

WRITTEN STATEMENT OF A KEY DECISION CABINET

ITEM:	RECOMMISSIONING SHORT BREAKS FOR DISABLED CHILDREN
Members Present:	Councillors: AW Johnson (Leader), H Bramer, D Harlow, J Lester, PM Morgan (Deputy Leader), P Rone.
Date of Decision:	15 September 2016
Exempt:	No -
Confidential	No
<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 to which the decision relates.</p> <p>and</p> <p>This is a key decision because it is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising one or more wards in the county.</p>	
<p>A notice was served in accordance with Part 3, Section 9 (Publicity in connection with key decisions) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p>	
Urgency/Special Urgency: (As defined in Constitution)	No
Purpose:	To brief Cabinet on the duties to provide short breaks for disabled children and their carers, and the level of need for such services in Herefordshire. To recommend the continuation of council funding up to £450,000 per year for 2017-2020 to procure services for Herefordshire's short breaks offer for disabled children.
Decision:	<p>THAT:</p> <p>a) the commissioning plan and intentions at paragraphs 20-23 and Appendix B are agreed;</p> <p>b) funding up to £450,000 per year is allocated to Herefordshire's short breaks for disabled children programme for the three years 2017/18 to 2019/20</p> <p>c) procurement of the provision of short breaks services for three years from April 2017 be undertaken to the indicative timetable at paragraph 21; and</p> <p>d) authority be delegated to the director for children's wellbeing, following consultation with the director of resources and cabinet member for young people and children's wellbeing, and subject to confirmation of funding from the clinical commissioning group (CCG) to finalise procurement documentation and award service contracts within the financial envelope as set out in this report</p>

Reasons for the Decision:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 The contracts awarded to external providers as a result of the previous commissioning cycle will end on 31 March 2017. 2 Allocation of funding for 2017-2020 will provide the families of disabled children and the providers of short breaks services some stability over the period and enable development and shift to a more child and family centred approach within existing resources. 3 Access to a range of short breaks opportunities, arising from the commissioning exercise, will assist the council to continue to carry out its statutory duty to provide appropriate short breaks to meet the needs of disabled children and their carers. 4 The re-commissioning exercise provides an opportunity to review local need, look at good practice from elsewhere, and seek the views of children and families in order to reshape and further improve the Herefordshire short breaks offer.
Options Considered:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Reduced funding could be allocated to Herefordshire's short breaks offer. The existing short breaks offer has been through a period of significant change since the last commissioning exercise in 2013/2014. While the cost of some services has decreased, it is anticipated that demand for targeted and specialist short breaks could increase over the 2017-2020 period. There is a risk that reduced funding would not be sufficient to meet statutory responsibilities. 2 Existing contracts could be renewed. The maximum renewal options have already been applied to existing contracts, further renewal would require an exemption from council procurement rules. Renewing the existing contract for residential short breaks, as it is, would create overcapacity. New providers have expressed interest in entering the local short breaks market, which could offer more choice for families following a competitive procurement process. Different types of contract arrangement may also increase choice, control and flexibility for families, which could involve moving away from traditional block contracts towards dynamic purchasing systems or framework agreements.
Conflict of Interest ■ (See below):	
Date the key decision is due to take effect:	21 September 2016

COUNCILLOR AW JOHNSON.....Date: 15 September 2016
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

■ 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 by the relevant local authority's head of paid service.