

Record of officer decision

Decision title:	Extension of the Befriending Service & Family Mentoring contracts
Date of decision:	14 November 2018
Decision maker:	Director for Children & Families
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>An executive decision was undertaken by Herefordshire Cabinet on 26/10/2017, authorising the Director for Children’s Wellbeing (Report titled: Commissioning Intentions for early help services for children and young people and their families – further information can be found via the following link :- http://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/ielssueDetails.aspx?Ild=50022894&PlanId=0&Opt=3#AI47739 to procure family mentoring services for a period of one year at a maximum cost of £166,000 for 2018/19, with an option to extend for a further year, subject to the funding being available.</p> <p>On 31 January 2018 the Director for Childrens Wellbeing awarded two contracts for one year from 1st April 2018 to 31 March 2019:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Befriending: Home Start Herefordshire £66,000.00 per annum and; • Family mentoring: Herefordshire Vennture, £100,000.00 per annum. <p>Both contracts have the option to extend for a further year (1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020).</p>
Ward:	All wards
Consultation:	Consultation has been undertaken with the Early Help Manager and providers, Homestart Herefordshire and Herefordshire Vennture who are willing to take up the option to extend the contract.
Decision made:	To extend both contracts for a further year from 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020.
Reasons for decision:	<p>The current contracts are scheduled to end on 31st March 2019. In order to ensure continuation of the local Early Help offer it is necessary to extend both contracts.</p> <p>Both contracts are monitored on a quarterly basis and have been meeting performance standards.</p> <p>During 2019 the department will undertake a review of the Early Help offer to determine its commissioning approach beyond April 2020.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>If the option to extend both contracts for a further 1 year is not exercised, this would represent a significant gap in the Early Help offer in Herefordshire.</p> <p>Any risks associated with the providers not delivering the services on our behalf are minimised as we have robust contract monitoring processes in place.</p> <p>Finance has confirmed there are sufficient funds in the budget to enable the extension of both contracts.</p>

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Do nothing. This is not recommended due to the impact on the local Early Help offer if services were to end.</p> <p>Go out to tender. This is not recommended as there are no issues with regard to current service performance.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	n/a

Signed

Date: 14/11/2018