

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

Peter Oakford

Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

**DECISION NO:**

16/00151

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

The award of the contract for the Young Carers Service is regarded as a key decision as it affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions and involves expenditure of > £1million over the life of the contract.

**Award of Contract for the Young Carers Service****Decision:**

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

Retrospectively make the award of the contract for the Young Carers Service to IMAGO COMMUNITY with the total lifetime value (i.e. 36 + 12 months) of **£1,316,550.73**, as set out in the Approval to Award Report (attached as Appendix 1 of item D1 on this agenda)

I further delegate the extension of the contract after three years to the Corporate Director, Patrick Leeson (as Corporate Director for Education and Young People's Services), in consultation with the Cabinet Member

**Governance:**

The Executive Scheme of Delegation for Officers set out in Appendix 2 Part 4 of the Constitution (and the directorate schemes of sub-delegation made thereunder) provides the governance pathway for the implementation of this decision by officers as it assumes at 1.9 of the scheme that once a Member-level decision has been taken, the implementation of that decision will normally be delegated to officers, so that multiple Member decisions are not required in respect of the same matter. In this instance, the Commissioning Officer will be the lead officer seeking to ensure that all such steps as are necessary to implement the decision are undertaken.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

The Early Help Commissioning Intentions for 2016/17 recognise that a new Young Carers Service could play a critical role in strengthening open access services and support for young people, thereby reducing demand for more intensive, specialist and costly services. The Commissioning Intentions outlined the Council's intention to commission a new Young Carers Service to identify, assess and support young carers. The Young Carers Service should increase awareness and the identification of young carers and address the complex personal and social needs for young carers and improve their quality of life.

Furthermore Council has a statutory obligation to provide for support for young carers. Under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Care Act 2014, Local Authorities must 'take reasonable steps to identify the extent to which there are young carers within their area who have needs for support' and are responsible for 'assessing whether a young carer within their area has needs for

support and, if so, what those needs are'.

Following an open tender procurement exercise, the authority to award the Young Carers Service contract was delegated to Peter Oakford as Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services. However this decision was outside of the Education and Young Peoples Services Cabinet Committee and therefore a formal record of the decision to delegate authority to Peter Oakford is not available.

Since the 01 May 2016 the contract has been in place and has been delivered in full. Imago has been providing direct support to young carers and has also undertaken training and workforce development in line with the service specification. The contractor has been paid monthly in arrears as specified for the delivery of the contract

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The proposed decision will be discussed by the Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee on 17 January 2017 and the outcome of that meeting included in the decision paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign when taking the decision.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

None. An open tender exercise was undertaken to procure the Young Carers Service in line with the Procurement Plan agreed at the Procurement Board of the 25 November 2015

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

.....  
signed

.....  
date