

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

Title	Award of contract for the provision of overnight short breaks and outreach service for children and young people
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: http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=251
Date of decision	26 August 2026
Report exemption class	Open
Reason for being a key decision	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.
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)	Special Urgency
Purpose	To approve the awarding of a contract to develop and deliver an overnight short breaks with outreach support service, for children and young people with disabilities from a property secured by the council.
Decision	That: a) To award a 5-year contract, with an option to extend for a further 24 months, to PCA Dom 1 Ltd to develop and deliver a registered overnight short breaks with outreach service, at an anticipated contract value cost of £2.1 million over 7 years; b) To authorise the Corporate Director Children and Young People to purchase additional services during the contract term up to a maximum budget of £7.6m (inclusive of the £2.1m anticipated spend) provided within the approved Council's budget and / or within any subsequent in-year additional Government grant funding; and c) To delegate authority to the Corporate Director Children and

	Young People to take all operational decisions necessary to implement, manage, vary, extend or terminate the contract in accordance with the approved budget and contract terms.
Reason for the decision	As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50055717
Options considered	1. Do nothing and continue to spot purchase. This option is not recommended. It is highly unlikely to secure sufficient capacity, provide consistent market-wide quality and performance oversight or procure provision at best value. It also misses the opportunity to commission more strategically to improve outcomes for children and young people. 2. Award two separate contracts; one for overnight shortbreaks and another for outreach support. This is not recommended. Commissioning a single registered provider to deliver both elements better supports continuity for children, families and staff. Market engagement and work with operational colleagues indicate a single-provider model is more likely to deliver a sustainable, flexible service and maintain a stable local workforce through consistent volumes of work matched to need. 3. To deliver the service in-house. This is not recommended. Developing a new in-house service requires extensive time and resources, a specialism of practice and a requirement to complete Ofsted and CQC registrations.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	This decision is to be taken under the special urgency provisions as set out in paragraphs 4.2.52-54 of the constitution of Herefordshire Council. It will not be subject to call in.

Councillor: Cabinet member children and young people (Councillor Ivan Powell)	Date 26 August 2026
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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.