

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet

Title	Recommissioning of Domestic Abuse Support Service for Herefordshire
Decision maker	Cabinet 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	18 October 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 the approach to recommissioning of a domestic abuse support service and the outline of a new Domestic Abuse Strategy for Herefordshire. The commissioned domestic abuse support service provided by West Mercia Women's Aid is due to conclude in March 2019. This report details the intention to commission a redesigned domestic abuse service from April 2019 and provides an outline of the revised domestic abuse strategy for Herefordshire. A shared strategic vision and set of priorities across agencies is required to tackle the root causes and consequences of domestic abuse, which is a complex, pan-organisational challenge. Within this, specialist services for victims and their children who seek support is vital to minimise harm and

	<p>maximise positive outcomes, focussed on safety, building resilience and empowerment. A commissioned service is required which prevents the needs of victims and their children from escalating. The service will provide a single point of contact and access to experienced professionals who understand the risks and challenges faced by victims, assisting them to locate the right services and information to meet their needs.</p> <p>Prevention, early intervention and co-ordination of support is key to prevent the risk and level of need from escalating and ultimately costing more to organisations across the system.</p>
<p>Decision</p>	<p>That:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) the proposed outline Joint Strategy for Domestic Abuse at appendix C be approved for the purposes of informing commissioning intentions; (b) a domestic abuse support service be commissioned for a period of up to five years from 1 April 2019 at a maximum value of £1.3m; and (c) the Director for Adults and Communities be authorised finalise the service specification and award contracts for domestic abuse support services within the agreed budget.
<p>Reason for the decision</p>	<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=50025602</p>
<p>Options considered</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The option not to re-commission a domestic abuse support service for Herefordshire. This option is not recommended. Victims of domestic abuse and their children require urgent specialist assistance once they seek support to reduce risk, assist them to navigate a complex system and reduce the chance of returning to the perpetrator. 2. The option not to develop an updated Domestic Abuse Strategy for Herefordshire. This option is not recommended. Domestic abuse is a challenge which cuts across many organisations, sectors and professional roles. A shared strategic approach which provides clear priorities, roles, responsibilities and pathways is therefore crucial to ensure domestic abuse can be prevented and victims receive a coherent service from the point of disclosure. 3. The option to delay re-commissioning whilst a Domestic Abuse Strategy is finalised. This is not recommended. There is no option to extend the current contract with West Mercia Women’s Aid. An open

	tender process is required in order to comply with procurement regulations. Additionally, the domestic abuse support service specification is a 'core' offer and has limited flexibility; therefore no significant changes will be required as a result of the development of a local strategy.
Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	24 October 2018

Councillor:	Date 18 October 2018
Leader of the Council (Councillor JG Lester)	

- 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.