

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

## Executive

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

**DECISION NO:**

OD/24/00010

**For publication****Subject matter:**

**Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships Interventions**

**Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:**

23/00075 - [Record of Decision \(kent.gov.uk\)](https://kent.gov.uk/record-of-decision)

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.

**Decision:**

Confirm the planned deployment of the Family Hub Grant Funding as per the 2023 Key decision.

To confirm the availability of Public Health Grant funding to sustain the Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships Interventions beyond the Family Hub grant period end date of 2025.

Approve the commencement of an open procurement, in line with the Provider Selection Regime 2023 (Competitive Process) for a Parent Infant Mental Health (PIMH) Service. The tender will utilise KCC PSR Competitive Procedure documentation.

To approve the contracting arrangements for an initial term of 30 months to cover the period until March 2027 (as per the original end date of the approved activity under the 23/00075 Key Decision).

To approve the inclusion of a potential 24 month extension option, beyond 2027, within the contract(s), but with any exercise of this option being subject to funding and to obtaining a future Key Decision by the Cabinet or Cabinet Member.

Procurement documentation will be explicit that KCC do not guarantee the use of the 24 month extension option that will be included in the contract(s).

To confirm the maximum financial envelope for the service, in the period 2024 to 2027, of £1,142,593 for the initial contract term, using £297,322.00 of Family Hub Grant funding and £845,271 of Public Health Grant funding.

Note the potential estimated cost of £880,287 for the potential 24 month extension beyond March 2027 – the commitment of this further spend would be for consideration as part of the required future Key Decision and at that point of the contract lifetime when the option to extend may be exercised, at which time the Cabinet or Cabinet Member will determine whether the services contract should be extended beyond March 2027.

### **Reason(s) for decision:**

Key Decision 23/00075 confirmed the Cabinet Member approval for the commissioning of a Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships Interventions service. This Officer decision approves the required implementation activity under the delegations provided at (c) and (d) to give effect to the Cabinet Member's decision, having consulted with the Cabinet Member.

The Director of Public Health was provided with delegated authority to make the relevant commissioning arrangements to secure and put in place the necessary service.

This decision outlines updates to the contracting and commissioning arrangements required to progress and implement the Key decision following procurement challenges faced and which prevented immediate implementation of the service in 2023.

The amended initial contract term has been designed to provide certainty to the market for longer-term planning. This has been designed following engagement with potential providers. A PIN was published on 11 June 2024 to raise interest in the tender opportunity. 7 providers have expressed an interest to date.

In accordance with the approved activity, this decision will provide for implementation of the service for the period of 2024 to 2027.

### **Financial Implications:**

Approved spend: £1,142,593 in the period 2024 to 2027, for the initial contract term, using £297,322.00 of Family Hub Grant funding and £845,271 of Public Health Grant funding.

Future potential financial implications: Potential estimated cost of £880,287 for the potential 24 month extension beyond March 2027 – the commitment of this further spend would be for consideration as part of the required future Key Decision.

In some other geographical areas, commissioners of health services contribute to or fund the service. KCC will utilise the contract period to evidence the benefits of a service in Kent and to seek funding from commissioners of health services towards the PIMH Service.

**Legal implications:**

The services to be procured have been determined to be health services for the purposes of the Provider Selection Regime which came into force on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. Officers have determined to follow the Competitive Process, and will run an open tender procedure.

The Kent County Council standard terms and conditions have been selected for use with this service and tender procedure, and these have been updated to ensure legislative references are up to date. Officers in the commissioning and commercial teams will ensure that a clear and unequivocal option to extend is included in the contract terms and the procurement documentation, but making clear that the use of such extension is subject to both budget availability and to further governance.

**Equality Implications:** Equality impacts have been assessed as part of the Perinatal Mental Health and Parent Infant Relationships Strategy and Family Hub model. A separate Equality Impact Assessment on the new Parent Infant Mental Health Service has also been completed.

It is expected that the new service will have many positive impacts including: strengthening relationships between babies and their caregivers, improving the mental health of caregivers and supporting babies early development and future well-being (including for those most at risk). This service will also improve awareness of parent infant relationships difficulties within the family hub workforce, upskill family hub workforce to deliver parent infant interventions and increase capacity for reflective practice, collaboration and team working. A major benefit to society will be the reduction in the numbers of infants going into care and a de-escalation of child protection status following treatment.

There are certain specific considerations for how a range of people with particular protected characteristics may engage with the service and these are factored in part of service design and delivery arrangements. See main decision EqIA for details. The overall benefit of having the service in place applies to all groups or individuals in the context of protected characteristics and no characteristic groups are discriminated against by the service.

**Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:**Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health -

I endorse the procurement of this service on the approach set out to support the start life agenda and outcomes of local residents

Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services –

I am supportive of a Parent Infant Mental Health Service for the children, parents and carers of Kent and the approach set out to achieve this.

## Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- Contract variation with an existing service –service outcomes are different and no experience of providing this service.
- Direct Award with a service provider external to Kent – lack of evidence for a direct award.
- Do not invest / do nothing – prevention opportunity missed. Kent will continue to be one of the few places in the Southeast not to have a PIMHS service.
- Procurement with no change to the contract term and value – likely to result in failed procurement

**Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker**

**and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**  
No.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Grijan Singh", is placed on a light yellow rectangular background.

19 July 2024

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signed

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date