

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Smith

Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health

DECISION NO:

OD/25/00020

For publication

Subject matter: Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Service (Live Well Kent & Medway) Contract Extension

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

22/00082

[Decision - 22/00082 - Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Services Contract Award](#)

Decision:

As Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health, I agree to:

- a) Approve the extension of the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Contracts with Porchlight and The Shaw Trust for a period of 2 years (24 months), from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2028, subject to all external funding partners formally agreeing to continue their funding contribution

Reason(s) for decision:

The Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Service (known as Live Well Kent & Medway) contracts with Porchlight and The Shaw Trust are due to end on 31 March 2026.

A comprehensive service review was conducted in 2024/25 which aimed to provide the evidence base to inform ongoing development of the current contract and inform decision making around any consideration of extension.

The evidence which makes up this review was assembled from performance reports, interviews and surveys undertaken with people currently accessing the service and other key stakeholder, financial review and previous research analysing mental health need.

The review identified:

- LWKM continues to deliver successful outcomes in line with the original vision and aims for the service and improves the overall offer of mental health and wellbeing interventions available in Kent and Medway
- The outcomes achieved to date for Kent and Medway residents who have been supported by LWKM demonstrate the numerous benefits of the service. LWKM has become a vital element of Kent's mental health pathway, and regardless of the future approach to delivery, the service has demonstrated a clear need for such support
- The service offers a person-centred, holistic approach that addresses mental health and wellbeing needs comprehensively
- The service utilises a strengths-based approach, focusing on individuals' assets, independence, recovery, and social inclusion
- The Strategic Partners have demonstrated to commissioners that they work pro-actively and effectively with the Delivery Network. Strategic partners regularly hold forums with their VCSE

delivery networks, exchanging information, identifying trends, sharing best practices, planning workforce/sector development, raising concerns, and finding solutions

- LWKM is a key partner involved in the development and implementation of Mental Health Together, the new service developed by Kent and Medway's Community Mental Health Transformation programme to support people with complex mental health needs
- The return on investment of LWKM is clear. By addressing mental health issues proactively, LWKM not only improve people's wellbeing and mental health, but also delivers substantial economic benefits.

The review recommended that the Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Contract is extended.

The proposed extension was presented at Contract Management Review Group (CMRG), Adult Social Care Commissioning and Transformation Divisional Management Team (DMT) and Public Health Senior Management Team (SMT), who endorsed the recommendation to extend.

Financial Implications: The contract extension will commence on 1 April 2026 for a period of two years, unless terminated in accordance with the Conditions of Contract. The tables below outline the contract extension costs.

Contract extension costs to KCC Adult Social Care and KCC Public Health

	KCC Public Health	KCC Adult Social Care	Total
2026/27	£2,752,648.50	£1,577,536.50	£4,330,185.00
2027/28	£2,252,648.50	£2,077,536.50	£4,330,185.00
Total 2 Year Extension Period	£5,005,297.00	£3,655,073.00	£8,660,370.00

The cost of the extension is built into the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Contract extension costs for Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board and Medway Council

	Kent & Medway Integrated Care Board	Medway Council	Total
2026/27	£1,488,837.00	£22,850.00	£1,511,687.00
2027/28	£1,488,837.00	£22,850.00	£1,511,687.00
Total 2 Year Extension Period	£2,977,674.00	£45,700.00	£3,023,374.00

Legal implications: The proposed extension is in line with what was outlined in the original contract. The process will adhere to relevant procurement legislation. Prior to formally agreeing the contract extension with the providers, the Section 256/Memorandum of Agreement previously entered in to by all funding parties to provide a framework within which to work with health partners and other local authorities and includes financial protections for KCC, will be extended to include the extension period.

Equality Implications: An Equalities impact assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken. The EqIA found the impact of this work to be positive, with no negative impacts. Services will continue to play a key role in supporting KCC to reduce health inequalities and improve the health of the Kent population. Services will continue to aim to increase the number of people supported from underserved groups, to tackle inequalities that exist among high-risk populations and areas of deprivation.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

The proposed extension was presented at Contract Management Review Group (CMRG), Adult Social Care Commissioning and Transformation Divisional Management Team (DMT) and Public Health Senior Management Team (SMT), who endorsed the recommendation to extend. The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care has been consulted and endorsed the recommendation to extend.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Do not enact extension - Decommissioning the services was concluded as a non-viable option, due to prevalence of mental health in Kent and demand for services. This service supports KCC to meet statutory duties outlined in the Care Act and Health and Social Care Act 2012. LWKM also supports the Council to achieve priorities set out in Framing Kent's Future and Securing Kent's Future and the Kent & Medway Integrated Care System to achieve key outcomes set out in the Integrated Care Strategy. The service plays a key role in supporting KCC to reduce health inequalities and improve the health of the Kent population. LWKM is a key partner involved in the development and implementation of Mental Health Together, the new service developed by Kent and Medway's Community Mental Health Transformation programme to support people with complex mental health needs. The service concentrates on the whole person's needs by joining together support from a range of services. LWKM is delivering services within the 'Whole Life Room' and 'Mental Health Room'.

Re-commission the service - Re-commissioning the services was concluded as a non-viable option, due to the current performance of the Strategic Partners and outcomes achieved. LWKM is a key partner involved in the development and implementation of Mental Health Together, the new service developed by Kent and Medway's Community Mental Health Transformation programme to support people with complex mental health needs. By undertaking a re-commissioning exercise could destabilise the roll out of Mental Health Together. The service specification was designed so it can innovate, and change (delivery and outcomes) as required through the contract term, in order to continue to meet funding partner requirements and address emerging demand/need.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None



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signed

19 June 2025

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date