

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

### DECISION TAKEN BY:

Christine McInnes – Interim Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education

### DECISION NO:

OD/25/00034

### For publication

#### Subject matter:

Young Carers Service – Contract Extension

#### Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

Member decision [21/00101](#)

INTRANET: [Decision - 21/00101- Young Carers - procurement of a new service](#)

#### Decision:

As Interim Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education, I agree to:

Extend the Young Carers Service Contract (SC220040) by one final year, as allowed under the terms of the contract. This decision is made on the basis that the Young Carers Service delivered by Imago contributes to the recognition, assessment and support of young carers in Kent. Kent County Council has a statutory obligation to provide assessments for all young carers.

#### Reason(s) for decision:

To enact the final one year extension (of the two year allowable extensions), as detailed in Section 4.4 of the [Recommendation Report](#)

This decision is taken in consultation with Chris Palmer, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, following the briefing on 25 September 2025.

#### Financial Implications:

The contract commenced on 1 May 2022 for a term of three years. There was an option to extend for a further two years (on a one year plus one year basis) with a deep dive review that was carried out after the first additional year.

The cost to KCC is £321,557 per annum. With this extension the total cost will be £1,607,785.

#### Legal implications:

Statutory obligations under Section 96 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which mandates local authorities to identify young carers and assess their support needs. The statutory obligation is in place to ensure that young carers are not disadvantaged in their education, health, or wellbeing due to their caring responsibilities

As part of the Children and Families Act, local authorities are expected to take 'reasonable steps' to identify children in their area who are young carers and conduct an assessment if it appears that the young carer may have needs for support.

Under the Children and Families Act, a young carer is defined as: 'A person under 18 who provides, or intends to provide, care for another person. The concept of 'care' includes practical or emotional support, and 'another person' means anyone, be they adult or child'.

**Equality Implications:**

As part of the original procurement a Equality Impact Assessment was undertaken. This has been reviewed ahead of any extension and there are no adverse effect to the protected characteristics. No further action needs to be taken.

**Comments received from members consulted: N/A****Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

- Not to extend the existing contract and reprocure a new provision
- Not to extend the existing contract and move assessment of young carers to other KCC ICS teams

**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

27/11/2025

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date