

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Peter Oakford
Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

DECISION NO:

16-00052

For publication

Key decision Affects more than two Electoral Divisions and expenditure over £1m

Subject: CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services, I agree:

a) Kent County Council will enter into such legal agreements that are necessary and appropriate to enable the joint operational delivery of this project between KCC, West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group and the Provider for the purpose of jointly procuring a mental health service for children and young people including children in care and integrated provision within the health needs pupil referral units, and

b) to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing or other nominated officer to undertake the necessary actions to enter into the agreements.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council and the seven Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) across Kent have been working together since early 2015 to deliver a new whole system of support to improve children's mental health. The current contract is due to end on 31 March 2017. A new service will be procured by West Kent CCG as the lead commissioner on behalf of all CCGs and KCC which will commence on 1 April 2017.

Financial Implications:

Funding for this procurement will be c£2.7m per year with Specialist Children's Services committing £1.29m per year and Early Help and Preventative Services committing £1.44m per year.

Legal Implications:

West Kent CCG will be the lead commissioner on behalf of all Kent CCGs and KCC. West Kent CCG will enter into the contract with the successful provider following the procurement process. KCC, West Kent CCG and all the CCGs will be required to enter legal agreements to govern the relationship between the Council, the CCG and the Provider.

Equality Implications:

An equalities impact assessment has been completed for the KCC element of the mental health service. Actions noted within this are; (i) to ensure that there is data recording on the protected characteristics so that in future the uptake of the service by all groups of children and young people can be monitored and (ii) there will be service user involvement in the procurement process

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The issue was discussed at the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 5 July 2016

1) Carol Infanti, Commissioning Officer, introduced the report on the commissioning and procurement of the child and young people's mental health service. She explained that this report sought the Committee's endorsement to formalise the next step of the joint procurement process and enter into legal agreements with the CCGs.

- 2) Carol gave the following information in response to questions raised by the Committee:-
- i) that she, colleagues in the Legal department and CCG colleagues did not foresee any problems in getting the legal agreements in place by the proposed timeline;
 - ii) it was also confirmed a lot of work had been done on the performance framework and that any potential provider would be asked to share with Kent County Council that performance data;
 - iii) that staff employed by the successful provider would be expected to work alongside current Kent County Council staff in Early Help Units; and
 - iv) in response to a concern raised, Mrs Infanti explained that the contract would be held by West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group. However, Kent County Council would have an agreement in place that would ensure there were clauses in the contract in regards to performance targets for the provider. This would involve Kent Performance Indicators having to be followed closely by the provider.
- 3) Andrew Ireland, Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, reassured the Committee that the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee had been following the progress of the commissioning and procurement of the child and young people's mental health service in depth.
- 4) The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee resolved to endorse the proposed decision:-
- a) that Kent County Council will enter into such legal agreements that are necessary and appropriate to enable the joint operational delivery of this project between the County Council, West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group and the Provider for the purpose of jointly procuring a mental health service for children and young people, including children in care, and integrated provision within the health needs pupil referral units; and
 - b) to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to enter into the agreements.

Any alternatives considered: None

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

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signed

25.7.16
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date