

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Reopening of the Local Housing Related Support and Accommodation Framework for Care Experienced Young People aged 16-25
Date of decision:	6 th September 2023
Decision maker:	Corporate 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>Approval given to reopen the Local Housing Related Support and Accommodation Framework for Care Experienced young people aged 16-25 years old.</p> <p>This will give the opportunity to attract new Providers to the existing Framework to provide local accommodation and support, which will continue to improve the Council's provision for Care Experienced young people and Children in Care over 16 years of age.</p> <p>The Framework will continue to create opportunities for collaborative working between Providers and the Council to effectively develop a portfolio of appropriate and safe registered supported accommodation in Herefordshire.</p> <p>The Framework is supporting the Placement Sufficiency Strategy 2024 - 2029 by providing quality and sustainability of appropriate placement provision as well as value for money in Herefordshire.</p>
Reasons for decision:	<p>It is anticipated that reopening the Framework will attract new Providers which will continue to support the development of a portfolio of good quality and safe accommodation for Care Leavers and 16 and 17 year old Children in Care within Herefordshire.</p> <p>The Framework will continue to complement 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 2024 - 2029. The placements will be led by the needs of the young people to achieve positive outcomes.</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</p>

	county. 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.
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<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. Reopening the framework at review periods will mitigate this risk and allow for new suppliers to join.</p> <p>Controls of cost and other factors incorporated in the Framework could be a disincentive for Providers joining the Framework, to lessen this risk controls will be introduced gradually and evaluated to avoid disincentives and to optimise Providers joining of the Framework.</p> <p>The number and frequency of placements offered through the Framework may be too few to provide economic incentive for some Providers to join it. There is an option to pre-limit the number of Providers on the Framework at any time to help ensure sufficient opportunity for them.</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 reopening of the 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>
Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:	<p>Not to reopen the Local Housing Related Support and Accommodation Framework This option is not recommended as the Council would not have an opportunity to continue to build a portfolio of local good quality accommodation and support for young people and would continue a reliance on the regional Framework and spot purchase placements.</p> <p>Close the existing framework and recommission a Framework for eligible providers under Housing Benefit regulations only This option is not recommended as this would severely restrict the number of providers who can join the Framework. Two thirds of the existing providers are not eligible providers and cannot claim Housing Benefit under the Housing Benefit Regulations 2006 which means these providers would be required to leave the Framework, this would result in a loss of around 25 properties that are currently available to accommodate young people locally. This option would potential increase the number of young people placed "out of county" under regional or spot purchased arrangements.</p>
Details of any declarations of interest made:	None

Signed..... Date: 6th September 2023