

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Direct award of My Family, My School, My Community school connectors contract
Date of decision:	28/02/2024
Decision maker:	Corporate Director for Children and Young People
Authority for delegated decision:	Under the Chief Executive scheme of delegation (CYP-03) commissioning for Early help and family support services may be undertaken by the Corporate Director for Children and Young People.
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>Consultation has taken place with the children's improvement advisor and relevant colleagues with children and young peoples directorate.</p> <p>The Council's legal and commercial services have also been consulted about the potential implications of the proposal.</p>
Decision made:	To make a direct award of contact to Vennture to provide a schools connector service for a period of 13 months from 1 st March 2024 to 31 st March 2025. The maximum full term cost of the service for the period is £240,000
Reasons for decision:	<p>Herefordshire Councils Ofsted report highlighted that some children do not receive the right help at the right time and that the Early Help offer in Herefordshire is limited.</p> <p>The service will enable more young people and families get the right help at the right time, in the right place, meeting need at the earliest point of presentation reducing the number of social work interventions for families who do not need that level of help.</p> <p>Grant funding awarded to deliver this service is time limited.</p> <p>Vennture already hold a council contract to deliver early help provision locally and are ideally positioned to commence service delivery immediately. They have the required infrastructure, local knowledge and required partnerships in place. Vennture also has a proven track record of delivering positive outcomes and is skilled in this area of work.</p>
Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:	<p>Health and Safety The commissioned provider will be expected to work to the same health and safety standards and codes of practice as the council, as far as is reasonably practicable.</p> <p>Finance Grant funding for the commissioning of the service has been obtained from the Department for Education and there in no impact on the councils base budget.</p> <p>The effect of not commissioning this service would be to the detriment of</p>

	<p>the local Early Help offer and will limit the potential for meeting positive outcomes for vulnerable families, this may see an increase of cases escalated to social care.</p> <p>The total contract value is under that of the light touch regime so is not considered above threshold and in order to make a direct award the councils exemption process has been applied.</p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Do nothing. This is not recommended. If the grant funding awarded is not used for the intended purpose this would be to the detriment of the local Early Help offer and will limit the potential for meeting positive outcomes for vulnerable families, this may see an increase of cases escalated to social care. The grant funding obtained would also need to be returned to the DfE which would lead to reputation damage to the council.</p> <p>Procure the service via framework or competitive tendering opportunity. Commissioning colleagues have not been able to identify a framework or dynamic purchasing system that could be utilised. Completing an open tender process would delay the start of any contract and would mean the council is not making best use of the time limited funding; previous market testing related to Early Help work evidenced interest from some providers however it is unlikely that there would be a good level of interest if the council were to tender for a short term contract.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>No Declarations of Interest made.</p>

Signed..... Date:

Please ensure that signatures are redacted before publishing.