

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY: Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health

DECISION NO:
OD/25/00013

For publication

Subject matter: 2025-26 Uplift for Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract SS16 041

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

25/00033 - Extension of Domestic Abuse Act Framework and KIDAS contract

Decision:

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

Apply a one off uplift of 5% for Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) contract SS16 041 for the period of 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026. This includes services delivered under this contract in all 4 Lots by the following providers; Oasis Domestic Abuse Support Ltd, Clarion Housing Association Ltd, Look Ahead Care and Support.

Reason(s) for decision:

The KIDAS contract has been in place since April 2017 and the contract price has remained static since this date.

This contract supports delivery of the councils safe accommodation offer within refuges and additional safe accommodation services which fall under the remit of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The providers have collectively expressed challenges surrounding the pressures of continuing to deliver the service at the same contract price since 2017. Notable there have been significant increases in costs around National Insurance, National Living Wage and Utilities.

The DA Act Grant has received an uplift of £796,559 for the period of 2025-26. It is proposed that this is used to support a one off 5% uplift to support providers in continuing to deliver safe accommodation support services.

Financial Implications: The cost to implement this uplift is for the services shown below;

- KIDAS core contract (East Kent, South Kent, North Kent and West Kent Lots)
- Specialist IDVA service – countywide
- Enhanced Therapeutic Support service – countywide
- Tenancy Support service – countywide
- Male Refuge pilot

The uplift across all of the above totals £142,158 for the financial year 2025-26.

This will be funded in full via the Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant Funding. This is included within budget forecasts and in line with the Domestic Abuse Act Framework agreed via key decision 25/00033.

Legal implications:

This proposal meets **criteria B** of the Domestic Abuse Act Framework;

B. Will improve, develop, or maintain specialist support to people who have experienced domestic abuse (adults and children) residing in 'safe accommodation', as defined by the Domestic Abuse Act, (this includes Refuge accommodation, Specialist Safe accommodation, Dispersed accommodation, Sanctuary Schemes and Second stage accommodation) to meet gaps identified through the needs assessment.

Commercial and Procurement advice has been sought and this uplift is permissible under PCR 72,1e.

Equality Implications: An EQIA is in place for the KIDAS service and there are no negative impacts from this decision.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Members of the Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding Group have been consulted individually and endorse this uplift.

Cabinet Member consulted on and endorses this decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Not provide an uplift – This has been considered but it is recognised that the providers have delivered services at the same contractual price since 2017 despite significant financial challenges. If no uplift is provided there is a risk that the providers will service notice on the contract which will result in a gap in service provision for survivors of domestic abuse.

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

None?



signed

1 August 2025.....

date