

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Mrs Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services

DECISION NUMBER:

24/00124

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

Family Hub Year 4 Grant

Decision:

That the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Care and Public Health (subject to receiving confirmation from the DfE) agrees to:

- (a) **APPROVE**, the acceptance of the Year 4 Family Hub Grant Award; subject to final review and consideration of detailed terms and conditions from the Department for Education, and the deployment of the grant funding in accordance with the grant conditions and the adopted service model;
- (b) **DELAGATE** authority to the Director of Operational Integrated Children's Services and Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to review and agree the terms and conditions to enter into the necessary grant agreements;
- (c) **DELAGATE** authority to the Director of Operational Integrated Children's Services and Director of Public Health to deliver the requirements of the grant;
- (d) **DELEGATE** authority of required expenditure to the Director of Operational Integrated Children's Services and Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services and the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to be managed in line with Council procurement rules;
- (e) **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Operational Integrated Children's Services and Director of Public Health, to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

March 2025 marks the end of the initial Transformation period which has seen the Council adopt a

policy position that moved from our previous Open Access model, to the Family Hub model.

The Government's commitment to the Family Hub model has been reconfirmed by the announcement of a further year of funding for Family Hub authorities.

Acceptance of the additional grant money requires a Key Decision from the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services.

Background

In October 2022 the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services took [decision 22/00094](#) and Kent County Council (KCC) signed the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department for Education (DfE) which accepted the initial 3-year transformation grant funding. This decision set out the requirement for the development of detailed proposals, public consultation and appropriate governance ahead of a further Key Decision on the Family Hub model.

In November 2023, after the development of detailed proposals, public consultation and appropriate governance, KCC Cabinet took [decision 23/00092](#) to implement the Family Hub model across the county.

Contained within the 2024 Autumn Budget, the Chancellor of the Exchequer included an additional £69m for a further year of funding for existing Family Hub authorities across the country. Detail on the specific amount of money to be awarded to KCC and any additional delivery constraints are anticipated from the DfE within the course of the next couple of months.

Financial Implications:

The details of Year 4 money to be awarded to Kent County Council is currently unknown. However, the DfE is expected to include delivery requirements and conditions alongside the grant funding, in line with the prior Family Hub funding approach.

If accepted, the funding will be used to ensure the sustainable and consistent delivery of the adopted Family Hub model across Kent. It is not expected to impact the pressure on existing revenue or capital budgets.

Legal Implications:

KCC has a statutory duty to provide, so far as is reasonably practicable, sufficient provision of children's centres (now known as Family Hubs) to meet local need. KCC will continue to fulfil its duty to provide sufficient children's centres to meet need across Kent.

Acceptance of any grant money does mean that KCC is obligated to comply with the delivery requirements, terms and conditions that accompany the funding. As set out above, these are currently unknown, however they are expected to be in line with conditions of the original grant award.

Equalities implications

An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) will accompany the decision although at this stage there are no anticipated adverse impacts that are associated with the acceptance of the year 4 grant money. There is an expectation that any future service delivery will be designed to complement, develop and build on the established Family Hub arrangements.

Data Protection implications

A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is not required for the acceptance of the year 4 grant

award.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The option to not accept the grant money has been considered. Given the financial challenges the Council currently faces, it is not considered appropriate to decline the further funding from the DfE.

While understanding the risks associated with a late announcement, we have discounted the option of not accepting the additional funding in recognition that children, families and communities in Kent will benefit from additional support.

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