

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

15/00102

For publication

Key decision

Affects all electoral divisions and expenditure of more than £1million

Subject: COMMISSIONED SERVICES FOR ADULT CARERS OF VULNERABLE ADULTS

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I:

- **AGREE** to the re-commissioning of short breaks/sitting services for adult carers of vulnerable adults
- **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director for Social Care, Health and Wellbeing or other nominated officer to authorise the letting of the contract.

Any Interest Declared when the Decision was taken: None expected.

Reason(s) for decision:

The short breaks service makes a significant contribution to the health and wellbeing of adult carers and supports the County Council to fulfil its duties towards carers under the Care Act 2014.

The short breaks contract supports adults who care for other vulnerable adults, including older people, people with a learning disability or people with mental health problems. It is jointly funded by Health and Social Care and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and has been in place for three years.

The contract is coming to an end on 30 April 2016 but funding has been identified to re-commission the service for a further two years until 31 March 2018.

Financial Implications:

The current contract value is £1.5m per annum which includes a contribution of £700k per annum from Clinical Commissioning Groups. The contract will be re-commissioned for two years from 1 May 2016 to 31 March 2018.

Legal Implications:

The Care Act 2014 makes clear that carers have the same rights as those they care for and should have access to the support they need. Local Authorities must offer carers an assessment based on the appearance of need and have a duty to meet unmet eligible needs. Local authorities must also provide or arrange services that help prevent people developing needs for care and support or delay people deteriorating so that they would need ongoing care and support.

Equality Implications:

None

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 3 December 2015. Officers introduced the report which asked the Cabinet Committee to consider and endorse, or make recommendations to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health with regard to the re-commissioning of short breaks for adult carers of vulnerable adults in Kent for two years until 31 March 2018.

- Officers said: the short breaks contract was jointly funded by Health and Kent County Council; the contract had been in place for three years; and that funding had been identified to re-commission the service.
- In response to questions, officers said respite care was provided for vulnerable adults away from their homes and was commissioned in conjunction with clinical commissioning groups. This contract referred to short break services provided for carers in the home.
- During the discussion Members acknowledged the valuable role played by carers. It was also confirmed that the provision of a short breaks services was a statutory requirement.

The Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee resolved that the proposed Cabinet Member decision to re-commission the short breaks for adult carers of vulnerable adults and to delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Social Care Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to authorise the letting of the contract be endorsed.

Although the services being delivered will remain the same engagement is planned through Carers' forums and at provider events.

Any alternatives considered:

Allow the contracts to end. However evidence shows that 31% of residential or nursing home admissions are caused by carer breakdown. A reduction in community based preventative services is likely to result in increasing pressure on carers which in turn is likely to lead to an increase in residential, nursing care or hospital admissions.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:



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signed

7 JANUARY 2016

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date