

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

22/00092

For publication Yes

Key decision: YES.

Title of Decision: **COMMUNITY NAVIGATION SERVICES CONTRACT EXTENSION**

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

- a) **EXTEND** the current Community Navigation Services Contracts for a period of 12 months, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to use the second one-year contract extension option (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025), should it be required; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision: Kent County Council has a statutory responsibility under The Care Act 2014 to meet the needs of people who are 18 years or older, identifying as unpaid Carers, older people who are frail and vulnerable, and those who are under 55 years of age who are frail and vulnerable. Kent County Council meets this duty through the provision of the Community Navigation Services. The Community Navigation Services Contracts are jointly funded by Kent County Council (Adult Social Care) and the NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (formerly the Kent and Medway Clinical Commissioning Group).

The current Community Navigation Services Contracts commenced in April 2019, for an initial four-year period, with the fourth year ending on 31 March 2023. There is provision within the current contract to extend for two single year periods.

Extending the current Community Navigation Services Contracts for 12 months (from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024) will allow Commissioners to explore options for the future recommissioning strategy for the services from April 2024 and for Strategic Commissioning, in partnership with the NHS Kent & Medway ICB, to develop the work that is underway to deliver a plan to grow a joint culture for change in approach and to review the current internal procedures and processes to support the contract in line with the development of the Kent Social Prescribing and Navigation strategy

The proposed decision supports the New Models of Care Support priorities of ‘Framing Kent’s Future – Our Council Strategy 2022 – 2026’ of

- reshaping our commissioning practice to ensure we build strategic partnerships with our providers, through earlier engagement, more consistent and proactive commissioning practice, and a stronger focus on co-designing services
- seizing the opportunity of integrating our planning, commissioning and decision making in adult, children’s, and public health services through being a partner in the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System at place and system level

Financial Implications: The Community Navigation Services contract is jointly funded by Kent County Council and NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (NHS K&M ICB). The current Adult Social Care budget is subject to an identified saving in 2023/24; the NHS K&M ICB funding will

be requested for the recommended option. The Council is working in partnership with the ICB to ensure funding is secured for the option. The ICB Commissioners have made enquiries to the ICB Committee Teams to provide more information regarding the governance process for the recommended option.

There are identified savings (£335,633) to be taken from these contracts (from the Adult Social Care contribution) 2023/24 onwards. Work will begin with providers to identify where these savings can be attributed, to reduce impact on service delivery.

The total value for the contract extensions (of twelve months) will be £4.945m.

Legal Implications: Kent County Council has a statutory responsibility under The Care Act 2014 to meet the needs of people who are 18 years or older, identifying as unpaid Carers, older people who are frail and vulnerable, and those who are under 55 years of age who are frail and vulnerable. Kent County Council meets this duty is through the provision of the Community Navigation Services. The current Community Navigation Services Contracts commenced in April 2019, for an initial four-year period, with the fourth year ending on 31 March 2023. There is provision, under the existing contract, to extend for two single year periods.

Equalities implications: An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of the original commissioning of these services; and will be revised and updated for any future recommissioning.

Data Protection implications: A Data Protection Impact Assessment was developed and will be updated with the contract extension. Data Protection is monitored within the contract management function of the contract; there were no issues highlighted and no data breaches

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 28 September 2022 and the recommendations were endorsed.

Any alternatives considered and rejected: The following options were considered and discarded

- Extend for 24 months
- Reprocure the contract within a short timeframe
- End the contract on 31 March 2023

While it is recognised that ending these contracts could deliver a significant saving to the Council, ending the contract was dismissed at this point for the following reasons:

- Potentially increase the number of vulnerable adults, older people and carers becoming isolated and lonely, with the potential to therefore increase demand on health and social care services.
- There is a Social Prescribing and Navigation Strategy being developed, and the outcome and direction set for these services through that Strategy should in some way determine the future of these services.

Procuring the contracts within a short timeframe, by April 2023, was dismissed due to the strategy development underway.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

Clair Bell

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signed

21 October 2022

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date