

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Direct award of contract- Developing and improving Early help arrangements in Herefordshire
<b>Date of decision:</b>	14/03/2024
<b>Decision maker:</b>	Corporate Director for Children and Young People
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	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.
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	<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>
<b>Decision made:</b>	To utilize the ESPO framework and make a direct award of contact to PeopleToo. The contract will focus on developing and improving Early Help arrangements in Herefordshire. The maximum full term cost of the contract is £58,815 for the period 18 <sup>th</sup> March 2024 to 24 <sup>th</sup> May 2024.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<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>To address this Herefordshire Council has commissioned PeopleToo an external facilitator to assist with a strategic piece of work to develop, in conjunction with voluntary sector partners, effective multi-agency early help arrangements in Herefordshire.</p> <p>PeopleToo have the required relevant experience and are able to mobilise swiftly, this enables grant funding awarded to be fully utilised in the timescales required.</p> <p>Peopletoo's pricing against other providers listed on the ESPO framework for this particular lot is considered to demonstrate good value when considered in conjunction with their capacity to mobilise in a short timeframe and successfully delivering a local project on behalf of the council in short timescales.</p> <p>The ESPO framework has been utilized which is available to the council to make call offs and award contract, this is considered a compliant procurement route in line with the councils contract procedure rules.</p>
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p>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>Grant funding for the commissioning of the service has been obtained from the Department for Education and there is no impact on the council's base</p>

	<p>budget.</p> <p>The effect of not commissioning this service would be to the detriment of the local Early Help offer and will limit the potential for developing strategic priorities and improving the Early Help offer in Herefordshire.</p> <p>The ESPO framework has been utilized which is available to the council to make call offs and award contract, this is considered a compliant procurement route in line with the councils contract procedure rules.</p>
<p><b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b></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 in Herefordshire, 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>Deliver the services in house. This option is not recommended. The local authority is not able to deliver all of the required activity within existing workforce capacity, therefore the requirement for additional capacity to support the work is urgent. This contract will provide a short term, focused resource to support the development of strategic priorities.</p> <p>Procure the service via an open tender. This option is not recommended. 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.</p>
<p><b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b></p>	<p>No Declarations of Interest made.</p>

Signed..... Date:

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