

**Written statement of a key decision**  
**Cabinet member children and young people**

<b>Title</b>	<b>Housing related support for children in care and care leavers aged 16-25</b>
Decision maker	Cabinet member children and young people 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	4 July 2025
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	To seek approval to commission, by means of a competitive tender process in line with the council's contract procedure rules, a housing related support service for 16–25-year-old children in care and care leavers. The existing service is currently delivered by Connexus and is due to expire on 28 February 2026.
<b>Decision</b>	<p>That:</p> <p>a) the commissioning of a housing related accommodation-based support service through an open procurement process</p>

	<p>be approved, for a period of up to 84 months, commencing from the end of the previous contract on 1 March 2026 up to 28 February 2033 with a maximum total cost of £3,041,376 across the 84-month period;</p> <p>b) authority be delegated to the Corporate Director of Children's Services to award a contract for a housing related support service, following the completion of a procurement process and;</p> <p>c) that delegated authority is given to the Corporate Director of Children's Services to approve any changes to the commissioning process, or subsequent contract for the duration, including the option to extend, vary and terminate.</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=50051793">http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50051793</a></p>
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The service is not recommissioned. This option is not recommended. This contract supports the council's commitment to its care leavers as corporate parent and there would be a lost opportunity to provide local accommodation and improve outcomes for very vulnerable children in care and care leavers if the service is not recommissioned.</li> <li>2. The contract with the existing provider is extended. This option is not possible as the contract does not contain an option to extend.</li> <li>3. To deliver as an in-house service. This option is not recommended. The properties used for this service are owned by the current provider and they have indicated they will not be made available to a third party from which to deliver this service.</li> </ol>
Declarations of interest (see below)	None
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	10 July 2025

<p>Councillor: .....</p> <p>Cabinet member children and young people (Councillor Ivan Powell)</p>	<p>Date 4 July 2025</p>
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- 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.