

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

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

DECISION NO:

OD/25/00016

For publication

Subject matter: 2026-27 safe accommodation support services levied into the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract SS16 041 to support delivery of safe accommodation support duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

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:

The continued delivery of safe accommodation services, levied into the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract SS16 041 from 1.4.26 until 31.3.27 in line with the Domestic Abuse Act Framework 2025-27 (key decision 25/00033)

Reason(s) for decision:

The KIDAS contract underpins the Councils response to the Domestic Abuse Act.

Additional statutory safe accommodation support services for adult survivors, have been levied into this contract, to meet gaps in statutory support provision identified via the domestic abuse needs assessments conducted since 2021. These additional services are funded in full by the Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant and are in line with the Domestic Abuse Framework 2022-25 that was agreed under key decision 23/00060.

Key decision 25/00033, taken by the Leader in March 2025, has agreed to the extension of the KIDAS contract for 12 months from 1.4.26-31.3.27 and extension of the DA Act framework for 2025-27.

This Officer ROD is to formalise the continuation of the additional safe accommodation support services that are levied into this contract, from 1.4.26 until 31.3.27 and align their end dates to the extended end date of the KIDAS contract. These additional services will continue to be funded, in full, by the Domestic Abuse Act grant funding and are in line with Domestic Abuse Framework 2025-27 and delegated authority within key decision 25/00033 and include;

Service	Description	KIDAS contract Lots the service is levied into	Providers
Specialist Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service	Delivering intensive support to reduce barriers in accessing refuge for those with co-occurring conditions	Lots 1,2,3 and 4	Oasis Domestic Abuse Support Ltd, Clarion Housing Association Ltd, Look Ahead Care and Support.

Enhanced Therapeutic Support	Delivering responsive access to therapeutic support in refuge for those with co-occurring conditions	Lots 1,2,3 and 4	Oasis Domestic Abuse Support Ltd, Clarion Housing Association Ltd, Look Ahead Care and Support.
Tenancy Support	Delivering support in move on from refuge and increasing opportunities through partnership work with housing authorities and landlords	Lots 1,2,3 and 4	Oasis Domestic Abuse Support Ltd, Clarion Housing Association Ltd, Look Ahead Care and Support.
Pets in refuge	Aims to reduce pets being a barrier to survivors fleeing domestic abuse	Lots 1,2,3 and 4	Oasis Domestic Abuse Support Ltd, Clarion Housing Association Ltd, Look Ahead Care and Support.

Note extension to the following service has been agreed separately via OD/25/00006 however there are additional costs for 2026-27, to support an uplift, to be funded, in full, by the Domestic Abuse Act grant funding and are in line with Domestic Abuse Framework 2025-27 and delegated authority within key decision 25/00033.

- **Male Refuge** – 3 bed refuge for males and their accompanying children to improve the opportunities for male survivors to access support in safe accommodation. This is delivered in Lot 2 of the contract by Clarion Housing Association Ltd.

Financial Implications:

The continuation of service delivery from 1.4.26 until 31.3.27, across all Lots of the KIDAS contract totals **£686,833** for the financial year 2026-27, broken down below;

Service / Project	1.4.26 - 31.3.27
Specialist IDVA	£420,000.00
Enhanced Therapeutic Support	£83,999.99
Tenancy Support Officer	£168,000.00
Pets in Refuge	£10,000.00
Male Refuge Pilot Uplift	£4,832.90
TOTAL	£686,832.89

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:

The Local Authority has a statutory obligation to meet the duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, including to provide support for people who have experienced domestic abuse residing in what

is defined as 'safe accommodation'. This decision will support the delivery of activity across 2026-2027 and the council in meeting its statutory duties.

In line with legal advice, the modification of the KIDAS contract is permissible through the application of Regulation 72(1)(b) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR15)

Equality Implications:

An EQIA is in place for the KIDAS service, including services levied into this contract 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 and endorse this continuation of services.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- 1. To allow these additional safe accommodation support services to come to an end from 31.3.26** – This option has been considered but has been disregarded as it would result in the council not meeting its statutory duties under the DA Act.
- 2. To commission these services separately** - This option has been considered. The long term plan for these services is to recommission one integrated service for adults and children to be in place by April 2027. It would not provide good value for money or efficient use of resources to commission these safe accommodation services via a separate procurement prior to this and there is the ability to continue the arrangements via the councils existing contractual mechanism (KIDAS), which has been extended and is in place until 31.3.27 therefore this option has been disregarded.

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



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signed

1 August 2025

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date