

### Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Award contract for Unaccompanied asylum seeking children (UASC) support service
<b>Date of decision:</b>	25 June 2018
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Director for children's wellbeing
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	The chief executive's scheme of delegation line 24 allows the director for children's wellbeing to take operational decisions with regards to the commissioning for children's service functions and operational delivery. In addition the authority is given to the director for children's wellbeing within the financial procedure rules that is sufficient for the decision to be taken by them.
<b>Ward:</b>	All wards
<b>Consultation:</b>	Young people who have transferred through the National Transfer scheme (NTS) for UASC have shared their views about the difficulties they have found in moving to and living in Herefordshire and this has informed the service specification. Advice has been sought from Shropshire who are similarly rural and have developed a similar service which has been successful in supporting UASC.
<b>Decision made:</b>	Award a contract to Refugee Action for the provision of a UASC support service for a period of 1 year at a total cost of £47,041.02.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Herefordshire is very rural and does not have a diverse community. Our workforce lacks experience in working with UASC and local services are not established to understand and meet needs of these young people.</li> <li>• Young people have struggled to feel part of and accepted by the community, to have their cultural and religious needs met, to understand roles of workers and have not been provided with the range of education and training opportunities that would enable them to achieve their ambitions.</li> <li>• West Midlands Migration partnership has been successful in bidding for funding and has been awarded £1.9 million. Each of the West Midlands local authorities is expected to bid for up to £60,000 to improve support for UASC's.</li> <li>• As corporate parents the awarding of this contract will improve the support available to UASC's in Herefordshire and enable them to feel safer, have improved mental health and achieve their education and career aspirations.</li> <li>• As a result of a tender exercise Refugee Action submitted a quality tender application which has been evaluated and it was concluded that they are best able to meet the service specification.</li> </ul>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	This service will be funded fully by the grant money now available from the West Midlands Migration partnership.
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	Do nothing – young people's needs would continue to be unmet with young people choosing to leave Herefordshire or the council withdrawing from the NTS and not contributing to the national need

	for UASC to be accommodated throughout the UK.
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	If any officers or members involved or consulted in the decision-making have declared an interest you should include the declaration here.

Signed..... Date: 25 June 2018