

## Record of officer decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Lived Experience Coordinator and Lived Experience Advisory Group (LEAG) Herefordshire and Worcestershire.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	21 <sup>st</sup> November 2022
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Service Director for Community Wellbeing
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>The Chief Executive's scheme of delegation SA09; Commissioning, quality assurance and contract management relating to all ages.</p> <p><a href="#">Decision - Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation and Support Commissioning for 2022-23 - Herefordshire Council</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	None.
<b>Decision made:</b>	Following a full open tender process to award a contract to West Mercia Womens Aid to deliver the Lived Experience coordinator and LEAG for 1 year at a cost of £60,000 with the option to extend by a further 1 year subject to funding.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 ('the Act') will transform the national response to Domestic Abuse (DA), protect victim-survivors and their children, ensure they have access to safe accommodation support, and prevent offending. It places a range of Duties on statutory agencies, such as local authorities and criminal justice system. Part Four of the Act requires Herefordshire County Council and Worcestershire County Council to carry out a needs assessment and publish a Domestic Abuse strategy to include delivery of safe accommodation support to victim-survivors, in partnership with people who have lived experience of domestic abuse.</p> <p>HCC and WCC are developing policies and commissioning arrangements that are co-produced with people who have lived experience of DA. The Lived Experience Project (LEAG) seeks to ensure that both Local Authorities meet the requirements of the Act, including section 401, '<i>Designing the needs around the victims</i>', based on a model of co-production. Through this work, the voices of victim-survivors across Herefordshire and Worcestershire will inform strategy, commissioning, and delivery of services, improving outcomes. Local service delivery partners will also have access to a reference group of 'experts by experience'</p> <p>The project has been developed in partnership with Worcestershire Public Health and will be delivered across both counties.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	There are low financial risks arising from this decision. Revenue funding of has been granted from the Department of Levelling up Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to enable to recommendations of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Both Herefordshire and Worcestershire have committed some of this funding to develop the Lived experience coordinator project. The funding in place for this proposed service covers a 1 year period commencing 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2023, the costs of the service will be met in full utilising the funding granted from DLUHC.

	<p>There are no legal risks associated with this decision. This is considered a medium value contract award in terms of the council's procurement procedures. A competitive Invitation to Tender (ITT) process was undertaken where the specification of requirements was issued via the Suppling the South West e-tendering portal.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></p>	<p>Not to award the contract. This option is not recommended as it will not allow the either HCC or WCC to explore options for meaningful engagement of those with lived experience of domestic abuse as required by the DA Act 2021.</p> <p>The bid received for this service was compliant and passed the required evaluation process not awarding the contract could leave the council open to legal challenge.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>None</p>

Signed..... Date: