

**From:** Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Richard Smith, Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health

**To:** Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee – 29 September 2020

**Decision No:** 20/00098

**Subject:** **COMMUNITY BASED WELLBEING SERVICES PROCUREMENT RESTART**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Adult Social Care Governance Board – 15 September 2020

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member Decision

**Electoral Division:** All

**Summary:** The COVID-19 crisis delayed the procurement process for the Community Based Wellbeing Services contracts, the procurement process is restarting in September 2020. This now requires a revised timetable and as such an extension to some grant and contract agreements into the 2021/2022 financial year.

**Recommendation(s):** The Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee is asked to **CONSIDER** and **ENDORSE** or **MAKE A RECOMMENDATION** to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health on the proposed decision (Attached as Appendix A) to:

- a) **EXTEND** all required grant arrangements, as detailed in Appendix 1, to cover Phase 2 of procurement until 30 September 2021;
- b) **EXTEND** existing grant agreements to Edenbridge Voluntary Transport Service, Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group, Hospice in the Weald and Heart of Kent Hospice, for the full duration of the procurement programme (to end March 2022);
- c) **EXTEND** the Carers Short Breaks contract, to Crossroads Care Kent, until 31 March 2022; and
- d) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to take other relevant actions, including but not limited to entering into and finalising the terms of relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Community Based Wellbeing Service Procurement Programme was paused in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- 1.2 The procurement is restarting in September 2020 and a revised timetable takes the programme to the end of March 2022.

## 2. Strategic Statement and Policy Framework

- 2.1 This decision supports KCC's Strategic Statement through supporting key providers that deliver services to older and vulnerable residents that will ensure they are safe and supported with choices to live independently.
- 2.2 This decision supports the Strategic Reset Programme by implementing Asset Based Commissioning.

## 3. The Report

- 3.1 Adult social care has historic grant arrangements in place with voluntary and community sector providers across the county. These grants provide a contribution towards the costs of services that support older people, people living with dementia, people with a physical disability and people with sensory impairments. Services meet the outcomes of the council and enable people to remain well and live independently.
- 3.2 There are issues related to use of historic grant arrangements including an inconsistency in the type of support and services funded across the county, lack of correlation between spend and demographic factors, limitations in the ability to monitor the performance of services and therefore to understand the impact that services have on people.
- 3.3 Through the development process for the new contract model, it became clear there is no single solution that can address the needs of all client groups. Therefore, both universal and specialist services contracts are required. There is also a need to move to an asset-based approach and outcome-based specifications.
- 3.4 The revised procurement programme timetable has contracts for successful bidders for Phase 1 starting on 1 April 2021 (delayed from July 2020). The current programme timetable can be seen in the diagram below.

| Phase 1                                | Phase 2                                    | Phase 3                              |
|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| Sep 2020 - Mar 2021                    | Jan – Sep 2021                             | Jan 2021 – Mar 2022                  |
| Sensory Impairment                     | Physical Disability                        | Carers Short Breaks                  |
| Wellbeing: Thanet / South Kent Coastal | Wellbeing: Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley |                                      |
| Wellbeing: West Kent                   | Wellbeing: Ashford / Canterbury / Swale    |                                      |
|  | Specialist Dementia (all)                  |                                      |
| New contracts start:<br>1 April 2021   | New contracts start:<br>1 October 2021     | New contracts start:<br>1 April 2022 |

- 3.5 With the revised timetable (above) grant and contract agreements with providers in Phase 2 and 3 will need to be extended to cover the procurement period (list of those agreements are outlined in Appendix 1).

3.6 Specifications and Tender documents have been updated to ensure the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and related new legislation is included.

#### **4. Financial Implications**

4.1 The value of extending all the grant arrangements will be £1,566,700.16.

4.2 The value of extending the contract agreement to 31 March 2022 will be £3,087,241.01

4.3 This does not require additional funding as the existing budgets can meet the cost of extending the duration of the arrangements during the procurement period. Appendix 1 details the value of the grant/contract arrangements per provider.

#### **5. Legal Implications**

5.1 Senior officers in both strategic commissioning and finance have been consulted on this issue and no market or competition issues have been identified.

5.2 Advice from Legal has also been sought and the following advice given:

- Rewinding to any previous point in a procurement process should be a straightforward process so long as it has been documented in the ITT or tender documents that:
  - The contracting authority (KCC) reserves the right to do so for any or [x] reasons
  - Any process outlined in the ITT for this is followed.
- It is important KCC applies the procurement principles in Reg 18 PCR 2015. Reg 18(1) states *“Contracting authorities shall treat economic operators equally and without discrimination and shall act in a transparent and proportionate manner”*.
- Transparency is key so KCC should communicate to the candidates and either stick to or amend previous instructions in the ITT.

#### **6. Equality Implications**

6.1 The proposed grant agreements will support vulnerable and elderly people in the community.

#### **7. Data Protection Impact Assessment Implications**

7.1 There are no anticipated data implications associated with this decision.

#### **8. Conclusions**

8.1 The main benefit of this action is to ensure the continuation of key community-based services, that will be key to supporting the most vulnerable and isolated residents through the procurement process.

## 9. Recommendation(s)

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## 10. Background Documents

None

## 11. Report Author

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