

Written statement of a key decision

Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing

Title	Provision of children's centre services in Bromyard area
Decision maker	Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing Information about cabinet, including the names and contact details of the cabinet members, can be found here: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	19 July 2018
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	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.
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 proposals for the delivery of children's centre services for the Bromyard area from October 2018. Services are currently provided by an external provider under contract, which is due to end on 30 September 2018. There are differences in the way that resources are allocated across the county. There is also some variation in performance against key children centre service objectives. It is intended to procure a new service on a tapered funding basis that will align the resources allocated for the Bromyard area to those elsewhere by March 2021, which will be linked to improving performance within a strategic management approach involving all children's centre services across Herefordshire.
Decision	That: (a) resources for the provision of children's centre services in the Bromyard area be tapered to align with other parts of Herefordshire, based upon the population of 0-5 year

	<p>olds, reducing from £65k in 2018/19 to £25k per year by March 2021</p> <p>(b) a procurement exercise be undertaken to secure a provider for the service with effect from 1 October 2018 (or a soon as possible thereafter) to 31 March 2021;</p> <p>(c) the Director for Children’s Wellbeing be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the above recommendations; and</p> <p>(d) Contingency is made of £20,000 to support potential costs of service redesign during the contract period.</p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50026290</p>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Direct award of a new contract to the incumbent provider. The service has not been openly tendered since 2012. Market testing has shown that there are other potential external providers, therefore, this option would not be recommended because of the risk of legal challenge to such an award. 2. Transfer the service to the management of the council from 1 October 2018. Bromyard is the only part of the county where the service is provided externally, which has led to variation in delivery and performance. It is estimated that sufficient service for the Bromyard area could be delivered at a cost of £23,000 per year. A planned review of Herefordshire’s early help strategy will consider how children’s centre services could be developed and resourced as part of Herefordshire’s evolving early help offer across the county as a whole.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	25 July 2018

<p>Councillor:</p> <p>Cabinet member young people and children's wellbeing (Councillor EJ Swinglehurst)</p>	<p>Date 19 July 2018</p>
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- 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 by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.