

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Sarah Hammond, Corporate Director Children Young People and Education (CYPE)

DECISION NO:

OD/25/00005

For publication

Subject matter: Contract Extension - Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS) SC220255

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

The original contract award was made by Cabinet Member for Integrated Children Services Sue Chandler (Decision Number: 23/00007)

Decision:

As Corporate Director, Children Young People and Education (CYPE) I agree to:

Extend the Safe Accommodation Support Service contract (SC220255) from 31 May 2025 until 31 March 2027, utilising the two extension periods (12+12 months).

Reason(s) for decision:

The Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS) contract supports the council in meeting its new statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and provides support to children and young people aged 0-18 (25 SEND) who are victim/survivors of Domestic Abuse in their own right and are residing in all forms of safe accommodation (as defined by the Act). This service is a key part of the council's whole safe accommodation support offer and is funded in full by Domestic Abuse Act New Burdens funding. The current contract is due to come to an end on 31 May 2025.

A midpoint review on the 2 year contract has been undertaken to evaluate the performance of the service and to consider the next steps. Performance data around delivery, outcomes and feedback from referrers, service users and parents/carers evidence that the SASS has performed well in the delivery of the service in its first year. Findings indicate that when the expected demand is achieved the service will achieve good value for money and support the delivery of the Council's Strategic Statement 'Securing Kent's Future'.

Financial Implications:

DA Act New Burdens Funding is received by Kent County Council for the delivery of additional duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which will pay for this contract in **full**. The costs to implement this extension total ££1,247,904.16 which is broken down as follows;

2025-26 (1 June 2025 - 31 March 2026)	Lot	Fixed Costs	Variable Costs	Sub Total	Total
	1	£258,166.67	£36,095.83	£294,262.50	£567,229.16
	2	£243,333.33	£29,633.33	£272,966.66	
2026-27 (1 April 2026-31 March 2027)	Lot	Fixed Costs	Variable Costs	Sub Total	Total
	1	£309,800.00	£43,315.00	£353,115.00	£680,675.00
	2	£292,000.00	£35,560.00	£327,560.00	
Total for extension 1 June 2025 - 31 March 2027					£1,247,904.16

The contract is subject to Clause 23 Price Adjustment and an annual price uplift will be calculated and applied from 1 June 2025. This will be met within the above financial envelope by reducing the available variable costs.

Legal implications:

The Domestic Abuse (DA) Act 2021 introduced **new** statutory duties and funding to support those who have experienced domestic abuse (adults and children) residing in 'safe accommodation'. Under Section 3 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children are seen as victims in their own right if they have experienced, witnessed, or heard domestic abuse. Extending the Safe Accommodation Support Service for children and young people will allow KCC to meet the statutory duty set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The original procurement included an extension opportunity of 1+1 years beginning 1 June 2025 till May 31 2027.

Equality Implications:

An EQIA has been completed and has identified that there are no negative impacts associated with implementing this decision.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

1 – Do nothing, allow SASS contract to end 31 May 2025 – This was rejected as it would result in the Councils statutory duty under the DA Act not met.
2 – Develop a new service to be procured and in place by 1 June 2025 - This was rejected as the review has evidenced that the service is performing well and to run procurement exercise would incur additional costs to the Council. In addition uncertain continued DA Act funding beyond April 2026 will only enable a short-term contract to be procured.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

Signed:

Sarah Hammond

Corporate Director,
Children, Young People and
Education

Date: 28/2/2028

