



HILLINGDON
LONDON

OFFICIAL EXECUTIVE DECISION NOTICE PUBLISHED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

Notice is hereby given that the following decision(s) have been made today by Cabinet Members at the London Borough of Hillingdon:

Title of decision	VARIATION AND EXTENSION TO FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE SERVICES
Reference No.	1419
Date of decision	Wednesday 28 May 2025
Call-in expiry date	Wednesday 04 June 2025
Relevant Select Committee	Children, Families & Education Select Committee
Relevant Wards	N/A

Decision made

Cabinet Members making the decision	Councillor Ian Edwards, Leader of the Council Councillor Susan O'Brien, Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education
Decision	Approved That Leader of the Council, in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Children, Families & Education: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Noted the preventative importance of Family Group Conference services in supporting families, along with wider cost avoidance and how they help the Council meet statutory duties from the Families first national reforms;2. Noted that following Cabinet approval of the original Your Family Matters contract in 2023, that there has been an increase in the number of conferences during 2024/25 expected from £114,038 to £220,100 and agrees this variation to increase retrospectively;3. For the same contract from 15 May 2025 to 14 May 2026, agreed that the value of the contract be varied to increase to a maximum £350,000 to support increased conferences; and4. Agreed that the contract extension thereafter be for a period of 17 months from 15 May 2026 until 14 October 2027 and at a value which does not exceed £495,834.
Reason for decision	1) Delivers clear financial savings to the Council

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	<p>2) Supports long-term cost avoidance</p> <p>3) Improves outcomes for children and young people</p> <p>4) Strengthens family and community resilience</p> <p>5) Supports key Council priorities and national policy direction</p> <p>6) High-quality and trusted service delivery</p> <p>7) Highly valued by residents</p> <p>8) Essential to maintain and expand the service</p> <p>9) A 17-month extension is permitted under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, as contracts can be increased by to 50%.</p>
Alternative options considered and rejected	<p>1) Not to increase the number of family group conferences is not recommended as this would lead to more costly statutory support and less children and young people would be prevented from entering care rather than supported to remain in the care of the immediate or wider family as agreed in the family group conference.</p> <p>2) Wherever safe to do so, children thrive and are best placed in family settings. Research consistently shows that children who remain within their immediate or wider family have better emotional, social, and educational outcomes compared to those placed in local authority care.</p> <p>3) An in-house option is not cost-effective and would likely reduce trust and engagement. The current contract cannot be further extended under its original terms. Discontinuation would directly impact vulnerable families and contradict both local need and national direction.</p> <p>4) To re-tender is not recommended as Your Family Matters are well engaged with family mediations within the borough and the original tender highlighted that there would be no viable provider at a lower cost.</p>
Classification	Part II – Members Only and Not for Publication
Link to associated report	That this report be declared as exempt from publication as it involves the disclosure of information in accordance with Section 100(A) and paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12 (A) to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), in that the report contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding

	that information) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.
Relevant Officer contact & Directorate	Valentin Danciu, Assistant Director, Children's Services Antony Madden, Assistant Director, Children's Services
Any interest declared by the Cabinet Member(s) / dispensation granted	N/A

Implementation of decision & scrutiny call-in

[Internal Use only]	
When can this decision be implemented by officers?	<p>Officers can implement Cabinet Member decision in this notice only from the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period which is:</p> <p>5pm on Wednesday 04 June 2025</p> <p>However, this is subject to the decision not being called in by Councillors on the relevant Select Committee. Upon receipt of a valid call-in request, Democratic Services will immediately advise the relevant officer(s) and the decision must then be put on hold.</p>
Councillor scrutiny call-in of this decision	<p>Councillors on the relevant Select Committee shown in this notice may request to call-in this decision. The request must be before the expiry of the scrutiny call-in period above.</p> <p>Councillors should use the Scrutiny Call-in App (link below) on their devices to initiate any call-in request. Further advice can be sought from Democratic Services if required:</p> <p>Scrutiny Call-In - Power Apps (secure)</p>
Further information	<p>These decisions, where applicable, have been taken under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.</p> <p>This is the formal notice by the Council of the above executive decision, including links to the reports where applicable.</p> <p>If you would like more information on this decision, please contact Democratic Services on 01895 250636 or email: democratic@hillington.gov.uk.</p> <p>Circulation of this decision notice is to a variety of people including Members of the Council, Corporate Directors, Officers, Group Secretariats and the Public. Copies are also placed on the Council's website.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Democratic Services London Borough of Hillingdon Civic Centre High Street Uxbridge UB8 1UW</p>