

OFFICER DECISION RECORD ⁱ

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 award of a new framework agreement for the provision of NHS Talking Therapies Counselling for Depression providers from the 1st of May 2025.

Type of Decision: Executive

Key Decision (Executive Functions only): Yes

Executive Member/Committee Chairman: Tony Kingsbury

Portfolio (Executive Functions only):

Executive Member, Adult Care, Health & Wellbeing

Officer Contact: Robin Goold

Tel:01438 845 472

1. Decision

To proceed with the award of the contracts under the new NHS Talking Therapies Counselling for Depression framework following completion of the procurement process.

2. Reasons for the decision

- 2.1 The County Council holds delegated health related duties under Section 75 Agreement (NHS Act 2006) and acts as the lead commissioner on behalf of its NHS commissioning partners for these

services. The funding for the services comes directly from the ICB and contains no contribution from the County Council.

- 2.2 Under this arrangement the Council holds a framework for NHS Talking Therapies compliant counselling services across Hertfordshire. A previous decision (B121/24) was taken on the 15 November 2024 by the Executive Director for Adult Care Services, to extend the current framework to 31 April 2025 for the procurement process to take place.
- 2.3 The procurement process is now complete, and Officers are seeking agreement to commence awarding contracts to successful providers to enable mobilisation by the 1 May 2025. Awarding the framework will enable continuation of NHS Talking Therapy Services and continuity of service the citizens of Hertfordshire.
- 2.4 Following an open competitive tender process that has now concluded, contracts under the framework will be awarded to six providers. The identify of the successful bidders is included in Annex A.

3. Alternative options considered and rejected

Option	Considerations	Recommendation
1. Do nothing.	<p>The framework agreement will expire on 31April 2025 leaving Hertfordshire without the provision of these services. services.</p> <p>The Council will not have fulfilled its delegated health duties.</p>	Not recommended
2. Extend the current arrangements further	<p>The current framework has already been extended and there are current providers who will exit the market meaning a lack of capacity to meet current demand.</p> <p>A tender process has been completed and providers identified as able to meet the requirements of the framework have been identified.</p>	Not recommended

4. Consultation

Was any Councillor consulted? Yes

If yes:

(a) Comments of Executive Member

Supportive of award.

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

N/A

6. **Following consultation with the Executive Member, I am proceeding with the proposed decision.**

Signed: Chris Badger

Title: Executive Director, Adult Care Services

Date: 27 March 2025

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