

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

Title	Children's Social Care Out Of Hours Emergency Duty Service
Decision maker	Corporate Director - Children & Young People
Date of decision	24 February 2023
Report exemption class	Open
Purpose	To consider and approve the financial amendments of a 3% year on year uplift to the previous decision already approved for the emergency duty service for children social care.
Decision	<p>That:</p> <p>a) Financial amendment of a 3% uplift is applied to the contract for a further 3 years at a total additional cost of £23,316;</p> <p>b) Further amendment to be approved by the Corporate Director of Children and Families in line with Corporate Scheme of Delegation</p>
Reason for the decision	<p>As set out in the report. Documents relating to this decision are available at</p> <p>http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=50044166</p>
Consultation	
Options considered	<p>1. Herefordshire Council could try to deliver the function from within its own social care resources. This is not recommended. This would require children's social care to recruit additional social workers and/or change terms and conditions of current children's social workers to enable them to work the unsociable hours required to deliver an out of hours service. As of August 2022, children's social care have 21 full time equivalent (FTE) vacant social worker posts, with a further 19 FTE posts filled with agency staff. Therefore, there is a significant risk of being unable to fill the additional vacancies arising from delivering the service in house. Worcestershire Council Emergency Duty Team service has successfully provided out of hours emergency cover for Herefordshire since April 1998 when the two local authorities became individual authorities and has demonstrated efficient and effective delivery since.</p> <p>2. Competitive tender of the service to appoint an external provider. This is not recommended. In August 2022, we asked the Children's Services Commissioning and Procurement Group for Local Authority commissioners and procurement professionals how their</p>

	<p>Emergency Duty Team (EDT) services are delivered to understand how other authorities deliver their EDTs. Responses received suggest EDT services in other areas have only been externalised as part of wider externalisation of children’s social care services therefore, this suggests there is not a market for the EDT service externally.</p> <p>3. Herefordshire Council could delegate the function (under S101(b) of the Local Government Act 1972) to Worcestershire County Council, in order for Worcestershire County Council to commission Worcestershire Children First to deliver the service under a third party arrangement. This is not recommended. Although this would negate the need for us to commission Worcestershire Children’s First directly it is not recommended as it would result in the Council having less control over the service with limited opportunity to shape provision of what is a business critical service.</p>
Declarations of interest	
Call-in expiry date (decisions are not subject to call-in where special urgency provisions apply)	2 March 2023

<p>Officer:</p> <p>Corporate Director - Children & Young People (Darryl Freeman)</p>	<p>Date 24 February 2023</p>
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