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Title: Charity Council launches shared services initiative

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Looking for a professional third-party service provider to outsource their corporate functions just got easier for charities and Institutions of a Public Character or IPCs in the social services, health and sports sectors.

The Charity Council has launched a pilot shared services platform that would allow these organisations to outsource their finance and account management tasks to a third-party service provider.

The platform, called iServe, aims to enable the organisations to better focus their attention and resources on delivering core services and programmes to their beneficiaries.

It's also hoped that with the help of the shared pool of professional resources, these organisations would also be able to further improve their internal controls and processes.

During the three-year pilot phase, charities and IPCs can apply for funding support of up to 75 percent of the monthly cost of the service from the Voluntary Welfare Organisations - Charities Capability Fund Shared Services Grant.

ST Electronics is the service provider for iServe.

Karen Tan is the Deputy General manager of E-Services in the company.

"In terms of privacy, we're committed to contractual of non-disclosure and strictly only that charity will have access to their own records. No other person outside of the charity will have access to that record, not even the Charity Council. And in fact we have no link to the Charity Council as far as this contract is concerned."