

Written statement of a key decision
Cabinet member children and families

Title	Contract Award: Child Protection and Court Teams
Decision maker	Cabinet member children and families 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	23 November 2022
Report exemption class	Part exempt
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)	No
Purpose	To approve the award of a contract for a managed service to provide four Child Protection and Court social work teams from 28 November 2022 to 31 March 2023, at a value of up to £1.2m, with potential to extend for up to 12-months if required at a further maximum value of £3.4m subject to appropriate governance, bringing the total potential value to £4.6m should the full extension option be required.
Decision	That: a) Following the outcome of a competitive procurement exercise, a contract is awarded to the preferred bidder, as set out in Appendix 1, for the provision of four Child Protection and Court Social Work teams from 28 November 2022 to 31 March 2023 at a value not exceeding £1.2m, with an option to extend for up to a further 12-months to 31 March 2024; at a maximum value of £3.4m and

	b) Authority is delegated to the Director for Children and Young People to take a further operational decisions, in consultation with the Cabinet Member and Section 151 Officer, to implement an optional extension period, if required, in line with the council's standing procurement, financial and governance requirements.
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?IId=50043389
Options considered	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Do nothing. The current interim contract, which provides for 24 social worker and 4 manager roles across four teams, will end on 25 November 2022. The loss of this capacity would cause significant further pressures within children's social care and mean that c.350 current cases would not have an allocated social worker. 2. Attempt to re-engage agency workers on an individual basis. With demand for agency support being high across the country there is a risk of an abrupt service disruption if workers were suddenly reallocated by their agency to work elsewhere. The proposed contract for a managed service places the responsibility for delivering the required personnel on the service provider to ensure that operational work is delivered, which minimises the impact in potential turnover of individual agency workers.
Declarations of interest (see below)	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	29 November 2022

Councillor:	Date 23 November 2022
Cabinet member children and families (Councillor Diana Toynbee)	

- 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.