

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services

DECISION NO:

21/00101

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

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

Young Carers - procurement of a new service

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services, I agree to:

A) Commence formal procurement activity to tender for a service, award a contract and develop robust contract management for oversight of the contract performance.

and

B) Delegate authority for the Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education in consultation with the Cabinet Member to award a contract following a competitive tender process and implement the Decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

- Decision required because total value of contracts will exceed £1m and impact across multiple districts of the Local Authority.

Background:

- This proposal is to seek authorisation to commence procurement activity and award a contract for the delivery of a service that supports young carers
- Kent County Council (KCC) has a comprehensive Young Carers Service delivered by Imago.
- The contract, which commenced on the 1 May 2016 was for a period of three years. The contract had an annual value of £325,500. The original contract had capacity to be extended on a one year plus one year basis
- As a result of Covid-19, the Government issued temporary guidance to address the award or issue of contracts to providers directly in instances of extreme urgency (regulation 32(2)(c). This resulted in agreement to award a direct contract to Imago for 12 months to 30 April 2022.

- Any new contract needs to start on 1 May 2022 to ensure no gap in service provision

Options

- 1. Do Nothing:** The contract ends and KCC do not meet their statutory obligations for Young Carer Assessments.
- 2. Allow contracts to lapse and if applicable TUPE across staff from incumbent providers:** KCC has not previously delivered this service, there is a lack of expertise and direct experience. There is also the issue that wider partners may not wish to engage with the LA for workforce development.
- 3. Externally procure a new service:** This option would give the ability to work with partners to develop a new provision that meets the needs of service users in a post-covid 19 world. Providers are already set up to deliver the whole range of support to Young Carers and benefit from long-standing community relationships which supports uptake of provision.

Based on the options appraisal **Option 3 - Externally procure a new service** is the recommended option

Financial implications

- This service will be funded from within the existing revenue KCC base budget reported against the Early Help and Preventative Services Key Service in the Budget Book.
- The funding available is £325,500 per annum. This equates to £1,627,500 over the term of the contract and extensions.
- Due to the size and nature of this contract there are no anticipated savings

Legal implications

- The Children and Families Act legislates that Local Authorities ensure that all Young Carers under the age of 18 are in receipt of an assessment of their needs.

Equalities implications

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been completed and has concluded that the proposed decision does not present any adverse equality impact.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee will consider the decision on 16 November 2021.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Option 1 – Do Nothing: Rejected on the grounds that this would leave Young Carers disadvantaged at a time when they are in need of greater levels of support due to the pandemic.

Option 2 - Allow contracts to lapse and if applicable TUPE across staff from the incumbent provider: Rejected on the grounds that this would significantly increasing the internal headcount of with little added benefit.

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