

## Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

**B058 / 21**

*If not a Key Decision write n/a above*

### OFFICER DECISION RECORD <sup>i</sup>

Officer Key Decisions are subject to the Council's Call-In Procedure (Annex 9 of the Council's Constitution <https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/freedom-of-information-and-council-data/open-data-statistics-about-hertfordshire/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/who-we-are-and-what-we-do.aspx>)

<b>Subject:</b> Contract for the Provision of Residential Placements for four (4) / <b>five (5)</b> Children And Young People aged 7-17 with highly challenging behaviour And complex needs	
<b>Type of Decision: Executive</b> <i>(Please delete as applicable)</i>	<b>Key Decision (Executive Functions only):</b>  Yes
<b>Officer Contact:</b> Lynn Knowles  <b>Tel:</b> 07740918847	<b>Executive Member/Committee Chairman: Teresa Heritage</b>  <b>Portfolio (Executive Functions only): Children, Young People and Families</b>

#### 1. Decision

- 1.1 That the Operations Director, Specialist Services has determined that Annex A to this Decision Record should not be disclosed to the public as it contains exempt information as defined by Section 100 of the Local Government Act 1972, Schedule 12A, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighing the public interest in disclosing that information;
- 1.2 Subject to 1.1 above, awards the contract for the Provision of Residential Placements for four (4) / **five (5)** Children And Young People aged 7-17 with highly challenging behaviour And complex

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needs to the preferred provider set out in Annex A and approves the signing of the contract.

2. **Reasons for the decision**

A Single Tender Action has been carried out due to extreme unforeseen urgency that a Tender process cannot be undertaken, to award a contract for the Provision of Residential Placements for four (4) / **five (5)** Children And Young People aged 7-17 with highly challenging behaviour And complex needs.

The Service will be run from an existing HCC property Field View (formerly Wilbury Road). This project falls under Phase 1 of the Residential Strategy which aims to create an additional 31 children's homes beds (both in-house and independent) within the County by March 2023.

Due to unforeseen circumstances the in-house service were unable to recruit to the position of Registered Manager for Field View and as a consequence, has been unable to start the Ofsted registration for the service to commence. Recruitment of staff is a significant concern, the property works to refurbish Field View has been fully completed and the building is ready to be utilised. Placement pressures continue to be experienced by the Brokerage Accommodation Team and the demand for residential placements remains high. Demand is extremely high for beds and the needs and safeguarding of children and young people must be the main priority. The Council cannot cater for those needs adequately if it waits for a procurement process to take place whilst an empty, fit for purpose building remained unutilised.

Suppliers were identified and approached based on the criteria outlined in Annex A.

3. **Alternative options considered and rejected**

Alternative suppliers were considered as outlined in Annex A.

4. **Consultation** (*see Summary of Requirements below*)

**Was any Councillor consulted?            Yes**

**If yes:**

(a)    Comments of Executive Member/Committee Chairman (*delete as applicable*)

    No Comments to make, please proceed.

(b)    Comments of other consultees

**Cllr Tina Bhartwas**  
**County Councillor for Letchworth North**

I have no comments or conflicts to declare.

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5. **Any conflict of interest declared by a councillor who has been consulted in relation to the decision**

*(If a Councillor declares a conflict of interest DO NOT PROCEED without seeking advice from Democratic Services or Legal Services).*

6. **[Following consultation with the Executive Member/Committee Chairman,] I am proceeding with the proposed decision.** *(delete words in square brackets if no requirement to consult the Executive Member/Committee Chairman)*

Signed:

Title: Marion Ingram, Operations Director, Specialist Services,  
Children's Services Directorate

Date: 22 June 2021

Copies of record to:

- All consultees
- hard & electronic copy (if required to be made available for public inspection) to Democratic Services Manager - Room 213 County Hall.<sup>ii</sup>

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**Summary of Requirements to Inform/Consult Councillors**

<b>Significance of Proposed Action</b>	<b>Controversial</b>	<b>Relevant Councillor(s) to be Consulted</b>
Technical/Professional/ Routine	No	No need to inform or consult councillors
Technical/Professional/ Routine	Yes	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member and, where appropriate, Local Councillor

		<p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b></p> <p>Relevant Committee Chairman and, where appropriate, Local Councillor</p>
Local	No	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b></p> <p>Inform Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b></p> <p>Inform Local Councillor</p>
Local	Yes	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b></p> <p>Consult Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b></p> <p>Consult Local Councillor</p>
General or County-wide	No	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b></p> <p>Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s)</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b></p> <p>Consult relevant Committee Chairman</p>
General or County-wide	Yes	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b></p> <p>Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) and the Leader of the Council</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b></p> <p>Consult relevant Committee Chairman/Leaders all Political Groups</p>

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