

Written statement of a non-key officer decision
Corporate Director - Children & Young People

Title	Re-purposing of agreed capital funding to secure property from which overnight short breaks and outreach support for disabled children will be delivered (formally known as 'Purchase of accommodation and commissioning of outreach services')
Decision maker	Corporate Director - Children & Young People
Date of decision	12 August 2025
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	To approve capital expenditure to source a building from which a single provider, commissioned through a competitive tender exercise, will deliver a registered overnight and outreach short breaks service within Herefordshire. This will increase local sufficiency in line with Herefordshire's Improvement Plan for Children and Families, and Placement Sufficiency Strategy for Children and Young People.
Decision	Existing capital funds totalling £424,000 approved to purchase a building for phase 2 of Children Home development 2025/26 are repurposed in line with assessed need to purchase a building delivering overnight short breaks for children and young people 0- 18 with a disability
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?Ild=50052291
Consultation	
Options considered	Do nothing. This is not recommended. There continues to be a challenge in securing sufficient provision of both overnight short breaks and home based support for disabled children & young people in Herefordshire. Current options for spot purchasing are failing to secure local, quality and affordable provision for some families. Options to secure commissioned provision have been identified within market engagement and present a viable opportunity to support more families and the council to meet its statutory duties. 2. The council to purchase a property and deliver a registered overnight service as an in house provision from said property. At this stage, this option is not recommended as the council does not have the

	structures or officer capacity in place to operate registered children's homes. 3. To tender for an accommodation with care provision. This is not recommended as market engagement suggests providers do not have an appetite for this level of risk. Having a council owned property ensures at the end of any contract we can maintain provision either indirectly or via a further procurement.
Declarations of interest	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	18 August 2025

<p>Officer:</p> <p>Tina Russell, Corporate Director - Children & Young People</p>	<p>Date 12 August 2025</p>
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