

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Extension of Amparo service

Responsible Officer

Rachel Westlake - AH AIC

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqlA must be completed within the EqlA App)

Victoria Tovey - AH AIC

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Adult Social Care and Health

Responsible Service

Integrated Commissioning

Responsible Head of Service

Victoria Tovey - AH AIC

Responsible Director

Anjan Ghosh - AH Public Health

Aims and Objectives

The contract for a Support Service for People Bereaved by Suicide, known as Amparo (which means shelter or safe haven in Spanish), is currently delivered by Listening Ear and due to expire 31 July 2026. This support has been delivered in Kent and Medway by Listening Ear's Amparo service since 2021. The service provides timely emotional and practical support to anyone affected by suicide, an experience which differs to bereavement through natural or accidental means as it usually comes with senses of guilt and stigma, which often leads to social isolation and the increased risk of suicide mentioned above.

Support is delivered by trained Liaison Workers and can include providing emotional support and assisting with a range of practical matters, such as dealing with the police and coroners, helping with media enquiries, preparing for (and attending) inquests and helping individuals to access any other relevant services. Support is delivered both in person and on the phone.

The service provides support to individuals living in Kent or Medway, and targets:

- Close family members of the individual who died
- Friends, colleagues, witnesses, and other people affected by a suicide
- People who are working to support, or who are spending time with, people bereaved by suicide

An 8-month extension (from 1 August 2026 until 31 March 2027) is proposed to maintain continuity of service and allow time to consider options for future commissioning. This period will also allow for discussions with the ICB, which fully funds the service, to secure a long-term financial commitment.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

Yes

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

The proposed extension of Support Service for People Bereaved by Suicide (Amparo) has been discussed and endorsed at the Suicide Prevention Steering Group. Statutory members include ICB, KCC, Medway, KMPT and Kent Police.

This has also been endorsed by the Integrated Commissioning Advisory Group which is led by the Director of PH (KCC).

A public consultation has been delivered to shape the new Kent and Medway Suicide & Self-Harm Prevention Strategy with support given to commit to the provision of support for people bereaved by suicide.

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

Yes

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?

Service Users/clients

Service users/clients

Staff

Staff/Volunteers

Residents/Communities/Citizens

Residents/communities/citizens

Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?

Yes

Details of Positive Impacts

Continuing to deliver support services for people bereaved by suicide can have significant positive impacts for individuals with protected characteristics.

Disability - Bereavement by suicide is linked to higher risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Accessible, inclusive support reduces these risks and promotes recovery for vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities or mental health conditions.

Race, Sexual orientation - People from minority ethnic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ communities, or older adults may face stigma and isolation after a suicide loss. Targeted support groups and culturally competent services foster connection and belonging.

Sex - Support can prevent job loss or educational disruption for those affected, particularly women, carers, and people with caring responsibilities.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions
19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age
Are there negative impacts for age?
No. Note: If Question 19a is "No", Questions 19b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Details of negative impacts for Age
Not Completed
Mitigating Actions for Age
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age
Not Completed
20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability
Are there negative impacts for Disability?
No. Note: If Question 20a is "No", Questions 20b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Details of Negative Impacts for Disability
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Disability
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Disability
Not Completed
21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex
Are there negative impacts for Sex
No. Note: If Question 21a is "No", Questions 21b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Details of negative impacts for Sex
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Sex
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Sex
Not Completed
22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
No. Note: If Question 22a is "No", Questions 22b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender
Not Completed
23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race
Are there negative impacts for Race
No. Note: If Question 23a is "No", Questions 23b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Race
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Race
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race

Not Completed
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No. Note: If Question 24a is "No", Questions 24b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Completed
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No. Note: If Question 25a is "No", Questions 25b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Completed
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No. Note: If Question 26a is "No", Questions 26b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Completed
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No. Note: If Question 27a is "No", Questions 27b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Completed
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No. Note: If Question 28a is "No", Questions 28b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Completed
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Completed
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities

Not Completed
