

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

18/00041

For publication**Key decision**

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

Subject:

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I agree to work with commissioners to:

- a) **UNDERTAKE** an open tendering process for a Care Navigation and Social Prescribing Contract;
- b) **ESTABLISH** interim arrangements from 1 April 2019 for a minimum period of nine months for the majority of the remaining historic grants to allow for the full tender or appropriate process by 2020 in relation to community-based wellbeing services; and
- c) **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.

Reason(s) for decision: Commissioning a Care Navigation and Social Prescribing Service to support older people, carers and people living with dementia which will improve outcomes for people, reduce duplication and create clearer pathways. There will be an emphasis on aligning community care navigators to GP clusters and MDTs as well as closer working with District and Borough Council Community Teams. The service will be jointly commissioned where possible and coordinated where existing arrangements prevent joint commissioning.

Financial Implications: The proposed Care Navigation and Social Prescribing contract will be funded by ending existing historic grants for Community Care Navigators and ending the contract for Carers Assessment and reinvesting the money into the new contract. Dartford, Gravesham, Swanley and Swale Clinical Commissioning Group have gained agreement to invest £200k and will jointly commission care navigation with adult social care for their locality. It is proposed to increase funding in this Care Navigation Service by £411,242, effectively doubling the number of care navigators commissioned by Adult Social Care and Health. Additional funding will be sourced from ending existing grants and the predicted underspend in the Adult Social Care and Health demand led element of the carers contract, creating a total contract value of £5,931,861 per year (£23,727,444 over four years).

Legal Implications: Given the nature of the current grant agreements, it is likely that TUPE will apply. The specific arrangements established for the impacted organisations will need legal advice, which is being explored. Advice is being sought on the right route for an interim arrangement for 2019-20 for the second stage required in implementing the full Community Based Wellbeing Service.

Equality Implications: An Equality Impact Assessment had been completed and is attached as. The people most likely to be impacted by changes to this service are older people and carers who are the recipients of the current service. The service to this group will continue and because it is a short-term intervention, people are unlikely to experience a change in provider as part of a handover process, although there may need to be a waiting list implemented while transition between providers occurs. Overall the positive impact is likely to outweigh the negative as the service is

more integrated, with reduced duplication of roles and pathways. Increasing investment will enable more people to receive support.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 27 September 2018. Christy Holden (Senior Commissioning Manager) and Sam Sheppard (Senior Commissioner - Community Support) were in attendance for this item.

1. Christy Holden introduced the report which detailed the approach for progressing a Wellbeing and Resilience Strategy with a focus on an integrated Care Navigation and Social Prescribing Service. The report also provided an outline plan to progress to appropriate arrangements for a high number of current grant arrangements. The new arrangements would ultimately ensure full compliance with Kent County Council and national policy.
 - (a) In response to a question, Anne Tidmarsh said that Kent County Council were working closely with the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG) in all areas of Kent. She said that the purpose of the report was to identify how resources could be spread and all of the localities would be surfaced by the new care navigation contract.
 - (b) In response to a question, Sam Sheppard said that the funding in the contract was directly related to salaried posts, therefore while the value of the contract was as stated in the report an annual review would take place to conclude the possibility of an inflationary uplift as part of the Pay and Prices review.
 - (c) In response to a question, Sam Sheppard said that the contract duration would be four years, with an option to extend.
 - (d) In response to a question, Sam Sheppard said that stakeholder engagement was undertaken last year with Kent County Council's providers who provided community-based support, the public and carers, in relation to the core offer for older people, which included engagement relating to a new model of care navigation. Testing had been undertaken and the outcomes of the engagement had been reviewed to ensure that the needs of Kent's residents were met.
 - (e) In response to a question, Sam Sheppard said that organisations with a prominent position in the market often overshadowed the voice of smaller organisations. She said that all of Kent County Council's engagement events were advertised through the Kent Business Portal to ensure that the engagement process was as accessible as possible, the event's information was then added to the engagement pages on Kent County Council's website.
2. Penny Southern said that it was important that front-line staff communicated well with Kent's residents and provided individual's with accurate advice and information.
 - (f) In response to a question, Anne Tidmarsh talked about social prescribing in Kent and said that GPs were keen to offer social prescribing to their patients.
 - (g) In response to a question, Sam Sheppard said that care navigation was a short-term service and said that it was important to ensure that the transfer process was as smooth as possible for service users. She said that colleagues would undertake work through the mobilisation period to mitigate the risk of transfer delays.
 - (h) In response to a question, Sam Sheppard said that in relation to the CCG investment, the contract consisted of two key elements; community navigation, and community navigation for people with carers. She said that the majority of the CCG funding was allocated to

community navigation for carers, and that was jointly commissioned between Adult Social Care and the CCGs. She said that the only investment into the community navigation element of the contract came from Dartford, Gravesend, Swanley and Swale where Kent County Council were jointly commissioning the service for that area.

- (i) In response to a question, Sam Sheppard talked about the positive conversations that had taken place between Kent County Council and the districts in Kent that used a care navigator model, specifically relating to housing related issues.

3. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to:

- (a) undertake an open tendering process for a Care Navigation and Social Prescribing Contract;
- (b) establish interim arrangements from 1 April 2019 for a minimum period of nine months for the majority of the remaining historic grants to allow for the full tender or appropriate process by 2020 in relation to community-based wellbeing services; and
- (c) 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,

be endorsed.

Any alternatives considered: None

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



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signed

9 October 2018
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date

