

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

DECISION NO:
16/00137

For publication

Key decision

Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions, and savings of more than £1m

Subject: Changes to funding arrangements of housing related support and community alarms in sheltered housing.

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I propose to:

- a) **WORK** in collaboration with current providers to explore and secure alternative funding models, enabling the gradual withdrawal or reduction of the council's contribution towards housing related support and community alarms in sheltered housing by end of March 2018; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the actions necessary to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The government's consultation on 'Funding for supported housing' ended in February 2017. This consultation is the first step towards creation of a new funding mechanism for supported housing based on integration of health and social care on a regional basis, encompassing a broad spectrum ranging from some housing management activities to elements of healthcare. Aspects of Housing Benefit will be devolved to local level from 2019/20, amounting to £2.12bn, predominantly to fund these activities. This fund will be ring-fenced and set on the basis of current projections of future need.

In preparation for the proposed changes, the necessary devolution of funding needs to be met. Many of the activities in sheltered housing can be funded in this way. The transitional funding arrangements must take place in tandem with withdrawal of KCC's contribution to these services to avoid duplication.

The transition of appropriate costs to Housing Benefit is the only way to ensure that the devolved funding is considered appropriately and that future funding of supported housing in Kent continues to be sustainable.

Financial Implications

The financial impact associated with the proposed decision will be set out in detail in the recommendation report which supports the executive decision and this will be subject to the outcomes of a stakeholder engagement exercise.

The implementation of this decision will help to deliver the council's Medium Term Financial Plan 2017-20.

Equality Implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken. The impact on groups affected will be minimal, and will be carefully managed and mitigated.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications of the suggested action, subject to standard termination clauses within the specified contracts.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 20 July 2017 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

Any alternatives considered:

N/A

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

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signed

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date