Options Appraisal for the CYPMHS Service

| Option | Scope | Funding | Strengths and Opportunities | Weaknesses and Threats |
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| Option 1: Business as Usual Retain the current service model and continue to work with the NHS to improve the contracting arrangements. | Support to Early Help Units Priority assessment of LAC Harmful sexual abuse/post sexual abuse Support to the Kent Health Needs Education Service | £2.65m investment retained in the current contract | No risk of fragmentation to the system. The performance of the contract has improved in some areas. Joint working arrangements would be retained via the Section 76 agreement. No perceived disinvestment in the NHS. | Although performance has improved in the clinical elements of the service, underperformance remains significant in relation to the Early Help interventions. This underperformance risks escalation of need and increased demand on the specialist service. Lack of confidence of best value – no market testing takes place. KCC remains a key stakeholder rather than the lead contract manager. Potential for financial dispute to repeat. |
| Option 2: Re-tender the service Withdraw KCC's investment in the contract and recommission a new | Support to Early Help Units Priority assessment of LAC Harmful sexual abuse/post | A financial envelope of £2.65m would be available to invest into a new service via a competitive tender process | There are several providers who could deliver the non-clinical aspects of the service. KCC would have direct control and influence over the contracting | NELFT are demonstrating strong performance in some aspects of the contract. A clinical provider would need to be retained for the LAC and harmful sexual |

| service bringing potential for a new provider | sexual abuse • Support to the Kent Health Needs Education Service | | and commissioning arrangements. There is an opportunity to align recommissioning with other strategic priorities to drive greater improvement e.g. SEND commissioning and the recommissioning of Early Help services. | abuse/post service abuse services and the market is limited. The market may be further limited as this would be a relatively low value contract. The NHS locally would not support this, due to fragmenting the current system Recommissioning a new service would take time and a new contract is unlikely to be in place before October 2020. Joint commissioning arrangements would cease which goes against the principles of Future in Mind, statutory guidance and the Local Transformation Plan. This approach would likely dismantle the Single Point of Access. |
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| Option 3: Split the investment Refocus the funding for the Support to Early Help Units (£1.2m) and the Kent Health Needs Education Service (£240,000). Retain the current funding for | Retain in the NELFT contract: • Priority assessment of LAC • Harmful sexual abuse/post sexual abuse • Kent Health | Continue to invest £1.257m in the current contract via the Section 76 agreement. A financial envelope of £1.2m would be available to invest into new services. | The strengths outlined in Option 1 (business as usual) would apply for the clinical service provision. This would create the opportunity to align the recommissioning with other strategic priorities | The risk of fragmentation of the system, remains although is limited under this option. Recommissioning a new service would take time and a new contract is unlikely to be in place before October 2020. |

| clinical service provision. | Needs Education Service New investment into: Parenting Programmes Development of the early help workforce and model Targeted counselling services | £200,000 to remain in the Dedicated Schools Grant to assist children with SEND. | to drive greater improvement e.g. SEND commissioning and the recommissioning of Early Help services. KCC would have direct control and influence over the new contracting and commissioning arrangements and the existing Section 76 would continue strengthen KCC's position. Joint working arrangements retained with NHS for clinical service provision. There are low barriers to entry into the market for non-clinical services, and therefore several providers who | Perceived risk of disinvestment in the NHS |
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| | | | several providers who could deliver the non-clinical aspects of the service. | |
| Option 4: TUPE KCC Early Help Staff to the NELFT contract | Support to Early Help Units Priority assessment of LAC Harmful sexual abuse/post | £2.65m investment retained in the current contract | Joint commissioning arrangements would be strengthened Retains the Single Point of Access Increases capacity with NELFT service. | Performance indicates model would not work leading to unmet demand and increase in wait times This option is currently untested locally and likely to be unpopular with local |

| sexual abuse • Support to the Kent Health Needs Education Service | Similar to NELFT model in Essex | staff. • Fragmentation with KCC Integrated Children's Service model. • Fragmentation with KCC front door approach. |
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