

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

19/00004

For publication

Key decision: Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions

Subject: MANAGED SERVICE FOR INTERPRETING SERVICES FOR D/DEAF AND DEAFBLIND PEOPLE

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

- a) **APPROVE** the re-provision of interpreting, translation and transcription services for d/Deaf and deafblind people; 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.

Reason(s) for decision: Kent County Council has a statutory responsibility under The Care Act 2014 to meet the needs of people assessed as having eligible needs including meeting the accessible needs and reasonable adjustments for people with sensory impairments. Implementation of a new service model for the provision of interpreting services will ensure all eligible people with hearing impairments, including all d/Deaf, and deafblind people will have equal access to interpreting, translation and transcription services across the county. The proposed service model will improve the quality of service provision for people with hearing impairments and deafblind, therefore increasing their independence and wellbeing.

Financial Implications: Spend within the current contract is £53k per year.

Legal Implications: No legal implications have been identified. TUPE has been reviewed and examined to understand whether there is a requirement to TUPE the Coordinator and/or administrator roles from RAD to KCC; no requirement was found. There is no requirement to TUPE freelance BSL interpreters to KCC.

Equality Implications: An initial Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted. The findings show gaps in data not collected by the existing contractor. However, on examining the information from initial engagement, the assessments show positive outcomes for all people within protected characteristics affected

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 22 January 2019. Ms Palmer (Manager, Sensory Disabilities) and Ms Sheppard (Senior Commissioner) were in attendance for this item.

Ms Palmer introduced the report which set out Kent County Council's statutory responsibility under The Care Act 2014, Equality Act 2010 and the Accessible Information Standard 2016 to deliver interpreting, translation and transcription services for d/Deaf and deafblind people. She said that the current service was delivered through a contract with an external provider, the Royal Association for the Deaf (RAD) and was accessed by other public sector partners. The re-provision proposed to recruit three qualified interpreters and one Coordinator to deliver the core of the interpreting work with additional demand met through a Framework Agreement which had integrated use of Video Remote Interpreting (VRI) and Video Relay Interpreting (VRI) Services.

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

- a) approve the re-provision of interpreting, translation and transcription services for d/Deaf and deafblind people; 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,

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

5 FEBRUARY 2019

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date