

Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.

B134/22

If not a Key Decision write n/a above

OFFICER DECISION RECORD ¹

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>)

Subject:

Proposed contract award following tender to continue the provision of the Early Help Digital Advice and Guidance Service to Children and Young People with Mental Health issues

Type of Decision: Executive

Key Decision (Executive Functions only): Yes

Executive Member/Committee Chairman:

Cllr Fiona Thomson

Portfolio (Executive Functions only):

Children, Young People and Families

Officer Contact: Emma Sinclair

Tel: 01438 845635

1. Decision

To award the contract to the successful bidder following a competitive tender to continue the provision of the Early Help Digital Advice and Guidance Service to Children and Young People with Mental Health issues.

The identity of the successful bidder is included in the Annex A.

2. Reasons for the decision

The existing contract for online advice, support and counselling for Children and Young People aged 10-25 was directly awarded to the incumbent provider via a Single Tender action under a regulation C7 for a further year until March 2023 whilst we undertake market research and possibly a competitive tender process.

Following research, a PPME exercise and conversations with both legal and SPG it was felt the best option would be to go out to tender for the service with a start date of the 31 March 2023.

The tender process has now been completed.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected

Option 1 – Do nothing

The current contract for the digital advice and guidance service provided by Kooth will end on 31 March 2023. This service has been embedded for a number of years, with the provider often exceeding their contracted hours.

The risk of not continuing to procure this service would be to fail to provide support, advice, and guidance to the numerous CYP who have used this service and will benefit in the future by using this service. The Mental Health of these CYP could worsen without this service, and this would also potentially increase pressure on other services within Hertfordshire.

Option 2 – Develop a CAMHS digital framework

This would be a complex solution which would only be worthwhile if the Framework would be used to offer additional Digital Services. Currently there is insufficient evidence to suggest that this would be beneficial to HCC

4. Consultation (see Summary of Requirements below)

Was any Councillor consulted? No

If yes:

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

(b) Comments of other consultees

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

N/a

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

6. **I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed: Miranda Gittos
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Director of Specialist Services & Commissioning

Title:

Date: 21 December 2022

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.ⁱⁱ

Summary of Requirements to Inform/Consult Councillors

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

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