

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Extension of the regional supported accommodation framework for 16/17 year olds
Date of decision:	14 October 2020
Decision maker:	Director for Children and Families
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>On 6 September 2017, cabinet member for young people and children’s wellbeing (now children and families) approved the entering into the partnership arrangement with other west midlands authorities, led by Staffordshire County Council (report titled; Regional Joint Commissioning, Supported Accommodation Framework for 16/17 year olds https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=4745 authorising;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval for Herefordshire Council join the West Midlands Councils Framework for supported accommodation provider agencies, terminating no later than 8 January 2021; and • the director for children’s wellbeing (now children and families) be authorised to take all operational decisions necessary to maintain Herefordshire Council’s participation in the framework having regard to the favourability of the fees, terms and conditions established by the framework and provider performance.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	No formal consultation has been undertaken as this relates to an extension of the current framework arrangement and there is no opportunity to amend terms and conditions. However, Staffordshire County Council, as the lead commissioner, is asking framework providers whether they wish to continue to be part of the arrangement during the 6 month extension period. It is anticipated the major will be in agreement to continue.
Decision made:	To approve Herefordshire Council’s continued participation in the west midlands supported accommodation framework (16/17 year olds) during the extension period from 8 January 2021 up to 11 July 2021.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The current sub regional framework agreement is due to expire 8 January 2021. The original agreement did not include an option to renew beyond that date, as it was planned to recommission the framework during 2020. However, the Covid 19 pandemic has had a significant impact on developing new arrangements, for when the framework ceases.</p> <p>To allow work to be undertaken by the region to develop the next framework agreement and conduct a procurement exercise, Staffordshire County Council (as lead authority) has extended the framework agreement from 8 January 2012 up to 11 July 2021. Herefordshire council’s children and families commissioners will be involved in this work.</p> <p>Herefordshire usually has fewer than six active placements via the current framework at any one time at weekly costs ranging from £480 to £4100, depending on level of support required for each young person. This can range from 1:1 support for 5 hours per week to staff being available 24 hours 7 days a week. These placements tend to be out of county due to a limited local market.</p>

<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>There is a risk providers will decide to decline the offer to continue to be part of the framework agreement during the extension period. It is unlikely providers would make this decision. However if they did, this would mean any placements with these providers would transfer to spot purchase arrangements and they would not receive referrals via the framework, during the extension period.</p> <p>There will be no change to placement fees as a result of the short-term extension. As no financial commitment is made to purchase placements from framework providers, placements will continue to be purchased from preferred providers on a call-off basis. Therefore, depending on the authority's level of demand for placements, the amount of spend can vary.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>If this decision is not approved, Herefordshire Council's participation in the regional framework agreement would cease on 8 January 2021, so all future placements would have to be made on a spot purchase basis. There is a risk that placement costs will increase as a result of needing to spot purchase from the provider market. This approach would also increase the administrative burden on the authority.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	

Signed

Date: 14 October 2020

Chris Baird

Director for children and families