

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

**Cabinet Member for
Adult Social Care and Public Health**

DECISION NO:

23/00075

For publication Yes

Key decision: Yes

Title of Decision: Family Hubs – Start for Life - Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationship Interventions

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services, I agree to:

APPROVE the development and improvement activity to deliver Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships Interventions

- a) **APPROVE** the development and improvement activity to deliver Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships Interventions
- b) **APPROVE** the required expenditure, via the Family Hub Grant Funding (£3,051,809 – expires 2025) and, subject to evaluation and availability of funds the Public Health Grant (post March 2025), to deliver and sustain this activity for up to two years beyond the Family Hub Grant period – total service period – 2023 – 2025 with the potential for 2 x 1 year extensions;
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to exercise relevant contract extensions and enter into relevant contracts or legal agreements; and
- d) **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health, to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to allocating resources, expenditure, and entering into contracts and other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision: Research has shown the importance and need to improve awareness and understanding of low to moderate perinatal mental health and extending the reach of this across the family hub workforce is invaluable. This links with parent infant relationships so improving knowledge and understanding of this with the family hub workforce is of equal importance.

Currently there is no service in Kent which provides a parent infant relationship specialist intervention however it is highly probable that this is required as ‘Around 15% of children in the general population have a disorganised attachment with their primary caregiver.’

The proposal to use the Family Hub Grant Funding to develop and improve activity to deliver Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationship Interventions provides an opportunity to increase workforce capability and capacity to extend the reach of low to moderated perinatal mental health and parent infant relationship support, raise awareness of support available for these individuals with low to moderate perinatal mental health and delivery of parent infant relationship interventions.

This service will contribute to ‘*Priority 1: Levelling up Kent*’ of the *Framing Kent’s Future Our Council Strategy 2022-2026*’ as providing additional support for families at the start of their infant’s life which is a preventative approach to improve the populations health and narrowing health inequalities.

Financial Implications: To support the delivery of the Family Hub Transformation Programme, KCC is receiving a grant of £3,051,809 from the Department for Education (DfE) to March 2025 which is to support system transformation through work-force development and supporting development of new services. This funding relates to the financial year 2023-2024, including rollover from year 1 and the allocation for financial year 2024/2025.

Subject to evaluation and availability of funds additional funding from the Public Health grant up to a maximum of £400,000 per annum may be used to support sustainability of this activity from 2025/2026 onwards.

Legal Implications: The Council will enter into a number of contractual agreements to support delivery in line with Spending the Council's Money and Public Contract Regulations 2015.

Equality Implications: Initial assessment and attached Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) (appendix A) has identified that emotional and regulation needs may impact on access and communication; race and faith may impact on access to perinatal mental health support with proposed mitigations outlined. Funding for these workstreams will enable transformation activity to enhance, improve and add to existing provision.

Data Protection Implications: The scoping of a business case for a service offering parent infant relationship interventions to be delivered is in progress. A Data Protection Impact Assessment process will be undertaken at the point in procurement when a service provider is identified.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: In July 2023 Kent County Council (KCC) launched a public consultation www.kent.gov.uk/familyhubservices to gain a better understanding of how services can be best integrated to meet local needs, through a Kent Family Hub network, bringing services and partners together to provide a single point of access for family support services. The consultation finished on 13 September 2023.

The proposed decision was discussed at the Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee on 5 September 2023 and the recommendations were endorsed.

The paper was also presented at Children's, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee for information on 12 September 2023.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

A targeted approach in a small geography was initially considered but discarded as this could create inequities in the provision of support.

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

Dan Watkins

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signed

.....24 October 2023.....
date