

## ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

\* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic

**\*Subject of Proposed Review:-**

The provision of emergency assistance for Kent residents without immediate access to money

**\*Reason for the Review:-**

(see Note 1 below)

This is an issue which is generating a great deal of media and public interest and concern, with particular reference to the increasing need to make use of foodbanks. This scale of poverty has an impact on the wellbeing of families, and the school-readiness of children, and is a driver of demand for county services.

**\*Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-**

Whether the county council's provision of emergency assistance is cost-effective, that is providing effective help to as many residents in urgent need of that help within the limits of the budget

Whether better coordination of the work of all agencies/organisations that provide emergency assistance to residents of Kent could ensure that as many people in genuine need as possible are helped in this way.

**\*Scope of the review:-**

\*The work of the Kent Support and Assistance Service, including 1) how cases referred to it are prioritised and 2) the effectiveness of the collaboration between the Service and referring agencies

\*the extent and coverage of other providers of emergency assistance in Kent, and their criteria for awarding help

\*the impact of 'food poverty' on the demand for county council services

**\*Purpose and objectives of the Review:-**

\*To explore whether the Kent Support and Assistance Service, in collaboration with referring agencies, can improve its service

\*To explore whether it is possible to improve coordination of the provision by all relevant organisations of emergency assistance in Kent, in order to maximise cost-effectiveness, and the numbers of residents in genuine need who receive this assistance.

**Proposer of the review - (Please print name and sign)**

.....MARTIN VYE.....

**(Submitted by email 19/10/14)**

**To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)**

**Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2014/16? (see Note 2 below)**

Yes. The work and future of the Kent Support and Assistance Service (KSAS) is already being considered and has been subject to reports and discussion at the Adult Social Care & Health Cabinet Committee. Additionally the council's wider support to socially excluded groups is also being considered by the same committee.

The Cabinet Member will have to take the decision on the future of KSAS before this review could report and is already receiving the input of cross party, backbench members on this through the cabinet committee.

**Will the review support the achievement of "Facing the Challenge"? If yes, please identify aim(s) and give details:-**

If the timing had worked the review would potentially have helped the council identify its priorities for this group of people and the role of non-statutory services in addressing needs that otherwise may create a greater demand for statutory services.

**How will the review contribute to corporate objectives and priorities?**

See above

**How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?**

See above.

**How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?**

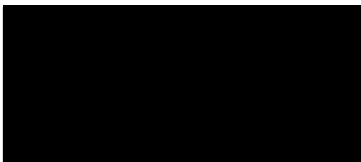
In the short term it will not. By the time that the review could be completed and is able to report the substantive key decision on the future of KSAS and how it, or any successor should operate, will already have to have been taken.

**Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please give details:**

The key decision on the future of KSAS needs to be taken and be implemented by the 31 March 2015.

**Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Corporate Director:-**

**Portfolio Holder's Signature:-**



Strategic Director's Signature:-

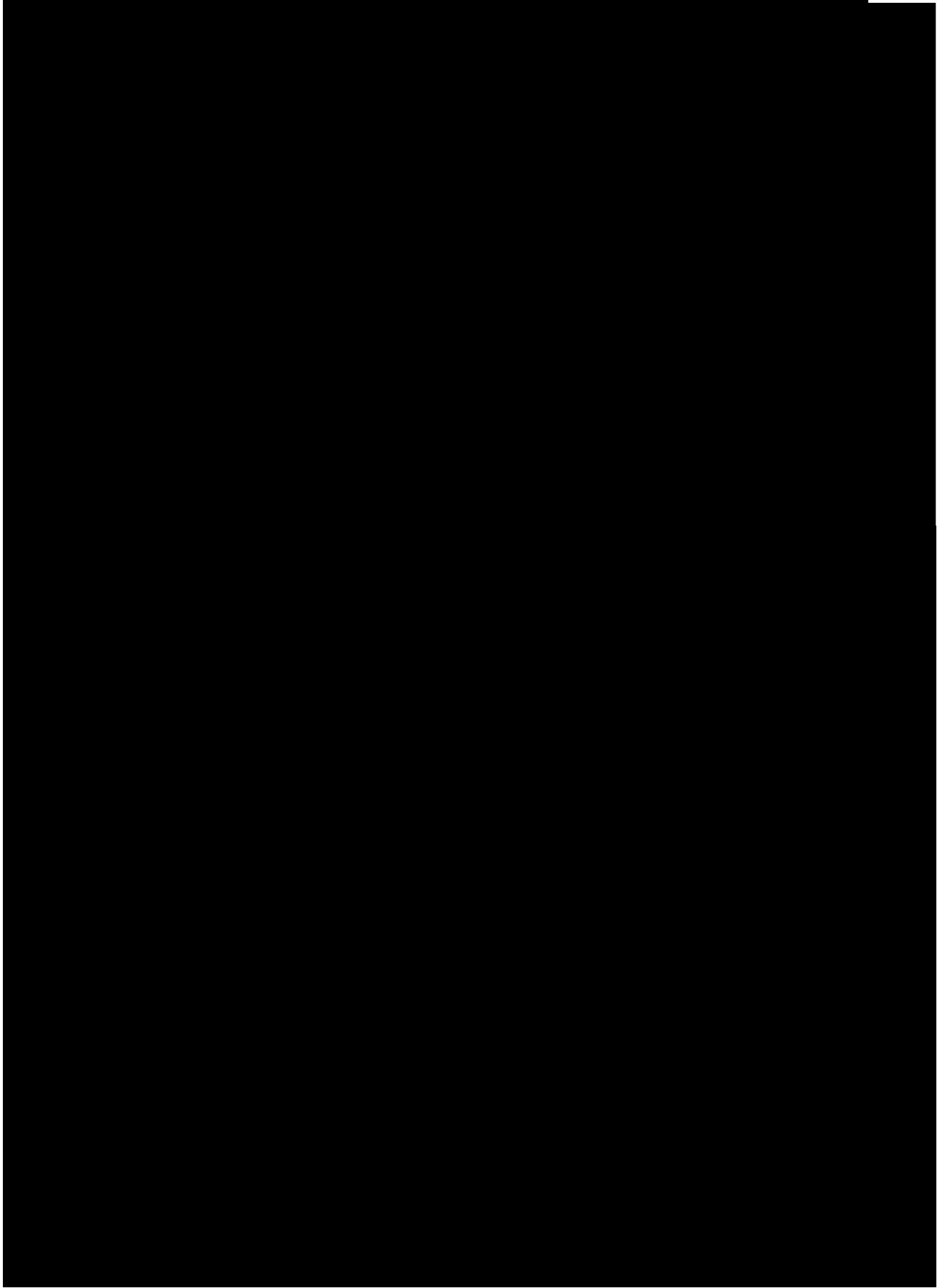
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Contact Officer:-

DANIEL WALLER

Date:-

4/12/14

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