

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Extension of Carers Support Services

Responsible Officer

Ben Campbell - CED SC

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)

Simon Mitchell - CED SC

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Adult Social Care and Health

Responsible Service

Adults and Integrated Commissioning

Responsible Head of Service

Simon Mitchell - CED SC

Responsible Director

Richard Ellis - AH EK

Aims and Objectives

Background

Around 1.3million unpaid carers in the UK spend over 50 hours a week carrying out their unpaid caring responsibilities.

In Kent, there are an estimated 148,341 adults providing unpaid care each week. KCC aim to support carers to maintain their own identity and live a full life. The support provided by carers can prevent, reduce and delays the need for care and support from both health and social care.

KCC has statutory responsibilities under The Care Act 2014 which include assessing the needs of any adult (cared for or carer) with an appearance of need for care and support, and arranging services and where appropriate meeting the unmet eligible needs of adults living in Kent. Where it appears to the local authority that a carer may have needs for support (whether currently or in the future), a carer's assessment must always be offered.

The Carers Support Services offer a range of support such as a carers assessment, provided through delegation afforded by The Care Act, information and advice, support to access to activities, peer support, training, breaks both planned and unplanned to help carers in their caring role.

Objective

The Community Navigation Services contracts (Part B) and the Carers Short Breaks contract are due to expire on 31/03/2025, with no further extensions available.

To prepare for commissioning the new carers support service a range of pre-procurement activity has taken place. Carers Involvement meetings have taken place to work with carers to better understand how the offer can be improved. Co-production with carers will continue throughout the commissioning process.

Approval is being requested to extend the existing carers contracts to allow for continuity of service whilst the recommissioning exercise is completed. Through the recommission we aim to put in place a new service which has a single point of access for carers that is well known, a more local community based approach and improved equity of offer. This equality impact assessment concerns the extension to the existing services. A revised EqIA will be drafted for the new service offer as part of the recommissioning process.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

We have engaged with unpaid carers who use existing services, service providers, internal and external stakeholders.

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

Yes

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

yes

Staff

yes

Residents/Communities/Citizens

yes

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes

Details of Positive Impacts

In Kent, an estimated (2011 census) 148,341 adults aged 16 or over provide hours of unpaid care each week.

- 94,640 provide 1-19 hours of care a week
- 18,131 provide 20-49 hours of care a week
- 35,570 provide 50 hours of care or more a week.

15,252 unpaid carers live in Canterbury and its surroundings, making it the place with the highest total number of carers in Kent. This makes up 12% of the people that live there. The area that has the highest proportion of carers compared to the number of people that live there, is Thanet. Around 14% of people (15,150) in Thanet are unpaid carers.

Kent Adult Carers Strategy sets out the vision: 'Making a difference every day by supporting and empowering you to live a fulfilling life whilst being a carer, as long as you are willing and able'.

This ambition will be achieved by focusing on the following areas:

- Supporting you to be you - to live a full life, carers have told us that they need the right support so they can make time to get everyday tasks done.
- Providing the best support possible - carers have been clear that they, and the people they look after, need to be treated with respect and supported through every stage of their journey - not just during a crisis.
- Positive outcomes - everything we do alongside providers and partner organisations should focus on what makes a real difference and leads to positive change in carers' experiences

Building on the Kent Adult Carers Strategy we intend to commission an improved offer for carers. We have been developing proposals for a future model with carers and through engaging with the market

Leading from what carers told us we are considering introducing a single point of access for carers support services that is well promoted and marketed. We will ensure a greater focus on the benefits of completing a carers assessment so we can better understand the needs of carers. We will introduce a more local community based approach ensure the service has a wider reach into all parts of the community across Kent. This should result in better outcomes and positive impact for protected group. For the extension period the services will continue to deliver as they are currently. Through contract monitoring we will continue to regularly collect equalities data on those accessing the service from protected groups.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?

Yes

Details of negative impacts for Age

Older people are more likely to be unpaid carers and the impact of caring when older will have a greater impact on emotional and physical wellbeing and health.

Mitigating Actions for Age

While not exclusively targeted – current and future services are able to provide the support, or work with appropriate providers to deliver the support required for those that are older.

Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

Lisa Rogers

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?

No

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Not Completed

Mitigating actions for Disability

Not Completed

Responsible Officer for Disability

Not Completed

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex

Are there negative impacts for Sex

Yes.

Details of negative impacts for Sex

National and local data show more women are likely to be an unpaid carer than men. Local Services women are on average two thirds of the carers supported.

Mitigating actions for Sex
Campaigns are supported locally raise awareness of what being a carer entails. Services actively promote their services in a way that would appeal and attract men for support. These services support those that seek the help.
Responsible Officer for Sex
Lisa Rogers
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No.
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No.
Negative impacts for Race
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race
Not Completed
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No.
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Completed
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No.
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No.
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity

Not Completed
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No.
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Yes
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
The services in Kent currently support approximately 15,000 carers countywide – from a potential 150,000 unpaid carers. These services are not able to deal with or see all possible carers in Kent.
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
The carers assessment service will assess and determine the level of support, and those carers with greater need will be prioritised and support within the services available.
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Completed