

From: Tristan Godfrey, Scrutiny Research Officer and Anna Taylor, Scrutiny Research Officer

To: Cabinet – 29 June 2020

Subject: Scrutiny Committee Request for Review of Decision 20/00017 (Recommissioning of Early Help Services)

Classification: Unrestricted

Electoral Division: All

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**Recommendation:**

That the Cabinet reconsider decision 20/00017 and confirm, rescind or amend that decision and ask that the decision-maker make a written statement of the reconsidered decision to be sent to all Members of the Council.

**1. Introduction**

- a) On 23 June 2020, the Scrutiny Committee considered a call-in made by Mr Gary Cooke and Mr Rob Bird of decision 20/00017 (Recommissioning of Early help Services). The decision maker was Mrs Sue Chandler, Cabinet Member for Integrated Children’s Services. The report submitted to the Committee setting out the Cabinet Member response to the reasons for call-in is attached as an Appendix.
- b) After discussion, the Scrutiny Committee agreed the following motion:
- a. *The Scrutiny Committee requires implementation of the decision to be postponed pending reconsideration of the matter by the decision-maker in light of the Committee’s comments.*
- c) The following summarises the comments of the Committee:
- a. There was a need for transparency over the decision made (to bring the NEET Support Service provided by CXK in-house to The Education People).
- b. Concerns were expressed as to why it was decided not to go down the route of open procurement - the impression had been that a decision had been made to bring the NEET Support Service provided by CXK in-house to The Education People without any material consideration of the alternatives and without consultation.
- c. The service provided by CXK was effective and well-regarded.
- d. There had been inconsistencies around communication with CXK.
- e. The questions was raised as to ability of The Education People to meet any additional demand.

**2. Review by Cabinet**

- a) As a consequence of the Scrutiny Committee’s decision, section 17.77 of the Constitution applies:

- a. *In the event of a decision being referred back for reconsideration by either the decision-maker or the full Council, the Cabinet shall first reconsider it on the basis of a report setting out the comments expressed and confirm, rescind or amend the decision in the light of those comments. A written statement of that reconsidered decision will be published and sent to all Members of the Council.*
- b) As the first step in this process, the Scrutiny Committee is therefore asking the Cabinet to reconsider the decision.

### **3. Recommendation:**

**That the Cabinet reconsider decision 20/00017 and confirm, rescind or amend that decision and ask that the decision-maker make a written statement of the reconsidered decision to be sent to all Members of the Council.**

### **4. Background Documents**

Decision 20/00017 – Recommissioning of Early Help Services:  
Record of Decision  
Executive Decision Report  
Service chart

Agenda, Scrutiny Committee, 23 June 2020,  
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=752&MId=8656&Ver=4>

### **5. Contact details**

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