

OFFICER DECISION RECORD (ODR2)

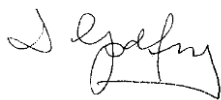
This form records an officer decision and is published in accordance with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014

(All blue guidance notes to be deleted prior to submission)

Date of Decision	25.11.25
Decision Taker (including Job Title)	Dawn Godfrey. Executive Director of Children's Services
Specific Delegation	Delegate authority to the Executive Director of Children's Services to award the contract for the Safe Accommodation, in consultation with the S151 & Monitoring Officers, and with the agreement of the Chair and Vice-Chair of Children & Families Committee.
Brief Description of Decision	This record relates to an officer decision taken under a delegation provided by the Children's and Families Committee made on the 15th of September 2025 report reference CF/27/25 -26. When it was minuted that the Committee: Approved the new service model and authorise the procurement for a new service contract for a 3-year term with a 1 + 1 year extension period, noting the feedback from consultation activity over the summer, and Rapid Review analytics conducted by S2, which advise Cheshire East Council to: a) Increase the number of safe accommodation bed spaces to a minimum of 27 specialist accommodation spaces for Cheshire East. b) Increase the mix of communal/ dispersed refuges, in order to reduce/eliminate the use of temporary (and unsuitable) b & b accommodation for individuals fleeing domestic abuse. c) Develop the support offered to children and young people in safe accommodation d) Improve communication between Housing Options and the safe accommodation provider.

Reasons for the Decision and alternatives considered	Statutory duties in relation to Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (the Act) details the duties on relevant local authorities in relation to support provided to victims of domestic abuse. The Statutory Guidance published on 1 October 2021: Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services, outlines that the Act Places duties on each relevant local authority in England to: Assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims and their children who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area. Options considered was to do nothing or use inhouse provision. However, the council risks not meeting its statutory responsibilities to provide safe accommodation. Victims of DA will not have their needs met. Significant reputation risk to the council. In-housing the accommodation with support offer would involve significant staffing and cost liabilities to the LA that could not be underwritten in the current financial environment.
Member consultation and interests declared	Children's and Families Committee were updated on the progress with the final report on the 15th of September 2025.
Significant Decision	Yes
Legal Implications	As set out in the report Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 (the Act) details the duties on relevant local authorities in relation to support provided to victims of domestic abuse. The Statutory Guidance published on 1 October 2021: Delivery of support to victims of domestic abuse in domestic abuse safe accommodation services, outlines that the Act Places duties on each relevant local authority in England to: Assess, or make arrangements for the assessment of, the need for accommodation-based domestic abuse support in their area for all victims and their children who reside in relevant safe accommodation, including those who come from outside of their area. Domestic Abuse: statutory guidance also outlines that the approach to the services and support commissioned should consider the particular needs of all victims in the area and authorities must

	consider their Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act 2021. Jennie Summers. Acting Head of Legal Services. (28.07.25)
Financial Implications	The annual budget for DA Commissioning for 2025/26 is £0.250m. This is the parameter for the new commissioned service for 2026/27 subject to grants being maintained at the same level. The 2026/27 contract value would be funded from within existing revenue budgets. The proposal in the paper does not impact the in-year budget as the contract start date is 1 April 2026. On the basis of the above, there is no adverse impact on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The Committee is expected to ensure value for money is obtained through the tendering process and assure itself that officers are delivering the outcomes expected through robust contract management. Any unexpected costs pressures are to be constrained within existing resources managed through this Committee. The Financial Procedure Rules do not grant any officer or Committee the power to overspend. Diane Green. Finance Manager; Children's Service. (28.07.25)
Confidential/Exempt Information	N/A
Background Papers	Children's and Families Committee on the 15th of September 2025. Cheshire East Domestic Abuse Service report can be found at: https://moderngov.cheshireeast.gov.uk/ecminutes/documents/s126906/Cheshire%20East%20Domestic%20Abuse%20Service.pdf



Signed

25.11.25

Dated

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