

## KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

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

**DECISION NO:**  
17/00074

### For publication

### Key decision

Expenditure of more than £1m

### Subject: VULNERABLE ADULTS HOMELESSNESS SERVICE REDESIGN

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I propose to work with commissioners to:

- UNDERTAKE** a procurement exercise for the provision of new generic support services contracts for vulnerable homeless adults, which will commence from 1 October 2018;
- PROCURE** a new short-term contract for offender-specific services from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019 at which point this contract will end; and
- DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, or other nominated officer to, implement the decision.

**Reason(s) for decision:** Homelessness Support Services for vulnerable people helps prevent the need for statutory provision and aligns with Kent County Council's vision in the following ways:

- Tackle disadvantage
- Reduce avoidable demand on health and social care services
- Focus on improving lives by ensuring that every penny spent in Kent is delivering better outcomes for Kent's residents, communities and businesses
- Enable adults in Kent to lead independent lives, safely in their own community

These services relate most to Strategic Outcome 2 and 3 by assisting individuals to maintain housing and employment, facilitating better health and quality of life and supporting people to feel safe and supported through the transition from crisis into independent living.

**Financial Implications:** The planned contract arrangements for a generic Vulnerable Homeless Adults Service are anticipated to run for five years with a total value of £25.5m (£5.1 million per annum), with the option to extend for a further two years at a further cost of £10.2 million.

The maximum value of the six-month short-term offender specific services contracts is £315k.

**Legal Implications:** Under the Children's Act 1989, the Council has a legal duty to provide safe and suitable accommodation for Children in Care and to provide Care Leavers with support in relation to maintaining suitable accommodation.

Every resident over the age of 18 and or their representative can contact the local authority and where there is an appearance of need (as defined in the Care Act 2014) can have access to a needs assessment.

The rehabilitation of offenders is the responsibility of the Community Rehabilitation Company and was created under the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014. Finding suitable accommodation for prison leavers is one of the metrics against which the Community Rehabilitation Company's performance is measured and rewarded. To ensure the current services for offenders are more appropriately

provided the council will work with the Community Rehabilitation Company and the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with this legislation.

**Equality Implications:** A full Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken and will continue to be refined as the commissioning and procurement process progresses

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:** The proposed decision will be discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 18 May 2018 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

Since November, the council has continued to work closely with all sections of the community with an interest to help to shape and plan the future service. As well as one to one meetings with individual organisations, over 30 events have been held to engage with suppliers and stakeholders, including the District and Borough Councils, to garner their views on future provision.

Events have taken place in public spaces such as libraries, Gateways, community hubs and day centres across the county, providing the opportunity to listen to members of the public, community leaders and those who are currently using services. Care has also been taken to meet with vulnerable homeless people who are not using services now, to try to better understand the barriers they face.

Public consultation was undertaken between 22 January 2018 and 4 March 2018. Over 265 responses were received. There was strong support for the council's proposals to move towards an integrated service. The consultation will be published shortly.

**Any alternatives considered:**

**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