

Written statement of a non-key officer decision
Director of Children and Families

Title	Equipment and adaptations, assessments and reviews for disabled children
Decision maker	Director of Children and Families
Date of decision	19 August 2020
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	<p>To approve the direct award of a contract for up to five years to Wye Valley NHS Trust for the provision of equipment and adaptations assessments and reviews for disabled children.</p> <p>The council is required to provide appropriate specialist equipment or adaptations for children with disabilities at their home or school. To identify whether a child has a specific need for equipment or adaptations, the council requires a professional assessment by a qualified occupational therapist.</p> <p>Wye Valley NHS Trust (WVT) currently provides equipment and adaptations assessments for disabled children on behalf of the council. This service forms part of a wider children's therapy service that is commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). It is proposed to renew the current contract with WVT for equipment and adaptations assessments. This will enable the council to continue to meet its duties while also ensuring that service users can benefit from a joined-up experience for any other therapeutic needs.</p>
Decision	<p>That:</p> <p>(a) The Director of Children's and Families directly awards a contract to Wye Valley NHS Trust (WVT) to continue provision of equipment and adaptations assessments for disabled children for three years from 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2023, with the option to extend this period for a further two year at an anticipated maximum cost of £296,630 over the five year period.</p>

Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50034244
Consultation	
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tender or bring the service in-house. This option is not recommended at the current time. The function is integrated with other pediatric therapy services commissioned by the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and delivered by WVT. The integrated nature of the service with other children's occupational, speech and language and physio therapies means that, where appropriate, children with a range of therapeutic needs can be supported in a coordinated way. While there are a number of sole-trader private occupational therapists that could undertake some equipment and adaptations works, the market is unlikely to be able to provide the total number of assessments needed in a year in a sustainable way. There may be future potential to jointly commission a complete therapy service with the new Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCG as its priorities for children Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) are further developed. 2. Cease the service. This option is not recommended.. The council would fail in its statutory duty to assess and provide appropriate specialist equipment or adaptations for disabled children.
Declarations of interest	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	25 August 2020

Officer:	Date 19 August 2020
Director of Children and Families (Chris Baird)	