

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

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

DECISION NO:
OD/25/00018

For publication

Subject matter: 2026-27 extension of 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:

Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation grant funding to be used to support the extension of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract SS16 041 from 1.4.26 until 31.3.27.

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 is due to end 31 March 2026. This contract underpins the Council's response to the Domestic Abuse Act and includes delivery of statutory safe accommodation support services for adult survivors. This includes services funded by the Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant, in line with the Domestic Abuse Framework 2025-27.

Key decision 25/00033, taken by the Leader in March 2025 has agreed to the extension of the KIDAS contract for an additional 12 months from 1.4.26 until 31.3.27.

The entire KIDAS core contract includes;

- **Referral, Assessment and Triage (RAT) Service** – delivered countywide via a partnership agreement with the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
- **Lot 1 - East Kent** – domestic abuse support services including refuge, delivered in Thanet and Dover by Oasis Domestic Abuse Service
- **Lot 2 - South Kent** - domestic abuse support services including refuge, delivered in Ashford, Canterbury, Folkestone & Hythe by Clarion Housing Association Ltd
- **Lot 3 - North Kent** - domestic abuse support services including refuge, delivered in Dartford, Gravesham, Maidstone and Swale by Clarion Housing Association Ltd
- **Lot 4 - West Kent** - domestic abuse support services including refuge, delivered in Sevenoaks, Tonbridge and Malling and Tunbridge Wells by Look Ahead Care and Support
- **Training, Education and Awareness (TEA) Service** – delivered countywide by Oasis Domestic Abuse Support Ltd, Clarion Housing Association Ltd, Look Ahead Care and Support.

Negotiations have been undertaken with KIDAS Providers and agreement has been reached for the delivery costs for the one year extension period from 1 April 2026 until 31 March 2027 for Lots 1,2,3,4 and the Training, Education and Awareness (TEA) Service.

This contract is partnership funded by KCC (ASCH, PH and Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant), the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Fire and Rescue, Districts and Borough councils.

Engagement has achieved positive commitment from funding partners to continue financial contributions for this period, in principle, to meet the new delivery costs, with formal commitment due to be received post budget setting (October 2025).

The KIDAS contract terms stipulate that the council must give a minimum of six months' notice to providers with regards to future delivery. There are current risks to staff retention across the front line services, further impacted by the uncertainty post March 2026. To mitigate this risk and stabilise the workforce it is planned to advise providers formally of the contract extension by end June 2025.

To achieve this there is a requirement for Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation grant funding to be available to underwrite the risk should funding partners not achieve the required uplift to their funding contributions.

This Officer ROD is to formalise the amount of Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant funding to support implementation of this contract extension. It is also to formalise the continuation of other safe accommodation support services that are levied into this contract until 31.3.27. This is in line with Domestic Abuse Framework and delegated authority within key decision 25/00033.

Negotiations are ongoing with the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner to finalise the delivery costs for the Referral, Assessment and Triage (RAT) Service and it is anticipated that there will be a small uplift required, to be met by DA Act funding. An update on this will be provided once an agreement has been reached and the confirmed amount will be included within budget forecasts.

Financial Implications:

The costs for the extension of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract SS16 041 from 1.4.26 until 31.3.27, including the RAT and TEA Service totals £2,899,332.46, broken down as follows;

Lot	Costs 2026-27
Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service contract SS16 041 (4 Lots)	£2,599,332.46
Referral, Assessment and Triage (RAT) Service	£150,000.00 *
Training, Education and Awareness (TEA) Service	£150,000.00
TOTAL	£2,899,332.46

*Negotiations are still underway with the OPCC and it is anticipated that will increase slightly.

This will be funded via all KIDAS funding partners and includes a 22% uplift in funding partner contributions compared to 2025-26.

Engagement has achieved positive commitment from funding partners to continue financial contributions and meet this uplift, with formal commitment due to be received post District & Borough budget setting (October 2025).

The Office of Police and Crime Commissioner supports this activity, however, they are unable to confirm any financial commitment until their budgets are announced in 2026. This is a standard procedure in our partnership and should not be a cause for concern.

To support this contract extension **£1,629,936** of Domestic Abuse Act Grant funding will be used for the safe accommodation support provided through this contract both within refuge and Sanctuary. This is included within budget forecasts and in line with the Domestic Abuse Act Framework agreed via key decision 25/00033.

To give the providers sufficient notice in line with the terms of the contract and mitigate the risks to workforce retention, it is proposed that an additional **£212,412** Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation grant funding to be available to underwrite the risk should funding partners (Districts, Boroughs, KFRS and OPCC) not achieve the required uplift to their funding contributions.

The remainder of the funding for this contract extension (**£1,140,394**) is confirmed by funding partners. A full breakdown of funding is below;

Partnership Fair Breakdown of Funding is below:						
Funding Partner	2026-27 Amount funding contribution agreed	Uplift amount	Commitment received	Risk to be underwritten by DA Act funding	Amount to be met by DA Act funding	
Ashford	£15,294.00	£3,208.21	In Principle agreement for uplift amount	£28,782.49		
Canterbury	£18,530.00	£5,205.15	In Principle agreement for uplift amount			
Dartford	£16,446.41	£0.00	Full amount including uplift agreed			
Dover	£18,689.10	£0.00	Full amount including uplift agreed			
Folkestone & Hythe	£12,891.60	£4,676.15	In Principle agreement for uplift amount			
Gravesham	£17,380.86	£0.00	Full amount including uplift agreed			
Maidstone	£19,453.00	£4,655.94	In Principle agreement for uplift amount			
Swale	£21,043.38	£3,252.45	In Principle agreement for uplift amount			
Thanet	£22,865.00	£3,299.74	In Principle agreement for uplift amount			
Kent Fire and Rescue	£20,000.00	£4,484.86	In Principle agreement for uplift amount			
Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner	£0.00	£183,629.22	Unable to commit to any contribution until budgets are announced (2026)	£183,629.22		
PH	£295,000.00	£64,900.00	Uplift to be met by DA Act Grant		£1,629,935.90	
ASCH	£662,800.00	£420,316.00	Uplift to be met by DA Act Grant - this includes funding for support within SAFER Scheme			
MHCLG	£0.00	£1,144,719.90	To be met by DA Act Grant - this includes uplift for refuge			
TOTAL	£1,140,393.34			£212,411.71	£1,629,935.90	£2,982,740.95

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 length 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 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 and Local Partnership Board have been consulted and endorse the extension of the KIDAS contract and use of the Domestic Abuse Act grant funding.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- 1. Not utilise Domestic Act grant funding to support the KIDAS contract extension** – This would result in the domestic abuse support services delivered under this service coming 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 recommission the service** - The long term plan for these services is to recommission one integrated service for adults and children to be in place by April 2027 and this is actively being worked on by Commissioners. The KIDAS contract extension supports this longer term plan.

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

1 August 2025

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date