

**Written statement of a key decision**  
**Cabinet**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Accommodation based support service for care leavers</b>
Decision maker	Cabinet 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	26 September 2019
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	<p>To approve the commissioning of a service to provide vulnerable care leavers with support to develop their skills, resilience, opportunities for training and employment, engagement with relevant services and integration with their community to enable them to move towards independent living. This service will also help the young people to understand their rights and responsibilities as tenants and what to expect of Landlords.</p> <p>Following decisions made by cabinet during December 2018 and January 2019, the council has purchased a property in Hereford City that is now being converted and refurbished to</p>

	<p>accommodate care leavers with complex needs. Accommodation based support is required to support young people to live more independently and manage their lives safely and confidently.</p> <p>Approval is sought for the approach to commission a service to provide support and accommodation management for vulnerable care leavers to help them prepare to live more independently. This service will be available 24hours for those with complex needs and 3 hours per week for those with light touch needs. This service will be commissioned by seeking bids from potential providers in the open market to demonstrate how they can deliver a quality and cost effective service. It is proposed to begin this procurement process in October 2019 and mobilise new services to align with the completion of building works in Spring 2020.</p> <p>The local and national market for care leavers accommodation based support is delivered mainly through spot purchased placements, some via a regional framework. These placements typically have very high costs and there is limited availability within Herefordshire, resulting in many young people being placed outside of the county. The approach proposed here in utilising self-contained accommodation in premises owned by the council is somewhat innovative and has received a positive response to date. It provides an opportunity for improving outcomes for young people and value for money to the council.</p>
<b>Decision</b>	<p><b>That:</b></p> <p><b>(a) the commissioning of a service to provide support and accommodation management for vulnerable care leavers in council owned properties through an open procurement process be approved;</b></p> <p><b>(b) the director for children and families be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the service including award of contract for the accommodation based service for a period of up to five years and with a maximum value of £2.5m.</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?IId=50030126">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50030126</a></p>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Not to procure an accommodation based support service. This is not recommended as this would mean the newly acquired property would not be utilised appropriately or as intended by the council. In addition, there would be a lost opportunity to improve outcomes for very vulnerable care leavers and reduce or avoid costs in supporting this user group.</li> <li>2. To deliver as an in-house service. This is not recommended because the council does not have the expertise to operate such a service in-house and recruiting such expertise would be challenging. In addition, the council would have to invest significantly to create the infrastructure and systems to support the service, leading to disproportionate costs and reduced value of any cost avoidance.</li> </ol>

Declarations of interest (see ▪ below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	2 October 2019

<p>Councillor: .....</p> <p>Deputy Leader of the Council (Councillor Felicity Norman)</p>	<p>Date 26 September 2019</p>
---	-------------------------------

- 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.