

Appendix 3 - Options Appraisal

Option 1	Benefits	Risks
Continue with the current level of investment £1.117m/year	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues to support joint commissioning with Health. • Gives Kent's Looked After Children access to rapid two-week assessments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited evidence to demonstrate that current investment has given real benefits to Kent's LAC. • KCC investment may also fund out of area LAC referrals including Medway. • Ties KCC into an up-to 13-year contract with a total value of £14.5m.
Option 2	Benefits	Risks
Negotiate a reduced contribution – (example using 50% investment of 500,000/year)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continues to support joint commissioning with Health. • Provides a continuity of service for Kent LAC. • Provides a potential saving to the Council of £7.25m over the 13-year contract (based on 50%). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially damage relationship with ICB. • Limited evidence to demonstrate that any investment, even at a reduced level, has given real benefits to Kent's LAC. • Ties KCC into an up-to 13-year contract with a total value of £7.25m (based on 50%). • Depending on how contract is structured, could impact service delivery
Option 3	Benefits	Risks
Give notice to the ICB of withdrawal of £1.117m investment and reinvest in independent assessment service	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No further investment required from KCC thereby delivering £1.117m as savings. • Opportunity to commission own assessment service for Kent's LAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially damages relationship with ICB. • KCC required to procure a service at project cost of approximately £60,000. • New service may not be in place until after contract end date.
Option 4	Benefits	Risks
Enter a new arrangement with the ICB to support a new LAC Network for Kent and Medway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC's LAC would continue to access assessment for CYPMHS within a two-week timeframe. • Care Leavers would be included in the revised exit age of 19 years for a CYPMHS. • Investment supports ICB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC investment would be longer term than current contractual arrangements. Initial discussions include an up-to-13-year contractual period. • Financial envelope would be significantly more than currently due to extended

	<p>establishing a dedicated LAC Network and complex needs pathway as part of any future commissioning arrangements.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opportunity to set new KPI's that are meaningful and relevant to KCC. • Would allow KCC to negotiate a revised funding level. 	<p>contract period. There would need to be a break clause in any S76 agreement.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Data may still fail to demonstrate any real benefits to Kent's Looked After Children.
Option 5	Benefits	Risks
Give notice to ICB of withdrawal of £1.117m investment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £1.117m savings for CYPE achieved. • Opportunity to use £1.117m within the wider CYPE directorate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent's LAC may have to wait longer for initial assessments. Contractual target for routine assessments to be completed within four weeks of accepted referral is 45%. August 2023 data reports 54.78% (data includes Medway). • Depending on how the contract is structured, could impact service delivery
Option 6	Benefits	Risks
Agree to continue funding for a further 12 months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kent LAC continue to receive priority assessment for CYPMHS. • Opportunity to work with the ICB to design the new service. • Continues the good relationship we have with the ICB. • Provides a continuity of service for Kent LAC. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KCC will still be unsure as to whether the investment is buying solely Kent LAC priority.