

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION

PROPOSAL TO COMMENCE A CONSULTATION ON THE OPTIONS FOR FUTURE USE OF VALE LODGE, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CLOSURE

Date of Decision	11 March 2025
Decision Maker	Cabinet Member for Children and Families
Brief Description of Decision	<p>Having noted the complex needs of young people in the Council's care in a range of placement types and the requirement in relation to the "sufficiency duty" to secure accommodation to meet the needs of looked after children, the Director of Children's Services will commence a period of consultation from 19.3.2025 to 30.4.2025 in relation to the future use of Vale Lodge, a local authority children's home providing residential care for up to 4 children/young people with autism and/or learning disability aged 5-18 years.</p> <p>A report on the outcome of the consultation would then be considered by the Cabinet Member with Responsibility for Children and Families.</p>
Reason(s) for Decision	<p>Due to a combination of both staffing challenges and matching of young people requiring a placement, the provision has not been fully occupied since April 2022. The provision is not currently operating in a cost effective manner or able to meet the needs of the more challenging and high needs cohort of children and young people.</p> <p>Options for the future use of the home therefore need to be considered.</p>
Alternative Options Considered and Rejected	<p>This decision is for a period of consultation to begin and decisions will be made on the various options after the consultation has been completed.</p>

Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted	None
Signature of Decision Maker	S J Mackay
Date of Implementation of Decision	19 March 2025