

## Officer Decision Record – Executive Decision

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

**B070/24**

***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:** Proposed award of contract for Flourish, mental health (MH) service for refugees and asylum seekers supporting individuals aged 16+ in Hertfordshire

**Type of Decision:** Executive

**Key Decision (Executive Functions only):** Yes

**Executive Member/Committee Chairman:** Tony Kingsbury

**Portfolio (Executive Functions only):** Adult Care, Health and Wellbeing

**Officer Contact:** Ryan Heard, Development Manager, CPWT

**Tel:** 01992 588236

## 1. Decision

- 1.1 Decision to direct award the Flourish contract to existing provider, Herts Mind Network, via Process C of the Provider Selection Regime (PSR), effective from 1 April 2025:

**HCC REF No:6393918 - Flourish, mental health (MH) service for refugees and asylum seekers**

- 1.2 The anticipated contract term will be two years, with the potential to extend for up to two additional years.

## 2. Reasons for the decision

- 2.1 The Flourish Mental Health Service is commissioned as a community-based, early intervention mental health and wellbeing support service for refugees & asylum seekers aged 16 and above. The service provides specialist, targeted and flexible support able to rapidly adapt to changing needs, limiting impact on mainstream mental health services. Effective referral arrangements are in place with Hertfordshire Foundation Partnership Trust (HPFT) for people with more complex support needs and there are well established referral pathways from other healthcare providers and community support organisations into Flourish.

- 2.2 There are several local strategies that align with this service, which the provider is expected to work in the context of:

- [The Hertfordshire Adult Mental Health Strategy 2016-2021](#) sets out how we will ensure people in Hertfordshire can manage their own mental health, access support when required, and maximise their independence.
- [The Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2026](#) sets out our vision and strategic priorities for improving health and wellbeing and reducing health inequalities in the County. The vision of the Strategy is to work in partnership and with our communities to improve their health, wellbeing, and their quality of life to reduce health inequalities and help people live longer and healthier lives.
- **The Hertfordshire Migration Strategy** - Hertfordshire is developing a new migration strategy outlining the local approach to refugees & asylum seekers – it is expected the Flourish service will work to support delivery of the new strategy.

- 2.3 After completion of the Service and Provider Assessment, commissioners are assured the existing provider has and will continue to:

- Meet the criteria, which has not changed from the previous iteration of the contract, either materially or in cost,
- Transition to the new arrangement with minimal to no disruption to service provision,
- Provide value for money through the prevention of mental health needs which minimises the impact on mainstream services,

- Work preventatively – via established pathways into HPFT, and signposting & onward referrals to wider community-based support.
- 2.6 The Provider Selection Regime (PSR) came into force on 1 January 2024. It is a set of rules for procuring health care services in England by organisations termed relevant authorities.
- 2.7 The PSR was introduced by regulations made under the Health and Care Act 2022. In keeping with the intent of the Act, the PSR has been designed to:
- Introduce a flexible and proportionate process for deciding who should provide health care services,
  - Provide a framework that allows collaboration to flourish across systems,
  - Ensure that all decisions are made in the best interest of patients and service users.
- 2.8 Since Flourish Mental Health Service delivers mental health support, and within this the prevention of worsening mental health conditions, it falls within the scope of PSR, rather than an open tender. Under PSR, the service does not meet threshold of considerable change ((Reg 6(10) to 6(12)), and so PSR Direct Award Process C is followed.

### **Equality Implications**

- 2.9 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was carried out by Commissioners when the service was first commissioned and has remained live, having been refreshed at key milestones during the process.
- 2.10 The specification outlines the requirement for the Provider to be consistent in their approach to all service users whilst taking account of the different needs of individuals. The service will respond appropriately to the needs of adults from a variety of social, ethnic, cultural and linguistic backgrounds and with a range of intellectual, physical, emotional and social developmental needs.

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

- 3.1 An open procurement was considered, however the current Service offered via the existing Provider is highly valued by those using the service and is delivered to a high standard. The service is used by vulnerable individuals who face a range of health inequalities and experience challenges in accessing wider healthcare services; any change would impact on trust and limit the early intervention support available. Any change of provider therefore risks an impact to both mainstream services and to the well-established referral pathways. It is also unlikely another provider could offer the service without interruption and a transition period given the current cohort, service scope and need for a specialist approach.

3.2 Additionally, there are no considerable changes to the contracting arrangements or, indeed, the service model. Therefore, Commissioner's assurance in existing Provider leads to the decision to continue and direct award the new contract via Process C of the PSR.

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

**Was any Councillor consulted?            No**

**If yes:**

(a) Comments of Executive Member/Committee Chairman (*delete as applicable*)

(b) Comments of other consultees

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: Jackie Albery

Title: Director, Planning and Resources, Adult Care Services

Date: 4 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.<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	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member and, where appropriate, Local Councillor</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Relevant Committee Chairman and, where appropriate, Local Councillor</p>
Local	No	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Inform Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Inform Local Councillor</p>
Local	Yes	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult Lead Executive Member and Local Councillor</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult Local Councillor</p>
General or County-wide	No	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s)</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Committee Chairman</p>
General or County-wide	Yes	<p><b>Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Lead Executive Member (s) and the Leader of the Council</p> <p><b>Non-Executive Functions:</b> Consult relevant Committee Chairman/Leaders all Political Groups</p>