

From: Helen Woodland, Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health

To: Georgia Foster, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Subject: **Every Day Life Activities Contract Extension**

Decision number: **26/00041**

Key decision: Yes

Classification: Unrestricted Report – Exempt Appendix (Exempt from publication by S12A Paragraph 3 of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains commercially sensitive information)

Past Pathway of report: Adult Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee – 8 July 2026

Future Pathway of report: Cabinet Member decision

Electoral Division: All

Is the decision eligible for call-in? Yes

Summary The Every Day Life Activities (EDLA) contract commenced on 1 October 2022. It will expire on 30 September 2026. The contract has two permitted 2-year extensions available. There are 24 providers on the EDLA Framework.

The proposed decision seeks to extend the existing contract from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2028, using a permissible up to 2-year extension to maintain service continuity while the Council prepares for recommissioning of the service. There are 24 providers on the EDLA Framework. The EDLA contract currently supports 1,089 people aged 18 and over with assessed eligible Care Act needs and these services form part of their agreed support arrangements to meet those needs, supporting people with independent living skills, employment and training opportunities, reduce reliance on higher-cost services and support for family carers

The decision not to extend the contract presents significant risks including service disruption, increased costs, and inability to meet statutory Care Act duties. The extension will provide stability while enabling strengthened contract and demand management, improved value for money and a planned transition to a more sustainable, outcomes-focused model.

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care is asked to:

a) **EXTEND** the Every Day Life Activities contract for up to two years from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2028; and

b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health to take other relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Every Day Life Activities (EDLA) contract commenced on 1 October 2022 and is due to end on 30 September 2026.
- 1.2 This proposed decision seeks to extend the EDLA contract using the permissible contract extensions.
- 1.3 The extension will maintain service continuity for people aged 18 and over with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health needs. During this period, the Council will undertake recommissioning to implement a more sustainable and responsive service model for the future.
- 1.4 These services support people to develop skills, build independence, access their communities, and maintain wellbeing. For individuals, they form part of their agreed Care Act support plan to meet assessed eligible needs. Services offer a range of activities and skill development opportunities within the community. There is a mixture ranging from traditional day services on the outskirts of towns, to community cafés and retail outlets providing training opportunities. Appendix 1 provides case examples and Appendix 2 provides a list of the providers and their offer.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Care Act 2014 provided local authorities in England, the NHS and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) clear legal responsibilities for managing different elements of the adult social care market that include considering need, provider sustainability, value for money and integration.
- 2.2 In addition to the EDLA framework, a proportion of individuals access day opportunity services through non-framework providers, including via Direct Payments. This reflects a combination of individual choice, availability of provision, and specific needs that may not always be met within the framework.
- 2.3 However, the use of non-framework provision presents challenges for the Council, including reduced ability to manage costs and ensure consistency in pricing and service delivery. At present, approximately 75% of all day service provision is through the EDLA contract, with 25% being purchased from non-framework providers. The extension of the EDLA contract provides an opportunity to strengthen oversight of the whole market, improve alignment between framework and non-framework provision, and ensure future arrangements are more consistent, sustainable, and deliver better value for money.

- 2.4 Reforming Kent 2025–2028 Strategic Statement sets out the Council's approach to becoming a financially sustainable, outcome-focused authority that delivers effective support to residents while making best use of limited resources. The service supports independence and prevention. This proposed decision supports that ambition by maintaining continuity of essential services for residents, while a redesign and recommissioning of day opportunities is undertaken to better meet changing needs.
- 2.5 Through strengthened contract and demand management, the extension also supports the Council's financial recovery by improving value for money and manage cost and demand pressures within the system. Further information on this approach is included in Exempt Appendix 1 (Exempt from publication by S12A Paragraph 3 of the Local Government Act 1972 as it contains commercially sensitive information).
- 2.6 The extension provides a platform for timely coproduction with residents, carers, and providers to shape a more sustainable and responsive service model for the future, aligned with the Council's commitment to prevention, independence, and partnership working.
- 2.7 The EDLA contract replaced the previous framework contract that commissioned day service placements on a half or full day rate. Under the EDLA contract, placements are commissioned based on hours to provide a flexible approach, allowing people to choose the hours of attendance.
- 2.8 The Framework provides services as follows:

Service Type	Description	Approx. Number of Sessions	% of Total Sessions
1:1 Support	Individual support for people requiring dedicated assistance with activities	300	10%
Small Group	Up to 3 people supported by 1 member of staff	490	17%
Large Group	4 or more people supported by 1 member of staff	2,150	73%
Total		2,940	100%

- 2.9 There are currently 1,089 people utilising the EDLA contract each week, of whom 160 live in Residential Care services, 485 live in Supported Living services and 444 live in their own homes. For individuals in residential and supported living, EDLA provide structured daytime activity, community inclusion and skill development that is not always deliverable within core care provision. This supports progression, reduces social isolation, and can contribute to

reduced long-term dependency. For those living at home, it also avoids or reduces reliance on higher-cost services and provides a respite support for family carers.

3 Options considered and dismissed, and associated risk

3.1 There are three possible options available:

Option	Overall Risk Rating	Strategic Assessment
Option 1 Extend the contract without a structured programme of redesign for when the contract extension ends	□ Medium Risk	Maintains service continuity, financial control and statutory compliance. This option does not seek opportunities to strengthen contract and demand management during the extension. This option does not plan to redesign and recommission day opportunities, which could mean the 2 nd permissible two-year extension would be needed.
Option 2 Extend the contract alongside strengthened contract and demand management, and a programme to redesign and recommission day opportunities (Recommended)	□ Lowest Risk	Provides the best balance of statutory compliance, financial control and service continuity. This option will put in place strengthened contract and demand management arrangements to improve value for money and outcomes during the contract extension. And redesign and recommission day opportunities.
Option 3 – End Contract	● High Risk	Creates significant statutory, operational, financial and market risks, including potential service disruption, increased costs and reputational impact for the Council.

4 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The contract is funded via the Adult Social Care and Health budget.
- 4.2 The estimated whole life contract value, detailed in the Award Report and based on a four-year contract with two x two-year available extensions was £76,378,568.
- 4.3 Based on the 2025/2026 service cost of £10,935,300, the total cost of the two-year extension is expected to be £21,870,600.
- 4.4 The average cost per person of EDLA is £10,042 per year, or £192 per week.
- 4.5 The spend on non-framework providers in 2025/2026 was £4,427,000 and average cost per person is £10,343.

5 Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Council commissions services from the independent sector to meet the needs of individuals deemed to be eligible in accordance with and following a Care Act assessment. If the contract ends the Council will still be required to fully meet its statutory obligation under the Care Act with regards to providing a high quality, safe service at an affordable price.

6 Equalities Implications

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) was completed as part of the original tender exercise. The EQIA (attached as Appendix 3) has been reviewed and is still relevant with no negative impacts identified.

7 Data Protection Implications

- 7.1 A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) was completed at the time of tender and there are no new data protection implications to be considered.

8 Governance

- 8.1 The Corporate Director for Adult Social and Health will inherit delegated authority to take relevant actions to finalise the required contractual and legal agreements necessary to implement the decision.

9 Conclusions

- 9.1 The EDLA contract, which commenced on 1 October 2022, is due to expire on 30 September 2026 and currently supports 1,089 people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health needs to access day opportunities that form a key part of their Care Act support arrangements.
- 9.2 Extending the contract through the available extension provisions provides a proportionate and low-risk approach to maintaining continuity of these services,

ensuring that individuals continue to receive consistent support while the Council undertakes a planned and structured redesign of day opportunities.

- 9.3 The proposed extension is not solely a continuation of existing arrangements. It provides a clear opportunity to strengthen contract and demand management, improve value for money and strengthen financial sustainability over the medium term.
- 9.4 During the extension period, the Council will also undertake a comprehensive programme of recommissioning, informed by co-production with residents, carers and providers. This will support the development of a more sustainable, flexible and outcomes-focused model of day opportunities, aligned with the Council's wider strategic priorities.
- 9.5 Not extending the contract would expose the Council to significant operational, financial and statutory risks, including disruption to care, loss of market stability, increased costs and potential failure to meet Care Act duties.

10 Recommendations

Recommendation(s) The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care is asked to:

a) **EXTEND** the Every Day Life Activities contract for up to two years from 1 October 2026 to 30 September 2028; and

b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director, Adult Social Care and Health to take other relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

11 Background Documents

Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee, 13 July 2022 - [THE REPORT](#)

12 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Case Studies
Appendix 2 – EDLA Provider List
Appendix 3 - Equality Impact Assessment
EXEMPT Appendix 4 – Contract Management Approach

13 Contact Details

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