

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

DECISION NO:

25/00032

For publication

Subject matter: Long-Acting Reversible Contraception in Primary Care

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

Key Decision 23/00062

[23/00062 - Long-Acting Reversible Contraception in Primary Care](#)

Decision:

As Director of Public Health, I agree to:

- extend the existing contracts for the Supply of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) for 12 months, from 1st December 2025 until the 30 November 2026. The estimated spend for the one-year period on this activity-based service will be in the region of £1,600,000, with a total estimated spend for the full three years of the contract (1st December 2023-30th November 2026) being in the region of £4,100,000.
- maintain the ongoing Direct Award B Process (previously Dynamic Purchasing System opportunity) for the *Supply of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) in Primary Care* contract for another year in order to contract with additional providers who engage with it and successfully pass the required criteria.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Record of Decision 23/00062 delegated authority to the Director of Public Health award new contracts and take relevant action, including, but not limited to, finalising the terms, entering contract and other legal requirements, as necessary to implement the decision. This Officer decision confirms extending of the existing contracts with Primary Care providers for the Supply of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC) and continuing to contract with additional providers who engage with the ongoing Direct Award B Process (previously Dynamic Purchasing System opportunity) and successfully pass the required criteria.

Financial Implications:

The contract operates on an activity-based model, where the total cost is contingent upon the number of procedures that are carried out. The estimated spend for the one-year period on this activity-based service will be in the region of £1,600,000, and the total value of these contracts is expected to be in the region of £4,100,000 including activity and reimbursement of devices until 30th November 2026.

Legal implications:

LARC services were awarded to primary care providers via a light-touch Public Contract Regulation 2015 procurement compliant process for up to the period of one year (1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024) with options for two additional 12-month extensions (up until 30 November 2026). Additional providers continued to be accepted via a Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS). Following the introduction of The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 which replaced the Public Contract Regulations for the provision of healthcare services only, any modification or extension to the contract would be managed under the Provider Selection Regime (PSR).

The existing providers were awarded a 12-month extension from 1 December 2024 to 30 November 2025 under PSR (Direct Award B) and will be awarded another 12-month extension from 1 December 2025 to 30 November 2026. Additional providers continue to be accepted under a Direct Award B process with contractual terms that align to the end dates of the existing contracts.

Equality Implications: An Equalities Impact Assessment for continuing delivery of LARC in primary care was completed during the re-procurement process via the DPS, which has been successful in maintaining service continuity and the number of providers in a steady level. As there are no changes to the service model, Equality implications for any specific protected groups do not arise from the contract extensions.

Data Protection Implications: A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been completed and will be refreshed during the contract terms when and if required. The extension of these contracts will not result in any changes to data protection implications.

Comments received from any or Officers consulted:

Matt Wellard, Commercial and Procurement Manager stated:

The existing contract awarded under a DPS, would constitute as a Direct Award B Procurement under PSR. The extension is clearly and unambiguously provided for within the contract and therefore is permissible under PSR. Following approval of the extension, the Commercial and Procurement division will submit a notice of the modification as required under Regulation 13(5) within 30 days of it being enacted.

The following Officers have been consulted with no additional comments.

Julie Samson, Strategic Financial Adviser

Victoria Tovey, Assistant Director of Integrated Commissioning

Durka Dougall, Consultant in Public Health

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, Diane Morton comment "I endorse this decision to ensure continuity in this statutory service"

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Option 1. Discontinue service

Not extending contracts would disrupt continuity of care and limit patient choice. Without primary care offering LARC services, there would likely be a decrease in uptake of LARC, leading to more unintended pregnancies and terminations. Integrated sexual health services may struggle to handle the increased workload, resulting in longer wait times and limited availability.

Option 2. New Direct Award B Process

Adding LARC services to be commissioned via the same Direct Award B Process with other KCC commissioned primary care services (NHS Health Checks, smoking cessation service) is being considered for future commissioning of LARC services. As the new Direct Award B Process will launch 1st April 2026, a midway point of the LARC contracts, implementation of this option is felt to be practicable only after the final extension of the current contract will end. This is with the view to minimise administrative burden to the providers and to allow a smooth transition securing service continuity.

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

N/A

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anjan" followed by a stylized flourish.

signed

10 October 2025

date