

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Brendan Arnold, Corporate Director of Finance

DECISION NO:

OD-26-00014

For publication Yes

Subject matter: Acceptance of the councils 2026/27 Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Act grant allocation

Cabinet Member or Council/Cabinet decision to which this action relates:

The Leader (under Key Decision - 23/00060 - Domestic Abuse Act Framework 2023-25) agreed to:

1. CONFIRM and ENDORSE the arrangements put in place via Officer Decision OD 23-0002, taken under delegated authority by the Chief Executive, arising from Key Decision - 22/00040
2. APPROVE the framework arrangements set out in the report for ongoing management of the DA Act Funding 2023-2025.
3. DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to, in consultation with the Leader, Corporate Director Finance and Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education, to revise and amend the arrangement set out in the framework details, subject to the scope of the terms and conditions of the grant funding.
4. DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education where applicable depending on affected portfolios, to administer any further DA Act grant monies under the funding/governance framework put in place by this decision, including the determination of Officer Decisions to progress activity via the framework.
5. AGREE to continue to utilise the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) contract to support delivery of the requirements of the Act until March 2026.
6. AUTHORISE the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Chief Executive to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement this decision.

As set out within the Officer Decision OD 23-0002, the Chief executive agreed to:

1. ACCEPT money on behalf of Kent County Council to meet support in safe accommodation duties within the Domestic Abuse Act, provided funding is given on similar terms to previous years
2. DELEGATE acceptance of any future monies to the Corporate Director of Finance, again providing funding is given on similar terms,
3. DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director of Finance to enter into relevant agreements with Government (e.g. Memorandums of

- Understanding), as required to accept funding
4. DELEGATE management and oversight of the expenditure of the DA Act funding to the Corporate Director for Adults Social Care and Health, within the scope of the terms and conditions of the Grant Funding, including entering into relevant legal agreements as required to implement this decision.

The Leader (under Key Decision - 25/00033 - Extension of Domestic Abuse Act Framework and KIDAS contract agreed to:

- 1 APPROVE extension of the framework arrangements set out in the report for ongoing management of the DA Act Funding 2025-27.
2. AGREE extension of the KIDAS contract and additional services up until March 2027 (12 months), permissible by PCR 2015 72(1)(b) and to continue to utilise this contract to support delivery of the requirements of the Act until the end of the contractual term.
3. CONFIRM the arrangements put in place via Officer Decision OD-23-0002, taken under delegated authority by the Chief Executive, arising from Key Decision 22/00040, to delegate acceptance of any future monies to the Corporate Director of Finance, providing funding is given on similar terms and to enter into relevant agreements with Government as required to accept the funding (2025-2026)
4. DELEGATE acceptance of any future monies (2026 onwards) to the Corporate Director of Finance, providing funding is given on similar terms and to enter into relevant agreements with Government as required to accept the funding.
5. DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to, in consultation with the Leader, Corporate Director for Finance and Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, revise and amend the arrangement set out in the framework details, subject to the scope of the terms and conditions of the grant funding.
6. DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education where applicable depending on affected portfolios, to administer any further DA Act grant monies under the funding / governance framework put in place by this decision, including the determination of Officer Decisions to progress activity via the framework.
7. DELEGATE authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Chief Executive to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement this decision.

Decision:

As Corporate Director of Finance, I agree to:

- Accept £ 4,145,956.00 in 2026/27 Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant allocation on behalf of Kent County Council to meet the support in safe accommodation duties within the Domestic Abuse Act.
- Enter into relevant agreements with Government (e.g. Grant Conditions), as required to accept funding

- Pursuant to the delegation agreed by the Leader under Key Decision 25/00033, confirm that responsibility for the management and oversight of expenditure of the Domestic Abuse Act funding rests with the Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Health, including any appropriate sub-delegation, and within the scope of the grant conditions and approved Domestic Abuse Act funding and governance framework

Reason(s) for decision:

The decision is required at this point to enable continued funding of statutory domestic abuse safe accommodation services from 1 April 2026 and to ensure continuity of provision in line with Kent County Council's duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed new duties on local authorities across England. In 2026-27 KCC will receive £ 4,145,956.00 for domestic abuse safe accommodation support duties through the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant to continue to invest in essential support within frontline safe accommodation services, ensuring victims of domestic abuse can access the support they need. Domestic Abuse Act definitions of safe accommodation include refuge, dispersed accommodation (non-communal supported accommodation), sanctuary schemes (security provision within a survivor's home) and move-on accommodation where some levels of support are still required.

Financial Implications:

This one-year allocation is to support the authority to meet statutory duties under the domestic abuse act. The 2026-27 Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant funding is ringfenced and may only be used to support delivery of statutory domestic abuse safe accommodation duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. Acceptance of this allocation does not create any additional cost pressures for Kent County Council, as planned activity and expenditure will be contained fully within the grant allocation and managed through the existing Domestic Abuse Act governance framework.

The funding is confirmed until March 2029, which presents an inherent sustainability risk beyond 2028-29. This risk is recognised and is being managed through forward planning activity, including refresh of the Domestic Abuse Framework and planned recommissioning of domestic abuse support services, to ensure continuity of statutory provision should future funding arrangements change.

Legal implications:

The associated Grant Criteria sets out terms of the grant including principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between MHCLG and local authorities with regard to delivering the functions under Part 4 of the Act.

Equality Implications:

This funding aids the delivery of elements of the statutory Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2025-29. An EQiA, conducted for the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy found the impact of this work to be positive across all groups.

Comments received from members consulted:

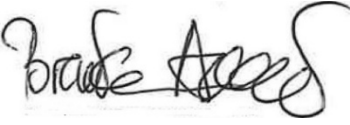
The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care has been consulted and endorsed the Officer Decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The option of turning down the grant was discarded as there are many people in Kent who will benefit from this resource, and it supports the council to meet its statutory duties.

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

None

		4 June 2026
Signed		date