

CONFIDENTIAL ALL PARTY MEMBER BRIEFING

Commissioned Open Access Provision

18 October 2021

Stuart Collins - Director of Integrated Children's Services (North and West Kent - EHPS Lead)

Christy Holden - Head of Strategic Commissioning (Children and Young People's Services)

Helen Cook – Senior Commissioner (Children and Young People's Services)



Background

- This All Party Member Briefing is to provide the detail behind the recently published FED ([21/00086](#))

Supplier	Location	Current Contract Start Date	Current Contract end date	Extension Duration	Contract Cost (per annum)
Canterbury Academy	Ashford	Aug-18	Nov-21	16 Months (to Mar-23)	£ 96,000.00
	Canterbury	Dec-16			£ 109,331.00
Optivo	Swale	Dec-16			£ 133,950.00
Pie Factory	Dover	Dec-16			£ 99,980.00
	Thanet	Dec-16			£ 139,948.00
Play Place	Dartford	Dec-16			£ 87,990.00
Salus	Folkestone & Hythe	Dec-16			£ 86,700.00
	Tonbridge & Malling	Aug-18			£ 83,000.00
	Tunbridge wells	Aug-18			£ 76,000.00
	Maidstone	Dec-16			£ 91,700.00
The Grand	Gravesham	Dec-16	£ 100,000.00		
West Kent Extra	Sevenoaks	Dec-16	£ 75,000.00		
Millmead Children's Centre Partnership Ltd	Thanet	Apr-18 (Direct Award Apr-21)	Mar-21 (Mar-22)	12 Months (to Mar-23)	£220,667.00
Children and Families Children's Centres Ltd	Swale	Apr-18 (Direct Award Apr-21)	Mar-21 (Mar-22)		£204,302.18
Total OA Contract Spend					£ 6,322,964.18
Direct Award Cost					£ 1,997,767.85

- Outcomes – enabling Children and Young People:
 - To become more resilient
 - To have better emotional health and wellbeing: and
 - Support the attainment of educational achievements
- Contract values based on deprivation, demography and location
- Covid-19 impact – Virtual Offer developed including sessions for parents to access advice, support and online baby and toddler groups.

2021-22 Budget Consultation

Key Message: Very high support for doing things differently and saving money

Level of agreement for doing things differently

10

	Agree %	Neither agree nor disagree %	Disagree %	Don't know %	No response given %
Reducing our number of buildings	77.6	11.2	6.4	3.9	0.9
Delivering more than one service from our buildings	91.7	5.0	1.0	1.8	0.5
Delivering more services using online technology	73.8	12.0	11.0	2.2	1.0

These are areas of focus for the Council's Strategic Reset Programme which will help to deliver efficiencies and savings in future years.

2022-23 Budget Consultation

Consultation Period 28 July – 19 September 2021

“6. Looking ahead - big decisions are needed

Every year, KCC must agree an annual budget which balances the money we spend with the money we have.”

“In last year’s consultation we asked for your views on doing things differently. There was significant support for these activities, as shown in the brackets below.

- Reducing our number of buildings (77.6% agreed)
- Delivering more than one service from our buildings (91.7% agreed)
- Delivering more services using online technology (73.8% agreed)

We were clear, however, any savings from these would not solve the budget challenge. We are continuing to look at how we might do things differently in the future to make some savings. Following the strong support for doing things differently, ***we are planning how we could use our buildings in different ways, including exploring how we could share spaces with our partners, and deliver services in joined up ways in communities and places across Kent.***

We are thinking about how we can best use technology and digital solutions to improve your experience and make it quicker and easier to access the services you need. We now want to explore some of these options further and understand what considerations are the most important to you.“

Strategic Reset Programme

- The findings of the Programme will inform future commissioning arrangements alongside the in-house Open Access Offer.
- Work on the Future Assets Programme is still in progress to respond to changing Covid guidance and to shape our future approach for community, office and specialist buildings across Kent.
- Work started to develop procurement plans, however it was quickly halted whilst we considered the impact on the service in light of recovery and Reconnect.

The challenges we face

This Interim Strategic Plan sets out the five main challenges that KCC is facing over the next 18 months, and what we will do to help address them. Within the challenges there are also important and unique opportunities to improve the way we do things.



Financial Challenge

KCC is facing a significant budget gap and difficult decisions to make in the short-to medium-term, while maintaining a longer-term view of what is best for the county



Economic Challenge

The economic downturn caused by COVID-19 is causing widespread economic impacts, while attracting investment and putting infrastructure in place to support growth remains a priority



Demand Challenge

There is increasing demand for some of KCC's key services, which will be exacerbated by the impacts of COVID-19 on Kent's residents, particularly those that are vulnerable



Partnership Challenge

The crisis presents important opportunities to build on strengthened relationships and rethink how KCC works with partners to better manage demand and improve efficiency



Environmental Challenge

Tackling the climate emergency and protecting the natural environment continues to be an urgent priority, as well as investing in the built environment and creating communities to be proud of

Reconnect and Containment Outbreak Management Fund (COMF)



Themes:

- Learning missed
- Health and happiness
- Sport, activities and the outdoors
- Friends, family and community
- Economic wellbeing

Example of additional provision delivered by the Youth Providers:







- Summer Programmes with Football Clubs
- Archery, Canoeing, Sports Coaching, Go Karting, Woodland Crafts
- Residential and camping trips across Kent Enhanced outreach offer in urban and rural areas countywide
- Community Fun Days

Youth providers have accessed funding from the Containment Outbreak Management Fund which has maintained levels of provision in a Covid-19 secure environment. This has included the addition of items to maximise provision of smaller groups in higher multiples. There has also been the ability to purchase items that will support detached provision in adverse weather conditions

Contract performance

- Evidenced through contract monitoring, annual deep dives and reporting to the Contract Management Review Group, providers have delivered well against their contracts.
- Throughout the pandemic, providers have maintained levels of detached provision and developed a robust online offer to support children, young people and their families in lockdown.
- The online offer was the first of its kind in Kent bringing social groups, learning experiences and support into the homes of children and young people during lockdown at a time when they needed it most.
- Steady market conditions; since the last procurements there have been no new entrants.
- Each contract brings a high level of social value through varying initiatives such as food banks, mentoring schemes and book exchanges etc.

Timeline

Activity	Dec 20	Jan 21	Feb 21	Mar 21	Apr 21	May 21	Jun 21	Jul 21	Aug 21	Sep 21
Interim Strategic Plan adopted										
Analysis commenced for re-procurement										
Analysis slowed pending VCS recovery										
Budget consultation published indicating change for buildings based service delivery										
Consideration of tendering for services committing the Council for years in contracts										
Recommendation to directly award contracts through Officers										

Conclusion

Awarding the Direct Awards will:

- Continue the provision of support at a critical point for Children Families and Young People.
- Extend well performing contracts to enable the maintenance of open access services provision.
- Maintain levels of support for the local community, particularly in rural communities and/or areas with high levels of deprivation.
- Strengthen levels of engagement following the additional funding provided by both Reconnect and COMF.
- Give stability to providers ensuring the continuation of additional social value that extends beyond catchment areas.
- Continuation of the virtual offer which providers have worked together to produce and is offered across the county.
- Support the Voluntary Sector whilst they are also in a period of Recovery and Reset.

Questions?