

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

DECISION NO:

OD-26-00036

For publication

Subject matter: Kent Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service Contract Extension

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

24/00056

[Decision - 24/00056 - Kent Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service - Kent County Council - Council & Democracy](#)

Decision:

As Director of Public Health, I agree to:

- a) Approve the extension of the Kent Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service Contract with We Are With You for a period of 2 years (24 months), from 1 February 2027 until 31 January 2029.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council has statutory responsibility as a condition of its Public Health Grant to provide specialist Substance Misuse Services aimed at reducing the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and to improve the health and wellbeing of the people of Kent.

The Kent Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service contract with We Are With You is due to end on 31 January 2027.

A comprehensive service review was undertaken in 2025/26 to provide a robust evidence base for the ongoing development of the current contract and to support decision-making regarding any potential contract extension.

The evidence informing this review was gathered from a range of sources, including performance reports, interviews and surveys with people currently accessing the service, key stakeholders, and members of the workforce. It also draws on a financial review, together with existing research, data, and evidence relating to drug and alcohol service provision and levels of need, both within Kent and nationally.

The review found that:

- The service consistently met or exceeded Key Performance Indicators and delivers successful outcomes in line with the original vision and aims for the service
- National data indicated that Kent's service performs well in comparison to national outcome figures
- Attendance and feedback on services, once delivered, is high and positive
- Feedback from young people using the service is consistently positive, with young people reporting improvement in their knowledge of harm reduction and feeling listened to and respected by the workforce.
- Workforce insights indicate that internal staff have a positive experience of employment, feel

valued, and appreciate the flexible professional and wellbeing support offered by management

- External evidence demonstrates that drug and alcohol treatment and support services deliver significant cost benefits
- The service recommendations arising from the review are focused on strengthening processes, improving promotion, and enhancing reporting arrangements. They are designed to enhance the service model and delivery outcomes.

The review recommended that the Kent Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Service contract is extended.

The proposed extension was presented at the Integrated Commissioning Advisory Group (ICAG), an internal governance meeting that provides oversight and assurance for commissioning decisions. Following consideration of the evidence and recommendations, ICAG endorsed the proposal to extend the contract.

Financial Implications: The contract extension will commence on 1 February 2027 for a period of two years, unless terminated in accordance with the Conditions of Contract. The table below outlines the contract extension costs and includes an annual uplift that will be applied.

Contract extension costs

	KCC Public Health - includes additional funding from the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), recently consolidated within the Public Health Grant	Police Crime Commissioner (PCC)	Total
01/02/27 – 31/01/28	£996,909.48 (includes £251,197.17 – additional funding from OHID)	£92,600	£1,089,509.48
01/02/28 – 31/01/29	£1,017,482.83 (includes £259,195.83 – additional funding from OHID)	£92,600	£1,110,082.83
Total 2 Year Extension Period	£2,014,392.31 (includes £510,393.00 – additional funding from OHID)	£185,200	£2,199,592.31

As per the table above, the service receives a funding contribution of £92,600 per annum from the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC). The continuation of this funding is subject to confirmation from the PCC, or any successor organisation, that it will continue to provide this financial contribution.

Should this funding cease and alternative funding cannot be obtained, the contract will be varied accordingly to remove the funding element, resulting in a corresponding reduction to the annual contract value.

Legal implications: The proposed extension is in line with relevant procurement legislation and contract terms and conditions.

The proposed contract extension will result in the contract continuing beyond the anticipated Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) vesting date of April 2028. Commissioners will seek to vary the contract to include LGR clauses. This will aim to ensure appropriate contractual arrangements are in place should the contract require transfer, assignment or novation to a successor authority as a result of LGR.

Equality Implications: An Equalities impact assessment (EqIA) has previously been undertaken.

The EqIA found the impact of this work to be positive, with no negative impacts. Services will continue to play a key role in supporting KCC to reduce health inequalities and improve the health of the Kent population. The service will continue to ensure all protected groups are able to have equal access and benefit from the service.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

The proposed extension was presented at ICAG, who endorsed the recommendation to extend. As part of the governance process, officers from Finance, Commercial and Procurement, Public Health, and Integrated Commissioning were consulted.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Do not enact extension - Decommissioning the service was assessed and deemed a non-viable option. The current provider is delivering strong performance and achieving positive outcomes for young people across Kent. Ending the service would result in the loss of an effective and well-performing provision and would risk Kent County Council (KCC) being unable to meet its statutory obligations under the conditions of the Public Health Grant. It would also create a risk that funding from the PCC and OHID would not be fully utilised.

Re-commission the service - Re-commissioning of the service was assessed and deemed a non-viable option given the provider's strong performance and the positive outcomes being achieved. The service specification was designed so it can innovate, and change as required through the contract term, in order to continue to meet new funding requirements and address emerging demand/need. As a result, the existing contract arrangement continues to provide an effective mechanism for innovation and service improvement without the need for re-commissioning at this stage.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None



22/07/2026

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signed

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date