181.13	401,128.84	453,671.23	592,934.75	499,669.60	536,805.31	417,813.27	4,119,910.29
Social work	121,753.78	106,053.89	131,534.93	113,189.54	125,660.77	217,011.41	201,439.95	252,833.40	219,432.99	1,488,910.66
Grand Total	521,307.30	435,206.53	620,716.06	514,318.38	579,332.00	809,946.16	701,109.55	789,638.71	637,246.26	5,608,820.95

2. Do you have a managed service implemented at the trust to assist with your temporary staffing processes?

Agency workers are primarily sourced through Opus People Solutions for all roles, who act as a Master Vendor. However, for executive-level positions, Suffolk County Council (SCC) engage the services of Tile Hill recruitment agency, who also act as a Master Vendor.

3. If yes, please advise who this contract is with, which staffing categories it is for, which framework it was procured under and when the contract expires.

The supplier's name: Opus People Solutions

Staffing categories: All roles up to Senior Manager level (senior manager level is equivalent to £500 per day rate)

Contract start date: 30/05/2014

Contract procurement: The Opus People Solutions contract was not procured through an external framework. Instead, it was awarded under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 Regulation 12 (TECKAL) exemption because Opus People Solutions is a wholly owned company of Suffolk County Council (via Suffolk Group Holdings). This means no competitive procurement process was required. The contract commenced on 30 May 2014. As Opus is a wholly owned company, the arrangement operates on a rolling basis with no fixed end date, under the TECKAL exemption. Opus People Solutions is a master vendor.

The supplier's name: Tile Hill Ltd

Staffing categories: Executive level only (from £500 per day rate)

Contract start date: 26/11/2025

Contract end date (and any extension periods): 25/11/2026, with the option to extend for 12 months

Contract procurement: The agreement with Tile Hill was established through a direct award, following their demonstrable success in supporting Suffolk County Council with executive recruitment. Previous engagements with alternative executive recruitment agencies did not meet the organisation's standards; therefore, a direct award was considered necessary to ensure continuity and avoid further disruption to executive appointments, particularly given the immediate need for senior leadership support. Tile Hill is engaged as the designated preferred supplier for agency support in the provision of management and executive roles within Suffolk County Council. This arrangement

encompasses Head of Service positions and above, equivalent to or exceeding the Senior Manager (SM) pay grade on the Council's pay scales, as well as interim management assignments remunerated at £500 per day or higher, across all council service areas.

4. Do you use a direct engagement platform?

No

5. If yes, please advise who this contact is with, which staffing categories it is for, which framework it was procured under and when the contract expires.

N/A

6. Do you have a master vendor arrangement in place with any temporary staffing suppliers?

Yes

7. If yes, please advise who this contract is with, which staffing categories it is for, which framework it was procured under and when the contract expires.

For Opus People Solutions see Q3 above.

8. Do you have any RPO (Recruitment Process Outsourcing) agreements with any suppliers in relation to the supply of substantive staff?

Yes

9. If yes, please advise who this contract is with, which staffing categories it is for, when the contract expires, which framework it was procured under and which departments it is for (if it is department specific).

Our contract with Tile Hill covers executive hiring for both interim and permanent appointments. Under the contract Tile Hill provide a candidate search function, assisting our in-house recruitment team with candidate sourcing. All other recruitment functions are managed in-house supported by our HR recruitment team.