

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

Clair Bell

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

**DECISION NO:**

20/00132

**For publication****Subject matter: Commissioning of Specialist Bereavement Services****20/00132**

Key decision criteria.

The decision:

- a) result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000)

**Decision:**

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I agree to:

- Award the contract for bereavement support services for three years with potential for extension by up to two years.
- Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health to approve the extensions within the agreed 5-year maximum period if required; and
- to take any other relevant actions, including but not limited to; entering into relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Kent and Medway CCG and Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Team have identified funding to provide specialist bereavement support services across Kent and Medway. There are currently limited support services available for those bereaved, and as such, the funding will ensure a comprehensive and consistent service is put in place. This is seen as critical given the impact of Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Bereavement is a natural part of the human experience but can be intensely painful and negatively impact on physical and mental health (Selman et al 2020). Through NHS England's national Suicide Prevention Transformation Programme and NHS Kent and Medway CCG, we have identified two particular groups in which bereavement can increase the risk of depression, self-harm, and other mental illnesses. These include children, young people, and young adults, and people bereaved by suicide. There is likely to be an increase in people needing these services due to the COVID-19.

KCC, in collaboration with the Kent and Medway CCG and Medway Council, are procuring two services to support Kent and Medway residents through a competitive procurement exercise with a maximum value of £1,493,750 over the period of five years.

The outcomes of the service are to:

- Improve service user's resilience and their capacity to cope in their surroundings
- Improve service users physical and mental health (measured by evidence-based tools)
- Personal goals and outcomes achieved
- Reduction in stigma and discrimination

**Financial Implications:**

Kent and Medway CCG and Kent and Medway Suicide Prevention Team have identified funding to provide specialist support services across Kent and Medway.

The maximum total amount for both services, including possible two-year extensions, is £1,493,750 over five years.

**Legal implications:**

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a responsibility on the Council to improve the health of their local population and reduce health inequalities.

The Care Act 2014 makes it a requirement for the Council to deliver early intervention and preventative services for adults with mental health needs.

The Children Act 2004 places a duty to promote and safeguard Children's welfare in Kent and Medway.

The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 which set out the legal basis for Local Authority procuring services, will be adhered to throughout the procurement process.

**Equality Implications:**

Equality Impact Assessment for the service has been completed, and any recommendations for service delivery have been incorporated in the Service Specification. It will be a requirement for the awarded Provider(s) to update the Equality Impact Assessment based on their delivery model.

Data Privacy Impact Assessments (DPIA) have been completed and it is a requirement within the Service Specifications for the awarded Provider(s) to complete a DPIA for the data for which they are the controller of.

**Cabinet Committee and other consultation activity:**

A paper was presented to Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee on January 21st 2021, which outlined KCC's intention to procure two new bereavement support services for individuals across Kent and Medway and provided opportunity for members to comment on the commissioning model. The proposed decision to commission the services was considered by Cabinet Committee on 10 March 2021. The Committee endorsed the proposed decision.

Stakeholders were consulted who helped develop the scope and the design of the services.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

The following options have been considered:

- Reject the funding and not commission these services – this was discounted as it was felt that the service outcomes align with KCC's strategic outcomes and supports the work on Public Mental Health COVID-19 recovery.
- Accept the funding and source the service in-house – this was discounted as it was felt that by going out for competitive procurement the Council will gain better value for money.

**Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

None

Clair Bell

30.04.2021

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signed

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date