

**Bracknell Forest Council
Record of Decision**

Work Programme Reference	I067936
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1. **TITLE:** Online Mental Health Support and Counselling Service for Young People; approval to award contract

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

The contract for the provision of an online mental health support and counselling service for young people is to be awarded following a Request for Quotations, with the 'chosen' provider to be identified by 1 June 2017.

4. **IS KEY DECISION** Yes

5. **DECISION MADE BY:** Director of Adult Social Care, Health & Housing

6. **DECISION:**

That the Online Mental Health Support and Counselling Service contract due to commence on 1 October 2017 be awarded to Tenderer A.

7. **REASON FOR DECISION**

To ensure that young people aged 11-19 years (up to 25 years for those who are looked after) can access professional mental health support and counselling at an early stage, in order to prevent the escalation of concerns and reduce the need for them to access the specialist child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS).

8. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

To not invest in the continued provision of an online mental health and support counselling service, after the current service terminates on 30 September 2017. This is not considered a suitable option for two reasons; one, the service has evidenced the need and value of having a preventative, convenient alternative to the traditional face-to-face counselling service, that young people can access with minimum waiting time; and two, children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing has been highlighted as a key priority for the Council, due to the unacceptably long waiting times for the specialist child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) and the clear benefits to health and wellbeing of addressing young people's needs for information and confidential advice at an early stage.

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** East Berkshire Clinical Commissioning Groups.

10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Report of the Consultant in Public Health.

11. **DECLARED CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:** None.

Date Decision Made	Final Day of Call-in Period
19 July 2017	31 July 2017