

Record of operational decision

| | |
|--|---|
| Decision title: | Supported accommodation for care leavers – Development of a local framework |
| Date of decision: | 19th January 2022 |
| Decision maker: | Director for Children and Families |
| Authority for delegated decision: | <p>Decision by cabinet in December 2020 to establish a procurement framework for accommodation and support for young people aged 16 to 25.</p> <p>https://councillors.herefordshire.gov.uk/documents/d7394/Printed%20decision%20Supported%20Accommodation%20for%20Care%20Leavers%20-%20development%20of%20a%20local%20framework.pdf?T=5;</p> |
| Ward: | Countywide |
| Consultation: | None |
| Decision made: | <p>To accept seven providers on to a new local framework for the arranging and purchase of support and accommodation for care experienced young people and some looked after children who are 16+ years old. The local framework will create an opportunity for collaborative working between providers and the council to effectively develop a portfolio of appropriate and safe accommodation in Herefordshire.</p> <p>The services purchased via the framework will support young people to secure accommodation and develop their skills and resilience and provide opportunities for training and employment, engagement with relevant services and participation in their communities, to enable them to move towards independent living.</p> <p>A competitive tender process was carried out with an Invitation to Tender (ITT) issued to suppliers via the Council’s tendering portal. Ten responses (across two lots) were received. An initial assessment of the mandatory information provided by the bidders was undertaken by commercial Services and where submissions were deemed to be compliant they progressed to the second stage of the evaluation process and were evaluated at the second stage in accordance with the guidance in the ITT.</p> <p>Seven providers were successful and will be accepted to the framework Those awarded/accepted will be in a position to apply through a mini competition to offer their service(s) of accommodation and/or support. Any provider failing to consistently bid for work will be removed from the framework, allowing the opportunity for new providers to join.</p> <p>Before the framework commences formally, quality assurance checks are to be completed for each bidder in relation to the delivery of services, including policies and procedures and the quality and suitability of specific premises nominated for use as a part of the framework by each provider.</p> |

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>Reasons for decision:</p> | <p>The procurement of the framework has concluded with bids now evaluated. This will allow the framework to launch in practice in due course.</p> <p>The framework will complement newly commissioned accommodation and support services for care experienced young people and support the vision and principles of the looked after children and complex needs placement sufficiency strategy 2019-2024. The placements will be led by the needs of the young people to achieve positive outcomes.</p> <p>The framework focuses on providers able to offer services in Herefordshire to support young people’s continued contact with social and family networks and community participation.</p> <p>An enhanced local offer of appropriate accommodation will allow vulnerable young people to remain close to their local connections and ensure they receive the support and opportunities to successfully transition into adulthood, whilst providing a cost effective service in county.</p> |
| <p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p> | <p>Frameworks can be unresponsive if they are not able to allow for change, there may be new suppliers or new solutions within the market that were not available when the framework was procured. The framework agreement was tendered as under the Light Touch Regime and as such the council retains the ability to reopen the framework periodically to new applicants at the discretion of the council to maintain a viable supplier list.</p> <p>This procurement was conducted in line with the Above Threshold Restricted Tender process as set out in the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules in consultation with the Procurement team, who have confirmed the correct process has been undertaken.</p> <p>There are no specific financial risks associated with this framework .The framework agreement will not itself commit either party to purchase or supply, The operation of the framework will involve mini-competitions, weighted partly for price and award notices for call-offs published.</p> <p>There are no outstanding legal issues associated with the development of this framework. Success for a provider in a mini-competition would result in award of a specific contract to purchase an individual service or placement, using a contract format standard to the framework.</p> |
| <p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p> | <p>Not to establish a procurement framework for accommodation and support for care experienced young people and looked after children over 16 years of age. This option was not recommended as the council would not have an opportunity to exert any control over the price and quality of accommodation or support placements for care experienced young people or looked after children (LAC) over 16 years of age. It would limit opportunities to promote and develop a more effective local accommodation and support market and would continue reliance on the regional framework which has not been effective for Herefordshire.</p> <p>Not to accept sufficient providers onto the framework. This option is not recommended. A competitive process has been undertaken where the</p> |

| | |
|--|--|
| | specification of requirements was been sent to providers. Bids were evaluated against the requirements and a threshold quality bar was applied to all questions for each lot. 7 providers demonstrated sufficient quality and were successful. If there are insufficient providers on the framework to meet need the council will be obliged to purchase outside the framework, so rendering it ineffective. |
| Details of any declarations of interest made: | None |

Signed..... Date: 01/02/2022

Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.