

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

25/00012

For publication

Key decision: YES

Title of Decision: Parent Infant Mental Health Service – extension

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social care and Public Health I propose to:

- a) APPROVE the development of Parent Infant Mental Health Service for a period of 31 months and subject to evaluation and availability of funds from the Public Health Grant an extension for a further 24 months
- b) APPROVE the expenditure £2,059,928 funded via the Family Hub Grant initially and then the Public Health Grant
- c) DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to exercise relevant contract extensions and enter into relevant contracts or legal agreements; and
- d) DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health, to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to allocating resources, expenditure, and entering into contracts and other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

Background:

On 4 October 2022 the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services took an executive decision (Decision number **22/00094**) to adopt the principle of Kent becoming a Family Hub Transformation Authority.

On 19 July 2024 a further decision **23/00075** by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health was taken to:

APPROVE the development and improvement activity to deliver a parent infant mental health service.

APPROVE the required expenditure, via the Family Hub Grant Funding (£3,051,809 – expires 2025) and, subject to evaluation and availability of funds the Public Health Grant (post March 2025), to deliver and sustain this activity for up to two years beyond the Family Hub Grant period – total service period – 2023 – 2025 with the potential for 2 x 1-year extensions;

DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for

Adult Social Care and Public Health, to exercise relevant contract extensions and enter into relevant contracts or legal agreements; and

DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health, to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to allocating resources, expenditure, and entering into contracts and other legal agreements, as required to implement the decision.

Decision:

A new decision is being sought to extend the delivery of the Parent Infant Mental Health Service (PIMHS) beyond the original timescale set out in the previous Key Decision (the Key Decision covering a contract until March 2027) and extending to decision to deliver until 31st March 2030 (total contract length, including exercising the 24-month extension).

Reason for Decision:

Two procurements were previously undertaken for a Parent Infant Mental Health Service Key Decision 23/00075. One in January 24 and the second in August 2024.

These did not successfully result in the award of a contract and provider. The service is not currently being delivered.

Feedback from the market is that the timescales to respond to the procurement opportunity, needed to be longer – longer to respond and longer to mobilise the service. Feedback from the market will be taken into account for this new opportunity and further market engagement will take place.

A PSR (Provider Selection Regime) compliant procurement process is proposed for this service.

Key Decision 23/00075 approved a contract to be in place until March 2027. A new decision is needed to reflect amended and extended timeframes for delivery.

How the proposed decision meets the priorities of New Models of Care and Support as set out in “Framing Kent’s Future – Our Council Strategy 2022 – 2026”

This service will contribute to ‘Priority 1: Levelling up Kent’ of the Framing Kent’s Future Our Council Strategy 2022-2026’ as providing additional support for families at the start of their infant’s life which is a preventative approach to improve the populations health and narrowing health inequalities.

How the proposed decision supports Securing Kent’s Future

The Parent Infant Mental Health Service supports the Council to achieve the priorities set out in Securing Kent’s Future, by embedding a preventative approach and ensuring children get the best start in life and better outcomes in adult life, leading to reduced demand and costs in Health and Social Care.

Financial Implications

The expenditure for the Parent Infant Mental Health Service will be a maximum of £2,059,928 over the total contract period.

This includes the initial contract period of 31 months, which will be funded by a mix of DfE Funding – subject to acceptance of the DfE grant and the Public Health Grant and the possible extension of 24 months (subject to availability of Public Health Grant funding).

This will be funded by Family Hub Grant funding and the Public Health Grant (subject to the availability of funds and an evaluation).

Equalities Implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was undertaken for Key Decision 23/00075 and can be found here - [23-00075 - EQIA.pdf](#)

There are no proposed changes to the service or the outcomes apart from the timescale of delivery, which will be extended.

The positive impacts anticipated from this commission are:

- Service Users/Clients - Increased communication and support regards PNMH and PIR
- Staff and Volunteers - Improved awareness about low to moderate perinatal mental health and confidence to have conversations about it.

The EQIA identified potential negative impacts for disability, race and religion and belief, along with mitigating actions.

Legal Implications

The services to be procured have been determined to be health services for the purposes of the Provider Selection Regime which came into force on 1st January 2024. Officers have determined to follow the Competitive Process and will run an open tender procedure.

The Kent County Council standard terms and conditions have been selected for use with this service and tender procedure, and these have been updated to ensure legislative references are up to date. Officers in the commissioning and commercial teams will ensure that a clear and unequivocal option to extend is included in the contract terms and the procurement documentation but making clear that the use of such extension is subject to both budget availability and to further governance.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Health Reform and Public Health Cabinet Committee on 11 March 2025.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

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signed

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date