

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

Graham Gibbens  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

**DECISION NO:**

17/00030c

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

Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions and expenditure of more than £1m

**Subject:** Community Support Services – Supporting Independence Service contract continuation or variation through mutual negotiation

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I:

- a) **AGREE** to continue service provision on the existing, or varied, terms and conditions through to 31 May 2019 and for other contracted providers where mutual negotiation can be agreed, to award varied interim contracts through to 31 May 2019;
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision; and
- c) **AUTHORISE** officers to commence market engagement in readiness for the full procurement process, where required.

**Reason(s) for decision:**

Given the freedoms set out in the Care Act 2014 since these contracts started and the council's Strategy for Adult Social Care, Your life, your well-being, there is now an opportunity to move to greater integration with health services. To achieve this it is desirable to continue these services' contracts to a single end date of 31 May 2019.

This will help achieve the corporate objectives of:

**Strategic Outcome**

Older and vulnerable residents are safe and supported with choices to live independently

**Supporting Outcomes**

- Those with long term conditions are supported to manage their conditions through access to good quality care and support
- People with mental health issues and dementia are assessed and treated earlier and are supported to live well
- Families and carers of vulnerable and older people have access to the advice, information and support they need
- Older and vulnerable residents feel socially included
- More people receive quality care at home avoiding unnecessary admissions to hospital and care homes
- The health and social care system works together to deliver high quality community services
- Residents have greater choice and control over the health and social care services they receive

**Financial Implications**

The total annual value of the proposed contract continuations for Supporting Independence Service is £44.2m, however for the full period requested this totals £89.1m. It covers services for people in the day time and, for some, overnight. The amount of people receiving services for day support is 1,683 and 581 overnight.

The activity of some of these services is similar in approach to other community support services commissioned by the County Council in that it is delivered in people's own homes to support, maintain or improve their independence or wellbeing or in supported and shared accommodation.

**Equality Implications**

An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed for the new service design as part of the Transformation Programme. For this arrangement, service users would receive continuity in service provision, pending any planned activity for review.

**Legal Implications**

There are significant inherent legal implications from this approach. Legal advice has been sought which is legally privileged and therefore attached as an exempt appendix to the recommendation report.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 9 June 2017.

Mr Lobban introduced the item and explained that this proposed continuation was also part of phase three of the transformation agenda, and was being presented for the same reasons as the Homecare service. The Supporting Independence Service was also affected by the same workforce issues as set out above. It was proposed that the County Council continue to contract with its current providers until May 2019, at which time the remodelled services would be ready to re-tender. This delay would allow time to tackle the workforce issues. This issue was also the subject of a pilot scheme currently running in Canterbury, working with service users to help them identify and set achievable goals and to monitor their progress, and to look at how services could best be integrated with those of the NHS. Mr Lobban explained that the use of Canterbury for both pilot schemes was coincidental and that projects were not area-specific. When required, a pilot would be allocated to whichever of the four transformation teams was able to run it, and the Canterbury team happened to be doing the two mentioned.

RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, to:-

- a) agree to continue service provision on the existing, or varied, terms and conditions through to 31 May 2019, and, for other contracted providers, where mutual negotiation can be agreed, to award varied interim contracts through to 31 May 2019;
- b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision; and
- b) authorise officers to commence market engagement in readiness for the full procurement process, where required,

be endorsed.

**Any alternatives considered:**

None

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

signed

15 JUNE 2017

date