

WARRINGTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
RECORD OF DECISION TAKEN BY AN OFFICER

DECISION TITLE: MISSING FROM HOME/RETURN HOME INTERVIEW SERVICE

Executive Board Decision No and/or Forward Plan No (Executive decisions only)	N/A
Directorate Ref No (Non Executive decisions only) If applicable	MFH/June 2020
Decision detail	<p>Statutory guidance stipulates all local authorities must have an independent Missing from Home/Return Home Interview service. The present arrangements are that jointly with Cheshire East, Cheshire West, Halton and Warrington there is a three year arrangement in place from 2018 with “We are With You” (formally known as Addaction), to deliver this service.</p> <p>The service is hosted by Halton, who receive payments for the service from the other authorities and is renewed on an annual basis. The present arrangements began on 1 July 2019 and comes to end at the end of June 2020.</p> <p>Whilst the previous two years have also included some contextualised safeguarding work, for the next 12 months the services will only include Missing from Home/Return Home Interview services, which has led to a reduction in costs.</p> <p>The proposal is to therefore to continue with the present arrangements (with the exception of the contextualised safeguarding) for the period of 1 July 2020 until 30 June 2021 at a cost to the Council of £106,533.25.</p>
Reason for decision	The decision is not one that requires a Cabinet approval as the costs being committed by the Council for the next 12 months are just over £106k and therefore below key decision threshold, however to ensure that a record of the decision to proceed with a further year, this ODN had been prepared.
Decision Maker/Responsible Officer	Amanda Amesbury – Director of Children’s Services
Directorate	Families and Wellbeing
Lead Cabinet Member consulted (if applicable)	Cllr Matt Smith

Decision Date	9 June 2020
Date Decision was published / notified (normally within 2 clear working days of decision being made)	9 June 2020
Summary of options considered	<p>There were two options available in respect of this statutory service:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develop our own in house missing from home/return home interview service for 1st July 2020; or 2. Continue with the current arrangements for a further year. <p>Option 2 was chosen in light of current situation with Covid-19 as it was considered too high risk to try and implement a new services from scratch at this time.</p> <p>The Council are still considering implementation of option 1 from 1 July 2021, there will be further consideration to this in the coming months.</p>
Interests declared	
Background Papers (if applicable) <i>(period expires after 4 years from date of decision)</i>	Memorandum of Understanding.
Confidential / exempt information Category (if applicable)	N/A

NB. This form expires after 6 years.