

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

Executive

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Christine McInnes - Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education

DECISION NO:

OD-26-00038

For publication

Subject matter: Rights, Representation and Advocacy – Approval to exercise the final one-year extension option in accordance with the authority delegated under Key Decision 21/00093.

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

Integrated Children's Services

Member decision 21/00093

INTRANET: [Decision - 21/00093 - Representation, Rights and Advocacy \(RRA\) Services - procurement of a new service](#)

Decision:

As Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, I have consulted with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services and I agree to:

Extend the Rights, Representation and Advocacy (RRA) Service Contract (**SC220039**) by one final year, as allowed under the terms of the contract.

This decision is made on the basis that the RRA Contract delivered by Young Lives Foundation contributes to the support of young people in Kent to understand their rights and to be able to express their wishes when decisions are being made that affect them. Kent County Council has a statutory obligation to provide the elements included in this service.

Reason(s) for decision:

To enact the final of the two-year allowable extensions as detailed in Section 6.2 of the [Executive Decision Report](#). The contract is performing well against agreed requirements and the extension is permitted under the original contract terms. Extending the contract will maintain continuity of a service that supports Kent County Council's statutory duties.

Financial Implications: The contract commenced on 1 October 2022 for a term of three years, with the option to extend for a further two years on a one-year plus one-year basis.

The final year cost is £284,680, giving a total contract spend of £1,319,880.

This service is budgeted from the Council's General Fund. Spend is reported within the revenue budget against the Key service line Children in Need – Care and Support (payments and commissioned services).

Legal implications: The Rights, Representation and Advocacy contract fulfils the Local Authorities following Statutory obligations

- **Advocacy for Children in Care and for Care Leavers.** Children assessed as being in need, or need safe plans to be made for them, and those subject to a child protection plan under the Children Act 1989.
- **Independent Visitor's for Children in Care** Children Act 1989.
- **Independent Persons for Stage 2 complaints** under the Children Act 1989.
- **Appropriate Adults Service for young people**, detained at Police Custody Suites who require support. There is a statutory obligation for young people to have access to an AA regardless of the time of day under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984.
- **Accompanying Adults Service** for the purpose of age assessment interviews for unaccompanied asylum-seeking children, Children Act 1989.

Commercial and Procurement Division have advised on the validity of the requested extension. The one-year extension is permissible under the terms of the contract.

Equality Implications: An EQIA was completed for the re-procurement, this has been reviewed and the extension does not show any adverse effect to the protected characteristics.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

The Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services has been consulted and agrees to proceed with the one-year extension.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

- Give notice and end the contract on 30 September 2026. This was discounted as this would mean KCC failing its statutory obligations

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: I have consulted with the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services Paul Webb

Christine McGinnes

10 September 2026

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signed

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date