

## Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

**If Key Decision: Decision Ref. No.**

n/a....

*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>)

**Subject:** To direct award to Herts Mind Network for the provision of an Early Help Eating Digital Intervention Service via a regulation 32 notice.

**Type of Decision:** Non-Executive

**Key Decision (Executive Functions only):** N/A

### **Executive Member/Committee Chairman:**

The commissioning of the Early Help Services was approved at the Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Board the board is attended by:

HVCCG Managing Director

HCC Operations Director – Specialist Services

HCC Programme Manager - CAMHS Redesign & Implementation

HCC- Cabinet Member – Children, Young People and Families

H&WE Director of Nursing & Quality

HCT Chief Operating Officer

HPFT Exec Director of Service Delivery & Customer Experience

An update on the tender process and the proposed actions to ensure delivery of these services was discussed at the Board meeting on 28th January 2022.

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## **Portfolio (Executive Functions only):N/A**

**Officer Contact:** Joella Scott - CAMHS Redesign and Implementation

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**E:** [joella.scott@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:joella.scott@hertfordshire.gov.uk)

### **1. Decision**

To direct award to Herts Mind Network for the provision of an Ealy Help Digital Intervention Service via a regulation 32 notice.

### **2. Reasons for the decision**

Following systemic concerns about the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on mental ill health and people with learning disabilities, Niche consultancy was commissioned to undertake a demand and capacity review to help us understand potential impact due to suppressed and additional demand, with recommendations how this could be mitigated. Included in their recommendations was to substantially increase the investment in and prominence of early help intervention and resilience support for children and young people.

Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) went out to tender for The Provision of the Early Help Digital Intervention Service in Hertfordshire in October 2021 (Publication Reference 2021/S 000-025737 dated 14th October 2021). Despite significant interest shown at the extremely well attended PPME Event in June 2021, no bids were received, as a result of the tender process.

Due to the failed tender exercise and increased demand for this service HCC progressed with the option of a direct award.

HCC engaged with possible providers for this service in a manner that treated them equally and without discrimination, however only one provider was deemed to fulfil the Early Help Digital Intervention service specification and was asked to provide a full proposal that met the requirements (which were the same as those initially sought under the failed procurement). As only one proposal was provided and was suitable, HCC is of the view that the contract award is in compliance with Regulation 32(2)(a).

The Contract will be for 2 years with the option for extend for up to 24 months. The value stated include the value of any extension.

### **3. Alternative options considered and rejected**

**Option 1 – do nothing.**

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Not commissioning any service would mean we could continue to see a rise in the number of CYP experiencing mental health issues, which in turn would result in pressure on an already strained health care services.

**Option 2 – We commission a dedicated Early Help Eating Disorder Service.**

**Recommended Option** – It is our recommendation that we commission a dedicated service to provide an Early Help Digital Intervention Service. The service will deliver a countywide offer that is accessible to CYP and their families through effective referral pathways. Delivering effective support to CYP and their families at the earliest point will support improved social and emotional development and enable them to understand and manage their emotions, form positive relationships, and continue to thrive. This will also build additional capacity and resource at early help and will create a better demand and capacity management across the system.

**Option 3 - We split elements of the service**

We split elements of the service over a number of providers, we will still have the offer in its entirety but this maybe more palatable to providers at this current time due to pressures and capacity. We do however have to bear in mind with this option brings the added complexity of a possible fragmented service offer, which can be confusing and difficult to navigate.

**As we have been out to tender for the service and received no bids we are able to directly award the service to a provider who can deliver the service as per the specification. The funding for this service was agreed at the Children and Young People’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing Board, and the budget for the service comes entirely from NHS funding. On consultation with legal it was agreed we would direct award to First Steps ED via a regulation 32 notice, this has been placed and expired without any challenge.**

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

**Was any Councillor consulted?**

Update at board given on the 28 January 2022, the meeting included the following representation from across the system:

HVCCG Manging Director

HCC Operations Director – Specialist Services

HCC Programme Manager - CAMHS Redesign & Implementation

HCC- Cabinet Member – Children, Young People and Families

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H&WE Director of Nursing & Quality

HCT Chief Operating Officer

HPFT Exec Director of Service Delivery & Customer Experience

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

**N/A**

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

Signed: Joella Scott

Title:Commissioning Officer

Date: 02/08/2022

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.<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 <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Relevant Committee Chairman and, where appropriate, Local Councillor
Local	No	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Inform Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Inform Local Councillor
Local	Yes	<b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor <b>Non-Executive Functions:</b>

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