

**Written statement of a key decision**  
**Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Reprocurement of Herefordshire Independent Adult Advocacy Services</b>
Decision maker	Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing  Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here:  <a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251</a>
Date of decision	29 January 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	<p>This is a key decision because it is likely to result in the council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to the council's budget for the service or function concerned. A threshold of £500,000 is regarded as significant.</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant having regard to: the strategic nature of the decision; and / or whether the outcome will have an impact, for better or worse, on the amenity of the community or quality of service provided by the authority to a significant number of people living or working in the locality (two or more wards) affected.</p>
A notice was served in accordance with Part 3 (Key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.	
General exception or special urgency (as defined in the constitution)	No
Purpose	To approve the reprocurement of Herefordshire Independent Adult Advocacy Services, bhy way of an open tender process.
Decision	<p><b>That:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the commissioning of an independent advocacy service for adults through an open procurement process be approved.</li> <li>b) The contract will be for an initial period of 5 years but with the option to extend for up to an additional 24</li> </ul>

	<p><b>months.</b></p> <p><b>c) the director for adult and communities be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the service including award of contract for the independent advocacy service for a period of up to five years and with a maximum value of £1.5m.</b></p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p><a href="http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50052254">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Id=50052254</a></p>
Options considered	<p>a) <b>Not to commission the advocacy service.</b> This is not recommended as this would mean the council will fail to meet statutory duties in respect of Mental Capacity Act 2005, Mental Health Act 1983 as amended, Health and Social Care Act 2012 and Care Act 2014. The council is required to provide these services.</p> <p>b) <b>Deliver the service in house.</b> This option is not recommended as all these advocacy elements are required to be independent of local authorities and NHS Trusts. As the Care Act regulations stipulate, advocacy must be independent of the local authority, operated by an organisation with its own constitution, code of practice and complaints procedure. Therefore, it is not appropriate to deliver this service in-house and an external provider must be commissioned to deliver advocacy services.</p>
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	4 February 2026

Councillor: .....	Date 29 January 2026
Cabinet member adults, health and wellbeing (Councillor Carole Gandy)	

- a record of any conflict of interest declared by any executive member who is consulted by the member which relates to the decision;

and

- in respect of any declared conflict of interest, a note of dispensation granted.