

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

The Leader

DECISION NO:

25/00033

For publication

Key decision: YES

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Extension of Domestic Abuse Act Framework and KIDAS contract

Decision:

As Leader, I agree to;

1. **APPROVE** extension of the framework arrangements set out in the report for ongoing management of the DA Act Funding 2025-27.
2. **AGREE** extension of the KIDAS contract and additional services up until March 2027 (12 months), permissible by PCR 2015 72(1)(b) and to continue to utilise this contract to support delivery of the requirements of the Act until the end of the contractual term.
3. **CONFIRM** the arrangements put in place via Officer Decision OD-23-0002, taken under delegated authority by the Chief Executive, arising from Key Decision 22/00040, to delegate acceptance of any future monies to the Corporate Director of Finance, providing funding is given on similar terms and to enter into relevant agreements with Government as required to accept the funding (2025-2026)
4. **DELEGATE** acceptance of any future monies (2026 onwards) to the Corporate Director of Finance, providing funding is given on similar terms and to enter into relevant agreements with Government as required to accept the funding.
5. **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to, in consultation with the Leader, Corporate Director for Finance and Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, revise and amend the arrangement set out in the framework details, subject to the scope of the terms and conditions of the grant funding.
6. **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education where applicable depending on affected portfolios, to administer any further DA Act grant monies under the funding / governance framework put in place by this decision, including the determination of Officer Decisions to progress activity via the framework.
7. **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Chief Executive to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council will receive £4,031,222.00 for 2025-26 in Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant funding via the core settlement. The 'Domestic Abuse Framework' approved under Key decision 23/00060 is required to be extended from 2025-27, as detailed in this paper, to support in determining activity and spend.

The Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) is due to end in March 2026. This contract underpins the Councils response to the Domestic Abuse Act and includes delivery of statutory safe accommodation support services for adult survivors, funded by the Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant, in line with the Framework.

Financial uncertainties are impeding recommissioning activity for a new contract post March 2026. Legal advice has confirmed there is the opportunity to extend the existing contractual arrangements and postpone recommissioning activities. This will ensure the council continues to meet its statutory duties under the Act and support delivery under the framework.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

Discussed and endorsed at the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee on the 5 March 2025.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Domestic Abuse Framework

The option for handling all DA Act funding activity on an individual basis, with certain projects managed at operational level and others progressing via the Key Decision process as and when required was considered. That option would not enable the council to respond quickly and flexibly to changing demand and need or provide a clear strategic plan for delivering against the DA Grant requirements.

Extension of KIDAS contract

- The option to allow the KIDAS contract to come to an end from 31 March 2026 was considered and rejected as this would result in the Council not meeting its statutory duties under the DA Act 2021.
- The option to recommission a new domestic abuse service, to commence 1 April 2026 was considered and rejected as to run a procurement, mobilise and then de-mobilise a new contractor would be very cost and resource heavy especially as the new contractor will only deliver the services for a short period of time (one year) due to the lack of longer term Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant allocation.

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

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signed

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date