

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Cabinet

DECISION NO:

23/00092

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) *result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000); or*
- b) *be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:*
 - *the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;*
 - *significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.*

Subject Matter / Title of Decision

Kent Family Hub Implementation

Decision:

Cabinet agree to:

- a) Approve the implementation of the Family Hub model in Kent, as per the arrangements set out in the report.
- b) Approve the development and delivery of the workstreams detailed within the Start for Life and Family Hub programme.
- c) Confirm the viability of the Kent Family Hub Model within any estate map outlined within the Kent Communities Programme.
- d) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education (CYPE), in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Integrated Children's Services and Adult Social Care & Public Health, to undertake the detailed service design and delivery within the relevant estate map, as determined via Kent Communities Programme decision-making.
- e) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director for CYPE to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into relevant contracts or other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

Background

1.1 This decision relates to the implementation of the Family Hub model in Kent. This follows on from the policy decision by the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services that KCC would move forward with the principle of adopting the Family Hub approach and the related agreement by KCC to accept the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in October 2022 with the DfE. This MOU creates obligations to meet specific provision, deadlines and timescales associated with transformation activity and demonstration of progress towards

implementing Family Hubs by the end of March 2025 and sustaining this beyond the life of the grant funding.

1.2 The key themes highlighted through the Family Hub services public consultation have allowed us to set out a series of key principles which have defined the options outlined in the report to Cabinet.

1.3 Family Hub will encompass a number of core services as defined by the national programme. We will also further develop targeted supports and services within our districts to offer provision based on the identified need, taking a data driven approach.

Options

Option 1: Do not implement the Family Hub model

This would mean the Local Authority would not meet the minimum expectations set by the DfE in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding, with the associated risk of losing c£11m of additional funding. If this were to occur, we would not be able to offer any additionality to our existing services.

Option 2: Deliver the mandatory enhanced services set out by the DfE

We will continue to deliver a 0-19 (25 SEND) Family Hub model offering enhanced services only in the DfE mandated areas set out in the following Key Decisions taken by the Cabinet Members for Integrated Children's Services and Adult Social Care and Public Health.

Families will still have access to Family Hub staff members who will be able to offer them assistance in finding the help that they need to access local services through signposting only. If we proceed with this option, we will meet the grant requirements for the DfE, as set out in Appendix 2.

Option 3: Wider Family Hub offer

We will continue to deliver a 0-19 (25 SEND) Family Hub model offering enhanced services in the DfE mandated areas set out in the following Key Decisions taken by the Cabinet Members for Integrated Children's Services and Adult Social Care and Public Health. In addition, we will offer the 7 services we consulted on below that service users felt they might most use:

- Education for parents on child development
- Activities for children aged 0-5
- Activities for older children and young people
- Information, advice and guidance about support services for children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Information and signposting to mental health services (children and adults)
- Support for parents/carers of adolescents (teenagers)
- Online safety for children and young people

Option 4: Deliver a Family Hub model through a developed Family Hub Network. Our preferred option.

KCC will continue to deliver a 0-19 (25 SEND) Family Hub Model offering enhanced services in the DfE mandated areas set out in Key Decisions taken by the Cabinet Members for Integrated Children's Services and Adult Social Care and Public Health.

As outlined in option 3, the following services will be delivered by Family Hub practitioners:

- Education for parents on child development
- Activities for children aged 0-5
- Activities for older children and young people
- Information, advice and guidance about support services for children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND)
- Information and signposting to mental health services (children and adults)
- Support for parents/carers of adolescents (teenagers)
- Online safety for children and young people

In addition to these, we will also ensure that the remaining 4 services (which are outlined below) are accessible through the Family Hub model. The additional specialist services in option 4 will be delivered through partnership working with the VCS and partners (the Family Hub Network).

- Support for young people with substance misuse (alcohol/drugs)
- Domestic abuse support
- Debt and welfare advice
- Signposting to information to support separating and separated parents

Option 4 is our preferred option because we recognise the importance of all 11 services following feedback from the consultation and within our Family Hub model we are in a position to offer, in an innovative and consistent way across the county, to deliver joined up services to meet the need of children, young people and families.

Financial Implications

The Family Hub Grant from the DfE totals to £11,051,715 over a 3-year period and is distributed across a number of mandatory programme strands.

The transformation project is entirely funded by DfE grant monies, but long-term service delivery will have to be funded through base budget. Therefore, the model must be sustainable and this has influenced the model development.

Overall Grant allocation by DfE funded areas:

Programme Strand	Total Grant
Family Hubs Transformation Funding - PROGRAMME	£2,314,483
Family Hubs Transformation Funding - CAPITAL	£578,559
Parent-Infant Relationships and Perinatal Mental Health	£3,162,147
Parenting Support	£2,032,065
Infant Feeding	£1,271,332
Early Language and Home Learning Environment	£1,325,435
Publishing the Start for Life Offer	£184,695
Parent and Carer Panels	
Trailblazer	£183,000
Total	£11,051,715

Existing Service cost:

The current affected service cost is £11.9m. This includes a range of different funding streams including Public Health and the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).

Legal implications

KCC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in October 2022 towards becoming a Family Hub Authority and Key Decisions were taken as part of that process. Consideration has been given to KCC’s statutory duties and will continue as the project is implemented.

KCC has engaged external legal advice and Counsel to support the review of the key processes and documents. Advice has been provided to the operational team on an iterative basis and advice provided to decision makers. The legal risks will need to be balanced against the requirements of the Programme and wider benefits of implementation.

The new model, linked with the Kent Communities Programme decision, involves a reduction in sites, for which a consultation was completed and consideration about such changes have been taken into account as part of the decision process.

Equalities implications

Initial assessment and Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has identified negative implications on young people within the Age, Disability, Sex, Race, Pregnancy and Maternity Protected Characteristics because the linked decision with Kent Communities programme will result in a reduction in the number of buildings available for service users.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children’s and Young People Cabinet Committee considered the decision on 21 November 2023

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The options are outlined above and in the decision report that accompanies this document.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None

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signed

date 30 November 2023