

From: Richard Smith, Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health

To: Clair Bell, Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Public Health

Subject: **Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Contract Extension Decision**

Decision Number: 21/00063

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of report: Adult Social Care Governance Board July 2021

Future Pathway of report: Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 29 September 2021

Electoral Division: All

Summary: The current term of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract is due to expire on 31 March 2022. The contract has options to extend to 31 March 2026. The performance of the contract has been evaluated and found to be good. It is evidently delivering positive outcomes for victims of domestic abuse. The council has been allocated over £3m in new funding for 2021/22 in relation to the new statutory responsibilities under the Domestic Abuse Act. With the guidance now published, the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse contract is the ideal vehicle to use this money effectively and compliantly.

It is recommended that the council exercise the option to extend the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contained within the contract. The first contract extension runs to 31 March 2024 at a value of £4,636,690.40. The second two-year extension available will be subsequently needed, subject to good performance and market testing. This will enable the council to respond to the future government plans for this agenda. This extension will run to 31 March 2026 and its value is £4,636,690.40

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to:

- a) **AGREE** to use the first of the two, two-year options to extend the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract to 31 March 2024 and;
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to use the second two-year option, subject to market testing and good performance, to extend the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse contract to 31 March 2026, should it be required

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This report sets out the new responsibilities the council has under the Domestic Abuse Act and the current status of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS).
- 1.2 The report recommends that the contract is the most expedient and efficient use of the funding that is attached to the new responsibilities and recommends that the opportunity is taken to extend the current contract, enabling the council to respond swiftly to its new responsibilities and reshape the provision whilst maintaining consistent support to survivors of domestic abuse and their children.

2. Background

- 2.1 It has not been possible to bring this decision to an earlier Cabinet Committee due to the timing of the Domestic Abuse Act legislation and accompanying guidance. Whilst Domestic Abuse Act legislation received Royal Assent in April, the guidance about the new legal obligations was not published until mid-June and the government's consultation period on this guidance did not conclude until 27 July 2021. It is this guidance that enables the council to judge whether the existing contractual arrangements are best placed to meet its newly acquired responsibilities.
- 2.2 With no cabinet committee date between June and September, taking the decision out of cycle gives members the most time to make any alternative recommendations, should they wish. A delay until the September committee would mean the decision could not be taken and implemented until the end of October which will leave members with little alternative but to extend.

3. The current situation

- 3.1 The current term of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) contract is due to expire on 31 March 2022. The contract has options to extend to 31 March 2026. The performance of the contract has been evaluated and found to be good. It is evidently delivering positive outcomes for victims of domestic abuse.
- 3.2 The council has been allocated over £3m in new funding for 2021/22 in relation to the new statutory responsibilities under the Domestic Abuse Act.
- 3.2 With the guidance now published, the KIDAS contract is the ideal vehicle to mobilise the 2021/22 new funding allocation and effectively and compliantly to support the council in delivering its new statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 3.3 It is recommended that the council exercises the two options to extend the KIDAS contract contained within the contract. The first contract extension runs to 31 March 2024 at a value of £4,636,690.40. The second two-year extension available will be subsequently needed, subject to good performance and market

testing. This will enable the council to respond to the future government plans for this agenda. This extension will run to 31 March 2026 and its value is £4,636,690.40

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The cost to extend the KIDAS contract until 31 March 2024, is £4,636,690.40. The second extension to run to 31 March 2026 is valued at £4,636,690.40.

5. Legal implications

- 5.1 The KIDAS contract contributes to the council's response to the Home Office's 'Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls' Strategy, with the main themes focussing on:
- prevention
 - the provision of good quality services and
 - improved partnership working
- 5.2 The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021 Under the new statutory duties, KCC must ensure appropriate and adequate support within safe accommodation that meets the needs of all survivors.
- 5.3 The council has a significant advantage in its ability to meet the requirements of the Act by having the existing contract already in place. Without extension, the contract would lapse, support provision to this vulnerable group would end and the council would be unable to deliver to the new legislative requirements.

6. Equalities implications

- 6.1 An EQIA has already been completed for the commissioning of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service and is being revised as part of the Needs Assessment and Strategy work which will be published by 31 October 2021.

7. Other corporate implications

- 7.1 As the agenda is cross cutting other directorates are involved and supported by the contract and proposed decision including Children Young People and Education and Community Safety

8. Governance

- 8.1 The proposed decision cannot reasonably be deferred until the next meeting of the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee, however all members of the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed decision and these comments will be included in the record of decision. The decision will be reported retrospectively to the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 29 September 2021.

8.2 It is proposed that once made, the implementation of the decision is delegated to Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation.

9. Conclusions

9.1 The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract has been evaluated and found to be performing well. It is the ideal vehicle to enable the council to swiftly and compliantly mobilise the funding and deliver its obligations arising from the new Domestic Abuse Act to respond to the future government plans for this agenda.

9.2 The contract expires in March 2022 and it is recommended that the council exercises the contract extension options which run to March 2024 and March 2026 respectively, subject to good performance and market testing.

9.3 The cost to extend the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS), until 31 March 2024, is £4,636,690.40. The second extension to run to 31 March 2026 is valued at £4,636,690.40.

10. Recommendations

10.1 Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to:

- a) **AGREE** to use the first of the two, two-year options to extend the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse contract to 31 March 2024; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to use the second two year option, subject to market testing and good performance, to extend the KIDAS Contract to 31 March 2026, should it be required.

11. Background Documents

Publication in Plan, Forthcoming Executive Decision

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=57775&PlanId=496&RPID=44589362>

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