

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

RECORD OF MEMBER DELEGATED DECISION

OUTCOME OF CONSULTATION ON THE FUTURE USE OF VALE LODGE CHILDREN'S HOME

Key Decision	Yes – Significant service and provision change
Date of Decision	18 February 2026
Decision Maker	Cabinet member for Children and Families – Cllr Justin Bowen
Brief Description of Decision	The CMR for Children and Families having noted the outcome of the consultation responses and the sufficiency duty to secure accommodation to meet the needs of Looked After Children; approved the continued use of Vale Lodge as a children's residential Children's Home; and noted that the change to the statement of purpose will be notified to OFSTED before implementation.
Reason(s) for Decision	The Council has a duty under the Children Act 1989 (the "sufficiency duty") to make such arrangements as it considers appropriate for securing accommodation for looked after children. This decision follows a consultation on the future use of Vale Lodge which ran from 19 March to 30 April 2025.
Alternative Options Considered and Rejected	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• To revise the Statement of Purpose and seek re-registration of the Home with Ofsted to operate a hybrid approach of residential care and short breaks. This however would exacerbate matching difficulties exponentially and likely disenable Vale Lodge from ever operating at full capacity and achieving best value.• To close Vale Lodge. However, in order to achieve this, the two children would need to transition to externally commissioned residential care. This would be in contravention of their care plans and best outcomes for the children.

Any Conflict of Interest declared by a consulted Cabinet Member/ any dispensation granted	None
Signature of Decision Maker	Cllr Justin Bowen, CMR for Children and Families
Date of Implementation of Decision	25 February 2026