

**Record of operational decision**

<b>Decision title:</b>	Decision to appoint Stonewater Ltd to provide safe accommodation and support for victim-survivors of domestic abuse in Herefordshire.
<b>Date of decision:</b>	15.11.22
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Service Director All Age Commissioning, 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="#">Issue details - Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation and Support Commissioning for 2022-23 - Herefordshire Council</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	The need for additional safe accommodation has been identified through consultation with the councils housing solutions team. Consultation about the commissioning of this service was undertaken with the multi-agency domestic abuse local partnership board. Market engagement activities have been undertaken.
<b>Decision made:</b>	To award a contract to Stonewater Ltd for the provision of a minimum of 6 units of safe accommodation and support for 12 months at a total cost of £74,104
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 introduced a new statutory framework for the delivery of support to victim-survivors of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation. The Act placed several duties on each tier one local authority including to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Assess the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victim-survivors or their children, including those who come from outside the area.</li> <li>2. Develop and publish a strategy for the provision of such support to cover their locality, having regard to the needs assessment.</li> <li>3. Give effect to the strategy (through commissioning / de-commissioning decisions).</li> </ol> <p>The need for additional safe accommodation has been identified through the needs assessment process. This service will provide a minimum of 6 new units of safe accommodation with support. The service will work closely with the councils housing solutions team to place victim-survivors of domestic abuse into safe accommodation.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p>The service is fully funded through grant funding from DHLUC for delivery of domestic abuse support in safe accommodation duties in 2022/23. No additional funding is required from The Council to support this service.</p> <p>In providing this service the council is meeting the duties set out by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p> <p>The provision of safe accommodation and support is available to any victim</p>

	of domestic abuse e.g. both men and women.
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>The council – would be unable to deliver this service directly. Herefordshire Council is reliant on other Registered Housing providers for the provision of social and affordable housing across Herefordshire. The provision of support for victim-survivors of domestic abuse is a specialist service which the council does not currently have the expertise to offer.</p> <p>The council could choose not to commission this service, however this would mean that more victim-survivors of domestic abuse would continue to be placed in temporary accommodation without support which is not in keeping with the requirements of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed..... Date: 15 November 2022

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