

## Record of operational decision

<b>Decision title:</b>	Award of contract for the Accommodation Based Support Service for Children in Care and Care Leavers aged 16- 25
<b>Date of decision:</b>	13 January 2025
	Corporate Director, Children and Young People
<b>Authority for delegated decision:</b>	<p>The key decision made by Cabinet Member for Children and Young People on 11 November 2024 provides delegated authority to the Corporate Director for Children and Young People to award a contract, following the completion of a procurement process, for a period of up to 60 months, commencing from 1 April 2025 up to 31 March 2030 with a maximum total cost of £1,864,765.</p> <p><a href="#">Decision - Accommodation based support for children in care and care leavers aged 16-25 - Herefordshire Council</a></p>
<b>Ward:</b>	Countywide
<b>Consultation:</b>	Engagement has taken place with key stakeholders including current providers and young people to gain their views on the development of the service.
<b>Decision made:</b>	Following a full open tender process to award a contract to Caring for Communities and People (CCP) for the accommodation based support service for Children in Care and Care Leavers aged 16 – 25, for a period of up to 60 months from 1 April 2025 up to 31 March 2030 with a maximum total cost of £1,864,765.
<b>Reasons for decision:</b>	<p>As a Corporate Parent the Council has a duty to ensure that Children in Care and Care Leavers are appropriately and safely accommodated.</p> <p>The provision of additional accommodation with support in the county will enable vulnerable young people to remain close to their local connections and provide a local, good quality and cost effective service. It is expected this will improve outcomes for individual young people.</p> <p>The current accommodation based support service for young people offer homes for 8 single young people. In light of the number of young people needing local accommodation, the new contract will deliver a minimum of 15 homes for 16 and 17 year old care experienced young people and for care leavers aged 18 – 25 years.</p> <p>This service will also contribute to the reduction in the need for temporary accommodation statutory duties placed on local authorities under the Children and Social Work Act 2017, Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Reduction 2017.</p> <p>A compliant procurement process was conducted in line with the above threshold process as set out in the Council’s Contracts Procedure Rules, the specification of requirements was issued via the Council’s e tendering portal. 7 bids were received, 5 were deemed non-compliant by commercial services colleagues, and 2 bids were deemed compliant. The 2 compliant bids were evaluated in line with the criteria set out within the tender documentation in line with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.</p>

	Following confirmation of the evaluators' scores and completion of the due diligence checks the Council will now enter into a contract with Caring for Communities and People (CCP) to deliver the accommodation-based support for Children in Care and Care Leavers aged 16–25.
<b>Equality Considerations</b>	A full Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and the relevant findings from this were incorporated into to the service design this included the service being delivered in line with Supported Accommodation Act 2023 and subsequent regulations.
<b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b>	<p><b>Legal</b> The legal risk is low. The Council has conducted a compliant procurement process in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, and an outcome has been identified based on the results of the evaluation carried out by the Evaluation Panel.</p> <p><b>Finance</b> Funding for the commissioning of the service has been approved as part of the governance process.</p> <p><b>Health and Safety</b> 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>
<b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>	<p>Alternative options that were considered:</p> <p>Not to recommission the service. This option was not recommended. This contract supports the Council's commitment to its Care Leavers as Corporate Parent and there would be a lost opportunity to provide local accommodation and improve outcomes for very vulnerable Children in Care and Care Leavers if the service is not recommissioned. Additionally, this would mean the Council owned properties would not be utilised as intended by the Council.</p> <p>Extend the contract with the existing provider This option was not practicable as the contract does not contain an option to extend. This option would also not enable the Council to grow the service which will include additional accommodation and move on support which will provide a holistic end to end service.</p> <p>Deliver as an in-house service. This was not recommended at this time due to time constraints that would be required to fully develop this option.</p>
<b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>	None

Signed: Date: 16 January 2025

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