

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

20/00042

For publication

Key decision: Expenditure of more than £1m

Subject: INTEGRATED DIGITAL ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY SOLUTION

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

- a) **AWARD** the contract for the Integrated Digital Assistive Technology Solution to Alcove; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

Reasons for urgency:**Need for urgency**

Whilst the current government guidelines relating to self-isolating and the shielded cohort are seeking to positively impact the rate and intensity of the progression of the disease, rapid deployment of a virtual care delivery model will have a significant beneficial impact for vulnerable people in Kent who are currently in receipt of care services in the home. The delivery of this option will significantly enhance the effectiveness of disease / infection prevention measures – particularly in the light of PPE shortages.

The provision of this equipment into people's homes will save lives by strengthening compliance with all public health guidance related to minimising the spread of C19. In particular, by targeting this solution at C-19 high risk cohorts (over 70 and / or with underlying health conditions) and, for some, removing the need for any hands-on care delivery / anyone entering their home we are protecting some of the most vulnerable members of the local community. We will undoubtedly be saving lives of both residents and potentially care workers. It is even more important that we roll this out rapidly in light of the shortage of PPE. Every day we delay is significant.

Why now? Piloting v scale

This solution is a core part of the Kent Covid-19 response in adult social care. It is therefore essential that the solution is rolled out as soon as possible to maximise benefits and impact related to C-19. There is no time to pilot and evaluate the effectiveness of the response as we would do in normal times. These are not normal times. The technology we are deploying has been effectively used in other authorities over the last 5 years. Alcove currently support over 12,000 devices across the country. We have made contact with other authorities currently working with Alcove and have reviewed evidence of reliability, benefits realisation and impact from elsewhere. We have also reviewed other solutions in the market. We are confident that this technology is the best fit for our needs in the current situation and that it will have the desired impact against our aims and drivers relating to Covid-19

Reasons for the decision

The early introduction of integrated digital assistive technology will reduce the potential spread of the disease whilst providing a range of supportive solutions and links to services to maintain independence and mitigate the negative impact of social isolation of service users and their carers.

The use of assistive technology can support long term independence and maximises opportunities for self-determined support. In turn, this can reduce demand on key services across both the local authority and provider network. Thus, there are economic efficiencies for both the local authority and

KCC's key partners. During the COVID-19 pandemic, visits will be achievable via the technology and feedback from this can be utilised to inform future practice changes, balancing the need for the human relationship at particular points of the service user need against time and service efficiency.

Financial Implications: The total cost of the procuring the equipment is £1,477,980.00.

Legal Implications: The main legislative framework for this project is the Care Act 2014

Equality Implications: Criteria of clients and providers who should be targeted at the outset of this project has yet to be defined, therefore it is not possible to accurately assess the impact on protected characteristics at this time. Once this has been confirmed an Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) will be conducted.

The implementation of the project during the current COVID-19 pandemic will result in clients receiving tablet-like devices enabling them to receive care and support virtually reducing their risk of becoming infected whilst the authority continuing to deliver on their responsibilities in line with legislation (Care Act 2014). In the current circumstances, it is expected that this project will have a mostly positive impact.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

No Cabinet Committee consultation possible due to urgency process

The chair of the Scrutiny Committee, in addition to agreeing that the decision could be reasonably deferred provided the following comments:

Mr Booth supported the decision

The Group Spokespeople of the Scrutiny Committee provided the following comments:

Mr Bird supported the decision

The Chair and Group Spokespeople of the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee provided the following comments

Mrs Cole supported the decision.

Any alternatives considered:

To keep the older and vulnerable people in Kent safe within their own homes during the Coronavirus outbreak, the following other options were considered:

- Option 1 – Continue as-is
- Option 2 – Utilise a non-technological solution
- Option 3 - Utilise all existing technology available (telecare analogue kit)
- Option 4 – Purchase an integrated digital assistive technology solution

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

None



7 April 2020

signed

date