

From: Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

To: Linden Kemkaran, Leader of the Council

Subject: Extension of Domestic Abuse Act Framework and associated services

Decision no: 26/00039

Key Decision : Yes - Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions AND involves expenditure exceeding £1m

Classification: Unrestricted report with exempt Appendix (not for publication under Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)).

Past Pathway of report: Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee – 2 July 2026

Future Pathway of report: Leader Key Decision

Electoral Division: All

Is the decision eligible for call-in? Yes

Summary: This report seeks approval to extend the Domestic Abuse Act (DA Act) Framework, which determines the use of Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant funding, to March 2029, in line with confirmed multi-year financial settlements from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) through the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant.

The report also seeks approval to extend the well performing Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) and Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS) contracts up to 31 January 2028. This will ensure continuity of statutory service provision, support system stability, and enable a robust and compliant recommissioning process, including sufficient time for procurement, mobilisation and co-commissioning of the proposed future Kent Integrated Family Domestic Abuse Service (KIFDAS) model . The approach forms part of a comprehensive commissioning strategy and is informed by relevant legal advice.

Extending the Framework to 2029 aligns with the confirmed multi-year funding settlement and supports longer-term strategic planning, while the shorter, time-limited contract extensions reflect the minimum period

necessary to maintain service continuity and enable a compliant procurement and transition to the new service model. Any subsequent commissioning decisions arising from this process will be subject to separate future Key Decision(s).

The total cost for the proposed extension of the Domestic Abuse Act Framework across 2027-28 and services for the period 1 April 2027 to 31 January 2028 is £6,457,376.79. Full details and breakdown are provided in the Financial Implications section below.

Recommendation(s): The Leader of the Council is asked to

1. **APPROVE** extension and update of the framework arrangements, to reflect consolidated funding arrangements, set out in the report for ongoing management of the DA Act Funding 2027-29.
2. **APPROVE** the extension of Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) including Referral, Assessment and Triage service and services delivered under contract SS 16041 up until 31 January 2028 (10 months).
3. **APPROVE** the extension of Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS) contract SC 220255 up until 31 January 2028 (10 months).
4. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health to, in consultation with the Leader, Corporate Director for Finance, Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, to revise and update the Domestic Abuse Framework as necessary to reflect the consolidated Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant funding arrangements, and to make minor operational amendments, provided these remain within scope of the approved Framework criteria, associated grant terms and the council's statutory duties.
5. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health to, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, where applicable depending on affected portfolios, to administer any further Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse 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.
6. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to take all necessary actions to implement this decision, including but not limited to negotiating, finalising the terms of and entering into contracts or other legal agreements, and to approve variations to existing contracts (including KIDAS and SASS) to incorporate additional or enhanced

1. Introduction

- 1.1 Domestic abuse is a cross-cutting issue. KCC has statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse (DA) Act 2021 to assess need, publish a strategy, and commission support for victims and their children residing in safe accommodation.
- 1.2 Since 2021, these duties have been supported through grant funding from central government. The established Domestic

Abuse Framework 2025-27 provides the governance mechanism to ensure funding is allocated in line with statutory requirements, local need, and strategic priorities set out in the Multi Agency Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-29.

- 1.4 Key services to support survivors of domestic abuse are the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) and Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS). Both contracts are due to end 31 March 2027. Commissioners are progressing recommissioning activity and development of a new service to replace both and the procurement will aim to launch in Autumn 2026.
- 1.5 This report sets out proposals to extend both the Framework and existing services (KIDAS and SASS) to ensure continuity, stability, and compliance, enabling a successful recommissioning process. This approach forms part of a carefully considered commissioning strategy for this area, which is closely aligned to the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-29.

2. Background

Domestic Abuse Framework

- 2.1 The Domestic Abuse Framework (originally approved under Key Decision 23/00060 and extended under Key Decision 25/00033) is currently in place until March 2027. It provides the governance structure for determining the allocation and use of Domestic Abuse Duty Safe Accommodation grant funding, as well as supporting strategic and operational decision-making.
- 2.2 The Framework establishes a centralised decision-making approach, with overall responsibility, accountability, and strategic oversight resting with the Leader, who exercises the Executive function. Delivery is supported through the delegation of operational decisions and implementation to officers, within the scope and parameters set out in the Framework.

Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS)

- 2.3 KIDAS is a multi-agency funded service, led by KCC, and underpins delivery of:
 - Refuge and safe accommodation support (in line with the Framework),
 - Community-based domestic abuse services for adults.
- 2.4 KIDAS includes:
 - Referral, Assessment and Triage (RAT) service, delivered countywide by a partnership arrangement, through a contract held by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

- Contract SS16041, delivered countywide by Oasis Domestic Abuse Service, Clarion Housing group and Look Ahead Care and Support Ltd.

2.5 KIDAS is currently commissioned until 31 March 2027 and a recent contract review confirms it is performing well and offers good value for money.

Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS)

2.6 SASS is countywide (contract SC220 255) funded by the Domestic Abuse Act Grant in line with the Framework. It is delivered by Project Salus CIC who offer specialist support to children and young people in all forms of safe accommodation.

2.7 SASS is currently commissioned to deliver until 31 March 2027 and a recent contract review confirms it is performing well and offers good value for money.

3. Extension of Domestic Abuse Framework

3.1 MHCLG has now confirmed multi-year settlements through the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant, which is consolidating the following funding streams:

- The prevention, relief, and staffing element of the Homelessness Prevention Grant (HPG)
- The Rough Sleeping Prevention and Recovery Grant (RSPARG)
- The Rough Sleeping Accommodation Programme (RSAP)
- The Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Grant (DASA)

3.2 Kents allocation is below:

	2026-27 (£)	2027-28 (£)	2028-29 (£)
Kent - Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant allocation	4,145,956.00	4,259,370.00	4,364,360.00

3.3 The Grant conditions set out that this funding must be used to support local authorities in meeting their statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, including the provision of support for victims of domestic abuse and their children within 'relevant accommodation'. This includes refuge, dispersed accommodation, Sanctuary Schemes, and other defined safe accommodation.

3.4 This multi-year settlement provides greater financial certainty through to March 2029.

3.5 Extending the Framework to align with the duration of the Grant (to March 2029), and updating it to reflect the

consolidated funding requirements, will:

- Ensure continued compliance with the Grant conditions and statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021,
- Enable longer-term strategic planning and commissioning,
- Support delivery of the Kent & Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024–2029,
- Provide flexibility to respond to changing need within the parameters set by MHCLG.

Domestic Abuse Framework criteria 2027-29

- 3.6 Under this Framework all expenditure of the domestic abuse allocation within the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant must be in line with budget forecasting and adhere to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Grant Conditions.
- 3.7 Additionally, proposals for spend must meet one of the following criteria:
- A.** Will support the council in fulfilling their statutory duties under Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, relating to the provision of support within safe accommodation for victims of domestic abuse and their children. This includes assessing need, preparation, publication, monitoring and delivery of strategies, commissioning activity, and mandatory reporting back to central Government.
 - B.** Will improve, develop, or maintain specialist support to people who have experienced domestic abuse (adults and children) residing in 'safe accommodation,' as defined by the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, to meet gaps identified through the needs assessment.
- 3.8 Examples of projects that would meet the criteria include.
- Engagement project to develop and maintain engagement with people who have experienced domestic abuse.
 - Development and delivery of new services to reduce barriers within existing support offers to underserved groups where these meet the Framework criteria and are within the approved funding envelope

Planned activity under the Domestic Abuse Framework 2027-29

- 3.9 Activity for 2027-29 has been planned in line with this Framework criteria (Appendix B). Delivery of some of this activity includes:
- Using the councils existing contractual relationship through the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS).

- Services delivered through other council contracts, including the Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS) and Sanctuary Access For Eligible Residents (SAFER) Scheme.

Adjusting future Framework activity

- 3.10 The DA Act requires the countywide needs assessment to be refreshed annually, renewed every three years and publication of a strategy including around the provision of support.
- 3.11 Kents most recent countywide assessment of need was conducted in 2023. The multi-agency Kent and Medway DA Strategy 2024-29 was developed and published to address its findings. The commitments made within this strategy have been agreed by all partner agencies across the Kent and Medway Domestic and Sexual Abuse Executive Group.
- 3.12 In line with the DA Act the Kent needs assessment will be renewed in 2026 and the strategy will be reviewed in line with the findings. The Domestic Abuse Framework therefore requires the council to have the ability to deliver pilots, short-term services and expeditiously realign existing Grant funded services, to meet the changing needs and demands of people who have experienced domestic abuse, in line with the findings of the needs assessment and strategy commitments, providing all revised proposals meet the criteria set out in point 3.7.

Domestic Abuse Framework assurance

- 3.13 The cross directorate Safe Accommodation Grant Group supports the Local Partnership Board, which is a statutory requirement under the Act, in monitoring the expenditure of the Grant funding and meeting reporting requirements to central Government.
- 3.14 Activity will be reviewed periodically, with any updates subject to consideration against the Framework criteria approved by this decision and the associated Grant Condition requirements. Updates on progress against delivery will be taken annually to the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee.

4. Extension of KIDAS and SASS to support recommissioning

- 4.1 Commissioners are progressing the recommissioning of domestic abuse support services and the proposed development of the new Kent Integrated Family Domestic Abuse Service (KIFDAS), which will bring together multiple funding streams, services, and activities (including KIDAS and

SASS) into a single, coordinated service, aligned under one contractual framework.

- 4.2 The transition from existing service arrangements to the KIFDAS model is complex and critical to get right. A well-managed transition is essential to ensure continuity of support for victims and their children, minimise operational disruption, and maintain safeguarding arrangements.
- 4.3 Given the complexity and in response to feedback from partner agencies during engagement activities, the extension of existing contracts, until 31 January 2028, is necessary to ensure successful procurement and mobilisation of the new contractual arrangements, without creating any disruption to service delivery. The additional time will also support multiple partners (up to 15) to collaboratively shape a strong, sustainable funding model that reflects shared responsibilities and long-term system priorities for KIFDAS.
- 4.4 Extending both the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) and Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS) to 31 January 2028 is necessary to:
 - Avoid a risk to of disruption to statutory provision,
 - Maintain system stability across a complex partnership-funded model,
 - Allow time to align recommissioning with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR), and
 - ensure a well-planned procurement and mobilisation period.

5. Options considered and dismissed, and associated risk

- 5.1 **Option 1: Do Nothing** - Allow Framework and contracts to end without extension. This option has been rejected as it risks a failure to meet statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act and service disruption to victims of domestic abuse, including adults and children.
- 5.2 **Option 2: Immediate Recommissioning** – Extend Framework and proceed with immediate procurement of KIFDAS prior to full financial and organisational stability. This option has been rejected as it does not allow sufficient time to confirm partnership funding arrangements or for partners to secure the necessary approvals through their own governance processes, which are critical to delivering a sustainable, jointly funded model. As a result, the proposed co-designed KIFDAS model may not be deliverable within the available funding envelope, increasing the risk of a poor market response and reduced value for money. In addition, progressing at pace would limit the time available for procurement, mobilisation, and transition, creating a heightened risk of disruption to frontline service delivery for victims and their

children.

- 5.3 **Extend Framework, KIDAS and SASS services.** This is the proposed option to be progressed as it provides a stable and compliant pathway to recommissioning and:
- Maintains continuity of statutory service provision, avoiding disruption to victims
 - Ensures compliance with Domestic Abuse Act duties and Grant conditions
 - provides the necessary time to confirm partnership funding arrangements and secure approvals through partner governance processes
 - Supports effective co-production and strategic alignment across the system, strengthening the proposed future KIFDAS model
 - Enables a robust, competitive procurement process and sufficient mobilisation period, reducing risk to delivery and market failure.

6. How the proposed decision supports the Council's Strategic Statement

- 6.1 The extension of the DA Framework and proposed extension of the KIDAS and SASS contracts supports the delivery of a safer, more resilient Kent and contributes directly to the council's ambitions for prevention, partnership working, financial sustainability, and system reform as set out in Reforming Kent 2025 – 2028, Our Council Strategy.

7. Local Government Reorganisation (LGR)

- 7.1 Given the proximity of LGR, with a decision from the Secretary of State anticipated in July 2026 at the time of writing, consideration was given to a 'do nothing' scenario. This option is not recommended, as it presents a significant risk of failure to meet statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and could lead to disruption of critical services supporting victims of domestic abuse, including adults and children.
- 7.2 Assuming the current national timetable is maintained, it is anticipated that the council in its existing form will continue until at least April 2028. This creates a defined transitional period during which the council must continue to discharge its statutory responsibilities, while also preparing for structural change.

- 7.3 Extending both the Domestic Abuse Framework (to March 2029) and the KIDAS and SASS contracts (until 31 January 2028) provides a stable and proportionate response within this context. This approach:
- Avoids the risk of fragmented or short-term commissioning decisions immediately prior to reorganisation,
 - Enables a planned and orderly recommissioning process, aligned to future governance and system structures, and
 - Mitigates market instability and workforce risks, which are heightened during periods of uncertainty.
- 7.4 Wider organisational pressures, including constrained public finances and uncertainty regarding the future configuration of assets, reinforce the need for stability in frontline service delivery. Maintaining existing contractual arrangements during this period reduces the risk of disruption arising from unplanned changes in infrastructure, service locations, or system dependencies.
- 7.5 The proposed extensions provide a managed transition, ensuring that statutory duties continue to be met, while positioning the council and its partners to undertake full, strategic recommissioning at the appropriate point within the LGR landscape.

8. Financial Implications

- 8.1 The total cost for the proposed extension of the Domestic Abuse Act Framework across 2027-28 and services for the period 1 April 2027 to 31 January 2028 is £6,457,376.79. This is met by the councils Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant allocation and partnership funding arrangements for the KIDAS contract, broken down as follows:

Element	Period Covered	Total Amount (£)	Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant (£)	Partner Funding (£)
Extension of Domestic Abuse Framework	1.4.27 – 31.3.28	£5,197,005.52.	£5,197,005.52.	£0

Extension of KIDAS (SS16 041)	1.4.27 – 31.1.28	£3,371,251.25	£2,110,879.98 (included in DA Framework amount above)	£1,260,371.27	
Extension of SASS (SC220 255)	1.4.27 – 31.1.28	£572,090.95	£572,090.95 (included in DA Framework amount above)	£0	
TOTAL COST			£5,197,005.52	£1,260,371.27	£6,457,376.79

8.2 The Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant allocation is confirmed through the Local Government Finance Settlement. The council has already accepted this funding as part of its approved budget setting process. This decision therefore relates to the governance, allocation and use of that funding rather than its acceptance.

Extension of Domestic Abuse Framework

8.3 The cost of implementing the Domestic Abuse Framework across 2027-29 will be met in full by Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant funding, including unspent grant funding from previous years (held in reserves).

8.4 A draft budget forecast for 2027-28 indicates that expenditure will be £5,197,005.52. This figure includes funding for key service delivery, including:

- £2,110,879.98 for services delivered by the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) until 31 January 2028; and
- £572,090.95 for the Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS), until 31 January 2028.

8.5 A breakdown is provided in Appendix B. Actual activity and spend may be reprofiled to meet the changing needs and demands of people who have experienced domestic abuse, in line with the findings of the needs assessment and strategy commitments, providing all revised proposals meet the criteria set out in point 3.7.

8.6 Regular financial monitoring reports will be produced and shared with the Corporate Director of Finance and Director of Public Health.

Extension of KIDAS

8.7 Delivery of the countywide KIDAS Referral, Assessment and Triage Service is provided through the OPCC's Kent and Medway victim support contract. The cost of this element is met in full by the OPCC as their financial contribution to the integrated service model. The OPCC has confirmed that this arrangement can

continue for the duration of the proposed KIDAS extension.

- 8.8 The full cost to extend the KIDAS contract (SS16 041) for 10 months from 1 April 2027 to 31 January 2028 is £3,371,251.25. Of this total, £2,110,879.98 is funded from within the Domestic Abuse Framework allocation set out above. The remaining balance is met through existing KIDAS funding partner contributions, including Public Health Grant funding*, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Fire and Rescue, the Integrated Care Board, and district and borough councils (Ashford, Canterbury, Dartford, Dover, Folkestone and Hythe, Gravesham, Maidstone, Swale and Thanet). This blended funding arrangement ensures that the full cost of the extension is met without creating any additional pressure on KCC's base budget.

* This Public Health contribution is fully supported by the relevant Director and Cabinet Member

- 8.9 Partners have confirmed contributions for 2027/28. An increased Public Health contribution to fund the relevant activity is included in the budget covered by the decision. This Public Health contribution is fully supported by the relevant Director and Cabinet Member. Extending the existing services by until 31 January 2028, will not result in any additional financial pressure for the council and will not draw on KCC base budget.
- 8.10 Additional services may be levied into this contract throughout the extension period, to increase the service offer and support the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Framework. These will be funded in full by external grants and in accordance with PCR regulations and Spending the Councils Money.

Extension of SASS

- 8.11 The costs to extend the SASS contract (SC220 255) for 10 months from 1 April 2027 until 31 January 2028, is £572,090.95. This amount is included within the overall Domestic Abuse Framework allocation set out above and will be met in full by the Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Act Grant.
- 8.12 Additional services may be levied into this contract throughout the extension period, to increase the service offer and support the delivery of the Domestic Abuse Framework. These will be funded in full by external grants and in accordance with PCR regulations and Spending the Councils Money.

9. Legal implications

- 9.1 The council must comply with the statutory duties set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and relevant procurement legislation

related to the extension of the contracts which is set out at Confidential Appendix D. The council must also have regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty in the Equality Act 2010.

10. Equalities implications

Domestic Abuse Framework

10.1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been undertaken and identified no direct equalities implications arising from this decision. Specific service arrangements made via the Framework will incorporate necessary equality consideration as part of Officer level decision-making.

Extension of KIDAS and SASS

10.2 EQIAs have been completed around the extension of KIDAS and SASS and identified no direct equalities implications arising from this decision.

11. Data Protection Implications

11.1 KIDAS and SASS both have Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIAs) in place, which have been completed and approved in line with UK GDPR requirements.

11.2 Data sharing arrangements are established with relevant partners (including district councils, police, and health) supported by data sharing agreements.

11.3 As part of the recommissioning of services existing DPIAs will be refreshed to reflect the new service model.

12. Other corporate implications

12.1 Activity under the Domestic Abuse Framework includes council staff resource across multiple departments to enable delivery of statutory functions including conducting the countywide needs assessment, development and oversight of the strategy, commissioning and management of contracts.

12.2 Domestic Abuse and the commissioned services (KIDAS and SASS) have strong interdependencies with a range of council functions and wider system partners.

12.3 The services play a critical role in supporting the council to meet its statutory safeguarding duties under the Care Act 2014 and Children Act 2004. KIDAS and SASS providers are required to:

- Work within Kent and Medway safeguarding arrangements.
- Participate in multi-agency forums such as MARAC.

- Contribute to Domestic Homicide Reviews (DHRs) and Safeguarding Adult Reviews (SARs) where required.
 - Maintain robust risk management and escalation processes.
- 12.4 The services contribute to wider public health priorities, including reducing harm, improving mental wellbeing, and preventing escalation of abuse. They also support community safety objectives through partnership working with Police and Community Safety Partnerships.
- 12.5 There are strong links with housing functions, particularly in relation to provision of safe accommodation, homelessness prevention, and move-on pathways. Effective partnership working with district and borough councils is essential.
- 12.6 Delivery relies on close collaboration with key partners including NHS/ICB, Police, OPCC, and the voluntary and community sector. This aligns with the statutory duty to collaborate introduced through the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and strengthened through the Victims and Prisoners Act 2024.

13 Governance

- 13.1 The proposed decision maintains robust governance arrangements for the management of Domestic Abuse Act and Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant funding for 2027–29. It provides continuity of oversight through the extension of the existing framework and contractual arrangements, ensuring stability of service delivery while wider recommissioning progresses
- 13.2 The proposed decision seeks to achieve this through:
- (a) The extension and update of the Domestic Abuse Act Framework to 31 March 2029, providing the overarching governance structure for the allocation, management and monitoring of grant funding in line with statutory duties and strategic priorities;
 - (b) The time-limited extension of key services commissioned under the Framework, specifically the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) and the Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS), to 31 January 2028, ensuring continuity of provision while enabling a compliant and well-managed transition to future arrangements;
 - (c) The delegation of authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Leader and relevant Corporate Directors, to

update the Framework to reflect consolidated funding arrangements and to make minor operational amendments within the scope of approved criteria, grant conditions and statutory duties

- (d) Delegating authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with relevant Corporate Directors, to administer funding and progress activity under the Framework, including Officer Decisions where appropriate
- (e) Delegating authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to take all necessary steps to implement this decision, including entering into contracts and other legal agreements
- (f) Delegating authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with relevant Corporate Directors, to approve contract variations to KIDAS and SASS, for additional funded activity, subject to compliance with procurement legislation and no impact on the council's base budget.

13.3 As Public Health is a funding partner contributing to the KIDAS contract, the relevant Cabinet Member and the Director of Public Health, as accountable budget holders, have been appropriately consulted in the development of this decision.

13.4 All decisions made under the Framework will be subject to appropriate corporate oversight, including consultation with the Leader, Chief Executive and relevant Corporate Directors. Activity must comply with approved Framework criteria, grant conditions and the council's governance requirements. Any material changes to service scope, delivery model or financial commitment will be subject to further approval in accordance with the council's Key Decision process.

14 Conclusions

14.1 The proposed extension of the Domestic Abuse Act Framework and associated service contracts (KIDAS and SASS) provides a stable, compliant, and strategically aligned approach to meeting Kent County Council's statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

14.2 By aligning the Framework with confirmed multi-year grant funding and extending well performing key contracts until January 2028, the council will ensure continuity of support for victims and their children, maintain system stability during a period of organisational change, and enable a robust and well-managed

recommissioning process.

- 14.3 This approach mitigates risks of service disruption, supports effective partnership working, and allows sufficient time for collaborative development of the new Kent Integrated Family Domestic Abuse Service (KIFDAS). It also ensures that all activity remains compliant with grant conditions, procurement regulations, and local governance requirements.
- 14.4 The recommended actions will deliver clear benefits for service users, partners, and the wider system, supporting Kent's ambitions for prevention, partnership, and system reform, while maintaining financial sustainability and safeguarding statutory responsibilities throughout the transition to the upcoming new service.

15 Recommendation(s):

The Leader of the Council is asked to

1. **APPROVE** extension and update of the framework arrangements, to reflect consolidated funding arrangements, set out in the report for ongoing management of the DA Act Funding 2027-29.
2. **APPROVE** the extension of Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) including Referral, Assessment and Triage service and services delivered under contract SS 16041 up until 31 January 2028 (10 months).
3. **APPROVE** the extension of Safe Accommodation Support Service (SASS) contract SC 220255 up until 31 January 2028 (10 months).
4. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health to, in consultation with the Leader, Corporate Director for Finance, Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, to revise and update the Domestic Abuse Framework as necessary to reflect the consolidated Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant funding arrangements, and to make minor operational amendments, provided these remain within scope of the approved Framework criteria, associated grant terms and the council's statutory duties.
5. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health to, in consultation with the Corporate Director for Adult Social Care and Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, where applicable depending on affected portfolios, to administer any further Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse 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.

6. **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Chief Executive, to take all necessary actions to implement this decision, including but not limited to negotiating, finalising the terms of and entering into contracts or other legal agreements, and to approve variations to existing contracts (including KIDAS and SASS) to incorporate additional or enhanced
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16. Background Documents

- [Decision - 23/00060 - Domestic Abuse Act Framework 2023-25](#)
- [Decision - 25/00033 - Extension of Domestic Abuse Act Framework and KIDAS contract](#)
- [Domestic abuse - Needs Assessment](#)
- [Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy 2024-29](#)
- [Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant Determination 2026 to 2027 - GOV.UK](#)

17. Appendices

- Appendix A – Planned DA Act Framework activity.
- Appendix B – KIDAS Funding Partners
- Exempt Appendix C – Confidential Legal Advice related to the Extension of KIDAS and SASS Contracts
- Appendix D – EQIA - Domestic Abuse Framework
- Appendix E – EQIA – KIDAS Extension
- Appendix F – EQIA – SASS Extension

18. Contact details

Report Author: Rachel Westlake	Director: Dr Anjan Ghosh
Job title: Senior Commissioner	Job title: Director of Public Health
Telephone number: 03000 413106	Telephone number: 03000 412633
Email address: Rachel.westlake@kent.gov.uk	Email address: anjan.ghosh@kent.gov.uk