

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

Graham Gibbens  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

**DECISION NO:**

16/00014

**For publication****Key decision:**

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

**Subject: Commissioning of Integrated Domestic Abuse Support Services**

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I agree to:

1. Commission an integrated domestic abuse support service across the county of Kent and
2. Delegate to the Corporate Director for Social Care Health and Wellbeing or other suitable nominated officer authority to implement that decision

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Current arrangements for the provision of domestic abuse services are often short term and services are not well networked together. There is duplication in either geography or function whilst elsewhere gaps exist

Bringing together service provision in a more efficient, cost effective and sustainable manner will improve services for those experiencing domestic abuse intervening earlier and reducing harm to both adults and children and will enable a more balanced provision across the county, address the inequity of provision and afford better value for money by reducing duplication

**Financial Implications**

The proposed amount to be spent on the newly commissioned service in Kent is £2.3m.

The Council's financial commitment to adult domestic abuse provision will be £2.04m. This will be supplemented by the contributions from partner agencies to swell the pooled pot to £2.3m.

**Legal implications**

Legal agreement between funding partners is currently being designed and legal advice is being sought.

**Equality Implications**

An equality impact assessment for the commissioning of an integrated domestic abuse service has been completed. The reshaped service provides an opportunity to better serve the needs of those from diverse and hard to reach communities and those with protected characteristics.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 11 October 2016.

*Ms M Anthony, Commissioning and Development Manager, was in attendance for this item.*

*Mrs A D Allen declared an interest in this item as an observer at 'Choices', North West Kent Women's Aid.*

1. Ms Anthony introduced the report and, with Mr Ireland, responded to comments and questions from Members, as follows:-

- a) the increase in the number of recorded cases of domestic abuse was due partly to raised awareness and partly to an increased confidence and willingness to report incidents. To have a reliable overview of patterns across the county would make it easier to target resources and ensure that services covered all areas evenly;
- b) the need for alternative accommodation for families escaping domestic abuse was wholeheartedly supported. Individual local councils sometimes struggled to provide such accommodation, so an holistic county-wide approach was needed;
- c) cases of domestic abuse among elderly couples would sometimes come to light when domiciliary carers went into their home as part of a general care package. Patterns of abusive behaviour may have become ingrained over a lifetime and become accepted as the norm; and
- d) the County Council would work with the Police and Crime Commissioner to shape its approach to service provision, and would work in close partnership with other organisations to ensure that their respective service provisions were mutually compatible. The Council had agreed with its partners that it would retain overall control, management and monitoring of countywide service delivery, to ensure that service provision continued to be appropriate and consistent across the county.

2. The Cabinet Member, Mr G K Gibbens, directed Members' attention to the timing of the tendering process required to serve a contract start date of 1 April 2017, which meant that the key decision to award the contract would need to be taken between meetings of this committee. He offered to provide an additional briefing to any Member who wished to have one. There was general acceptance around the table that this would be the way forward, with an additional special meeting of this committee being convened if necessary.

3. RESOLVED that:-

- a) the funding for domestic abuse services from 2017/18 be noted; and
- b) the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to commission integrated services for domestic abuse support and to delegate to the Corporate Director of Social Care Health and Wellbeing, or other suitable nominated officer, authority to implement that decision, be endorsed, taking into account the comments made by Members, set out above.

**Any alternatives considered:**

None

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

NONE



signed

1. NOVEMBER 2016  
date