

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Award of Contract for Early Years Workforce Development Speech and Language Support service
Date of decision:	19 December 2018
Decision maker:	Director for Children and Families
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>An executive decision was undertaken by Herefordshire Cabinet on 06/03/2018, authorising the Director for Children and Families (Report titled: Allocation of 2 year Nursery Education Fund spend: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5038) to procure an early years speech and language service for children aged 2 to 5 be commissioned for a period of up to three years at a total cost of £590,000 with effect from April 1st 2018.</p> <p>The Director for Children and Families is authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to implement the recommendations, including procurement and award of contract, within the approved budget allocations.</p>
Ward:	Countywide.
Consultation:	Political consultation was undertaken as part of the decision making process for cabinet.
Decision made:	The following contract be awarded to Elklan Limited to deliver an Early Years Workforce Development Speech and Language Support service at a total cost of £ £462,272 from 1 st January 2019 to 31 March 2021.
Reasons for decision:	An open procurement exercise has been undertaken by the council's commercial services department in line with the Council's Contract Procedure rules. Three bids were received and were evaluated in line with the criteria which was set out within the tender documentation. The highest ranked tenderer is recommended for award.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	Any risks associated with the providers not delivering the services will be minimised through robust contract monitoring processes including regular performance reporting and contract monitoring meetings.
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>As highlighted in the associated cabinet report (Report titled: Allocation of 2 year Nursery Education Fund spend: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=5038) two alternative options were considered:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The underspend could be used to fund pressures in the high needs block; however, this was debated at schools forum and it was agreed that the funding should be used for early years. 2. Share the underspend amongst all registered early years providers (over 90 in total across Herefordshire and over 100 childminders). This is not deemed to be good value for money, as there would be little impact due to the small amount of funds each provider would receive if it was shared.

Details of any declarations of interest made:	N/A

Signed

Date: 19 December 2018