

EQIA Submission – ID Number

Section A

EQIA Title

Mental Health Assessment recommissioning

Responsible Officer

Renee Lozanova - AH AIC

Approved by (Note: approval of this EqlA must be completed within the EqlA App)

Ben Campbell - AH AIC

Type of Activity

Service Change

No

Service Redesign

No

Project/Programme

No

Commissioning/Procurement

Commissioning/Procurement

Strategy/Policy

No

Details of other Service Activity

No

Accountability and Responsibility

Directorate

Adult Social Care and Health

Responsible Service

Adults Commissioning

Responsible Head of Service

Ben Campbell - AH AIC

Responsible Director

Helen Gillivan - AH CD

Aims and Objectives

The objective of this activity is the recommissioning of the Mental Health Assessment Service.

The Mental Health Assessment Service ensures that the Council can meet its requirement to ensure that a person subject to Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) has received statutory Mental Health Assessments in a timely manner so as not to delay any outcome issued by the Supervisory Body.

The current contract has been extended until 30 April 2027 to allow recommissioning to be carried out.

In scope of this activity is:

- Provision of Mental Health Assessment Services for DoLS as required by the Mental Capacity Act 2005.
- Delivery of statutory Mental Health assessments by Section 12 approved doctors.
- Maintaining service continuity and quality to support Kent County Council's statutory duties.
- Monitoring and adapting to national legislative changes (e.g., LPS implementation).

The purpose of this EqlA is to ascertain the impact and identify opportunities, that the recommissioning of

the Mental Health assessment service may have on protected characteristics should any changes to charging be agreed.

Section B – Evidence

Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?

Yes

It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?

Yes

Is there national evidence/data that you can use?

No

Have you consulted with stakeholders?

Yes

Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?

The groups of stakeholders who have been consulted and engaged with to date include:

KCC Internal Teams:

The following internal teams were consulted with. De-identified data was also obtained from these stakeholders, and this data was used to inform the summaries in this report:

- Adults Commissioning Team
- Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) County Team
- Commercial and Procurement Team

The demographic data used to complete this report has been provided through:

- Performance Team (KCC)
- Office of National Statistics (ONS) Census 2021

Included in the dataset are those who have made contact with or who are currently engaging with adult social care services. The total number of people, as of January 2026 is 35,503; 7,256 of which are / have been supported by DoLS services (excluding Community DoLS). This data is being used as a representation of the total Kent population.

Other Local Authorities:

The team has engaged with the South East regional DoLS network.

External Partners:

The following partners were spoken to. The conversations with these partners also informed the opportunities and options in this report:

- South East Memory Assessment Services Limited – current provider of the service

Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?

No

Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?

Yes

Section C – Impact

Who may be impacted by the activity?
Service Users/clients Service users/clients
Staff No
Residents/Communities/Citizens Residents/communities/citizens
Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?
Yes
Details of Positive Impacts
Demographic Overview of Individuals Accessing DoLS Services in Kent (January 2026) As of March 2026, a total of 7,182 Individuals are accessing Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) services in Kent. The demographic breakdown of these Individuals is as follows: Gender Of those accessing the service, 64% are female and 36% are male. Age The majority of Individuals supported by DoLS services are over the age of 65, accounting for 85% of the total population accessing the service. Ethnicity In terms of ethnicity, 89.3% of Individuals are within the white ethnic group. A further 8.4% have not stated their ethnicity. Marital Status Regarding marital status, 21.7% of the Individuals are married or in a registered civil partnership, while 11.3% have not had their marital status recorded. Sexual Orientation With respect to sexual orientation, 91.3% identify as heterosexual, and 7.9% have not disclosed this information. Religion Religious affiliation among Individuals accessing the service is as follows: 32% identify as Christian, 21.4% state they have no religion, and 34.6% have not disclosed their religion. Carers Of those accessing the service, 1.6% are identified as carers. Positive impacts of the Protected groups: - Defined hours and robust administration for assessor allocation will provide reliable access for people, including those with caring responsibilities or mobility needs. - Quarterly KPI monitoring will give transparency and would enable early remedial action, improving lived experience across protected groups. - The recommissioned service would set and monitor strict timelines (confirmation within one working day; assessment completion within contractual timescales), reducing anxiety and uncertainty for Individuals and carers by expediting lawful DoLS decisions.

- A robust specification will be co-designed alongside robust contract management processes, to ensure a high quality and safe service.
- Throughout the commissioning and procurement process the activity will ensure inclusive methods are used to communicate and engage with individuals.

Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions

19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age

Are there negative impacts for age?

No

Details of negative impacts for Age

Not Applicable

Mitigating Actions for Age

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age

Not Applicable

20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability

Are there negative impacts for Disability?

No

Details of Negative Impacts for Disability

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Disability

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Disability

Not Applicable

21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex

Are there negative impacts for Sex

No

Details of negative impacts for Sex

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Sex

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for Sex

Not Applicable

22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

No

Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender

Not Applicable

23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race

Are there negative impacts for Race

No

Negative impacts for Race

Not Applicable

Mitigating actions for Race

Not Applicable

Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race

Not Applicable
24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief
No
Negative impacts for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Religion and belief
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief
Not Applicable
25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
No
Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation
Not Applicable
26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
No
Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity
Not Applicable
27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
No
Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships
Not Applicable
28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
No
Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable
Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities
Not Applicable