

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet

DECISION NO:

21/00044

For publication**Key decision: YES**

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- 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); or
- b) be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:
 - the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;
 - significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People Programme

Decision:

Cabinet agrees to:

- i) Set the scope of Reconnect as per section 4.1 of this report.
- ii) Agree the aims, strategic objectives and outcomes of Reconnect as per section 3 of this report.
- iii) Agree a specific Reconnect reserve of £10m, the funding principles and the criteria within which Reconnect will operate as set out within section 6 of this report, including the Funding Framework that is intended to provide sufficient flexibility to respond to the needs of the County and the allocation of additional funding sources that may become available over the life of this project, as set out in section 6.4 of this report.
- iv) Confirm the governance arrangements for Reconnect, as set out in section 8 of this report.
- v) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education to take necessary actions, including but not limited to, entering into relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement Reconnect.
- vi) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance after consultation with Leader to update, review and amend the proposed distribution of funding in response to changing need, including use of additional funding within the scope of the programme.

Reason(s) for decision:**1. Background**

- 1.1 On 15 March 2021, Cabinet agreed the creation of the 'Reconnect: Kent Children and Young People's Programme (decision 21/00035). This initiative invites the whole Kent community to join together to provide a range of exciting and supportive opportunities for children and young people during the period to end of August 2022, in order to recognise their selfless contribution to helping keep the residents of Kent as safe as possible during the past 15 months.
- 1.2 Due to limited timescales and the urgency to commence Reconnect, Cabinet approved the creation of the Programme and authorised the action necessary to establish but required a

further report and key decision to confirm the scope, objectives, outcomes and funding for the full project.

2. Aims, Scope, Objectives and Outcomes

2.1 The report set out the aims, vision, scope, objectives, outcome and objectives of the Reconnect programme and is attached to this document

3. Equalities Assessment

3.1 A programme level EQIA has been developed. "Theme Teams" will be responsible for ensuring that the localised delivery of the programme meets equality requirements.

3.2 The programme will be universal, supporting all C&YP aged 0 to 19/24 years old, but with targeted support as appropriate, for example a good proportion of the external funding has grant criteria targeting this to vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals, with clear eligibility criteria. Efforts will be made to target specific groups who are vulnerable, either by raising their awareness of the opportunities provided by the funding to ensure they do not miss out, or by direct provision of support. Evidence of the impact of Covid-19 on protected characteristics will be used to influence decision making.

4 Financial Implications

4.1 The programme will be provided with dedicated KCC funding and be the umbrella for specific grant funding which supports the aims of Reconnect. The activities and projects funded by the programme will be additional to the core activity of KCC's directorates, and the funding commitments will be time limited and will not be a recurring cost to the Council beyond 31 August 2022.

4.2 The Revenue and Capital Outturn 2020-21 Report, presented to Cabinet as part of this agenda, includes a recommendation to set up a specific reserve totalling £10m to support the outcomes of Reconnect. This includes £7.5m from the COVID reserve and £2.5m from the Containing Outbreaks Management Fund (COMF). This recommendation was adopted by Cabinet.

4.3 Further information regarding the financial implications and funding framework for Reconnect can be found in the report attached to this Record of Decision.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

This decision will be considered by the Children, Young People's and Education Cabinet Committee on 30th June, due to the timeframes involved and local elections it was not possible for the Committee to consider this decision prior to Cabinet on 24 June 2021.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Reconnect will bring together the wide array of opportunities that already exist in the County which support the health, wellbeing, and development of our C&YP. It seeks to connect these together, so they are stronger, more navigable, better understood, and to add to these and enable others to do so too. It is a programme for the C&YP of our community, delivered by our community.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

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signed

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date