

## **ECYE40. Connected Falkirk Update**

The Education, Children and Young People Executive considered a report by the Director of Children's Services which provided an update on progress with the Connected Falkirk programme and the overall financial position of the programme.

Connected Falkirk was a programme that would deliver personal devices for all P6-S6 pupils and shared devices at a ratio of 1:5 for P1-P5 pupils. There was also support for the associated infrastructure across the school estate. This work fell within the overarching 'Succeed Today, Excel Tomorrow (STET)' strategy. Following a c.£9.6m capital investment in Connected Falkirk, £200k of funding was allocated to the Connected Falkirk Sprint Team to support the roll-out of the programme to 22,000 young people and 2,500 staff.

Two separate procurement exercises for Connected Falkirk had been undertaken:-

- Devices and Services- Awarded in to XMA Ltd in August 2020, for a period of 4 years, to August 2024. The value of the contract was £6.4million.
- Connectivity and Wi-Fi- Awarded to VirginMedia Ltd in October 2020, for a period of 5 years, to October 2025. The value of the contract was £1.9million.

To ensure the deployment of the available stock of devices, the plan had been pivoted to focus on deployment to teaching staff and the most vulnerable pupils. Over the course of November 2020 to January 2021, the Connected Falkirk Sprint Team undertook the deployment of 1,873 devices and familiarisation training to all Primary and Secondary stage teaching staff, and deployment of 1,500 devices and 600 Internet connectivity packs to those pupils most in need. The wider pupil device rollout would begin from March 2021. The delivery remained on target for the full pupil deployment of devices by the end of August 2021.

14 schools had their new Internet lines installed and ready for connection to new Wi-Fi. 25 schools had their cabling groundworks underway and 19 schools were in the planning phase with installers. In terms of Wi-Fi installation in the 58 school sites all Secondary schools had their cabling and installation works underway.

### **Decision**

**The Education, Children and Young People Executive noted the progress to date of the programme of work.**