

From: Anu Singh, Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health

To: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

Decision Number: 17/00131

Subject **INTERIM CONTRACTS FOR THE PROVISION OF CARERS SERVICES**

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: Referenced within Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee Report Older People and People Living with Dementia Core Offer - Update 23 November 2017
Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 9 March 2018

Future Pathway of Paper: Cabinet member decision

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This paper seeks a decision on the implementation of Interim Contracts for the period April 2018 – March 2019, to enable the alignment of Carers Commissioning with broader Wellbeing and Resilience Commissioning (see past paper).

Recommendation: The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care is asked to:

- a) **AGREE** the implementation of Interim contracts for the provision of Carers' Services with Carers Organisation (Carers' Assessment and Support Organisations and Crossroads) which are jointly commissioned with the seven Kent Clinical Commissioning Groups for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, with the option to extend for up to 6 months at the end of that period, to enable continuation of services to meet statutory requirements and to align the Carers Offer with the Wellbeing and Resilience Preventative Offer; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision and, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care agree to utilise the option to extend the contract at the appropriate time should it be necessary for the successful alignment of services

1. **Introduction** This paper provides an update on the commissioning of Commissioned Services for Adult Carers of Vulnerable Adults for 2018/19.

1.2. The Kent Carers Contracts and Grants are jointly commissioned with the 7 Kent Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The contracts awarded to the Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) providers listed below were let to run

from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2018 and to cover the whole of Kent and the grant is historic:

Provider	Grant/ Contract	Contract/Grant Values 2017/18	Health Contribution 2017/18
Crossroads	Grant	£1,767,800*	£194,300
Crossroads	Contract	£1,385,300	£585,300
Involve Kent	Contract	£596,300	£173,100
Carers First	Contract	£1,275,100	£229,800
East Kent Carers Consortium	Contract	£2,378,400	£849,700

* This figure includes Volcare and Carers First transfers

1.3. The following papers are associated with Carers and the Wellbeing offer and should be read in conjunction with this report:

- Contract Monitoring – Commissioned Services for Adult Carers of Vulnerable Adults is associated with this paper updating Cabinet Committee on the current Contract and Grant performance
- Older People and People Living with Dementia Core Offer - Update 23 November 2017 – Decision No 17/00062 recommended the alignment of a number of service offers (Carers/Older People/Sensory and Physical Disability) to create one, more connected, Wellbeing and Resilience offer

2. KCC's Voluntary and Community Sector Policy

2.1. KCC's Voluntary and Community Sector Policy articulates the difficulties in monitoring performance of grants and the need to shape the market differently as we move forward. The VCS policy recognises "that we need flexibility in how we fund the VCS in the most appropriate and efficient way" but notes that "the absence of a standardised approach to grant funding within the local authority has created confusion across the sector and a perception that grants were not accessible to all" and that this "made it difficult for us to effectively monitor the impact of our funding".

2.2. The principle of grant funding endorsed by KCC and as laid out in Managing Public Money (HM Treasury 2013) clearly states that "Grants should not be confused with contracts. A public sector organisation funds by grant as a matter of policy, not in return for services provided under contract". The Short Breaks Grant has been awarded for many years, has been consistently awarded to one provider (Crossroads Care) in return for services and does not enable the performance management required. We can no longer grant fund this service and this has been well communicated both with the organisation and sector at a numerous events.

2.3 For Grants to be awarded (*with the exception of Combined Member Grants*) they should meet one of the following criteria:

- Innovation grants:
 - a. payment for innovations/pilots
 - b. payment to help develop new organisations and approaches which will contribute to the Council's strategic outcomes

- Strategic grants:
 - a. payments to organisations of strategic importance given under the local authority's general powers (as provided in the Localism Act 2011) to help the authority to achieve its strategic and supporting outcomes
 - b. Both Strategic and Innovation grants will be awarded over the three year MTFP period and where possible and appropriate will be awarded on a multi-year basis with payments made annually. KCC reserves the right to refuse multiyear agreements where necessary.
 - c. It is not proposed that either Innovation or Strategic grants should have a financial limit but would not normally be over Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) limits
 - d. State Aid: When awarding grants, officers must consider state aid rules and seek advice where necessary.

3. Commissioning Background

- 3.1 On 23 November 2017, the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee endorsed the proposal to align the Older People and People Living with Dementia Core Offer with the commissioning of the Physical Disability Core Offer, the recommissioning of Kent's Carers Services and the commissioning of Sensory Services given the efficiencies this could achieve.

- 3.2 The Committee endorsed this proposal, noting that considering these services together will:
 - improve wellbeing and resilience pathways
 - ensure people get the right support at the right time
 - reduce duplication in delivery
 - support demand management and prevent more formal entry into the health and social care system

- 3.3 The Cabinet Committee has already supported commissioner's proposals to extend the pause placed on the Older People and People Living with Dementia Core Offer by six months to align it with the other commissioning exercises, this paper proposes aligning all Carers' Services, by moving all Carers' spend with the existing providers to Interim Contracts for 2018/19.

- 3.4 In developing the interim contracts we are seeking to improve the interface between the two service types and Adult Social Care, enable improved performance measurement and management and shape the market further to better ready it for the Wellbeing and Resilience work.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 The associated report '*Contract Monitoring – Commissioned Services for Adult Carers of Vulnerable Adults*', of the Committee papers gives feedback on the

recent and current budgetary position, spend and the adjusted budget for 2018/19 to deliver required reductions.

- 4.2 Commissioners will combine the grant and contract budgets for 2018/19 and negotiate the necessary contractual changes in relation to this reduction in budget through the collection and analysis of pricing submissions. Commissioners will agree spend and activity levels through negotiation with providers and ensure the Council has greater activity, spend and cost transparency.
- 4.3 These arrangements will enable effective spot purchasing (if the reduced spending limit of the Carers Contracts is reached) in exceptional circumstances to enable the Council flexibility considering the significant reductions. Additional financial analysis and understanding may enable further efficiencies and/or innovation in service delivery.
- 4.4 It should be noted that the Carers One Off Payments, Health Prescribed support (GP Rapid access and Hospital Discharge Services) and Crisis Short Breaks are all demand led and therefore fluctuate annually. Significant activity will be undertaken to tighten up on activity and eligibility in 2018/19 to better manage this.

5. Equality Implications

- 5.1 None

6 Legal Implications

- 6.1 Provision of this service is a statutory responsibility; interim contracts need to be put in place to continue services whilst we look to align with other preventative services to form the Wellbeing and Resilience Preventative Offer.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Recommendations: The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care is asked to:
- a) **AGREE** the implementation of Interim contracts for the provision of Carers' Services with Carers Organisation (Carers' Assessment and Support Organisations and Crossroads) which are jointly commissioned with the seven Kent Clinical Commissioning Groups for the period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019, with the option to extend for up to 6 months at the end of that period, to enable continuation of services to meet statutory requirements and to align the Carers Offer with the Wellbeing and Resilience Preventative Offer; and
 - b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision and, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care agree to utilise the option to extend the contract at the appropriate time should it be necessary for the successful alignment of services

8. Background Documents

None

9. Lead Officers

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