

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

**Cabinet Member for
Adult Social Care and Public Health**

DECISION NO:

23/00054

For publication

Key decision: YES

Title of Decision: Adult Social Care Prevention Framework 2025-2035

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Social Care and Public Health, I propose to:

- a) **ADOPT** the Adult Social Care Prevention Framework 2025-2035; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to refresh and/or make revisions as appropriate during the lifetime of the Framework and to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms and entering into required contract or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the objectives of the Framework.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Adult Social Care Making a Difference Every Day Strategy and the Kent Adult Carers' Strategy have set the direction for adult social care. These strategies are supported by the Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy, as well as Framing Kent's Future, Securing Kent's Future, the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and the Kent and Medway Social Prescribing Strategy. Together, these all support a shift towards proactive, preventative approaches that reduce demand, promote wellbeing, and help people remain independent for longer.

Even though the authority has several activities which offer different types of preventative support (primary prevention, secondary prevention and tertiary prevention), the approach is not codified in a single document. The development of the Adult Social Care Prevention Framework is intended to satisfy these objectives and to express our ambitions clearly in respect of the fundamental statutory requirements of the Care Act 2014, and the Care and Support statutory guidance.

The Adult Social Care Prevention Framework covers a ten year period and during that time there will be significant change with Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) in 2028. The draft Framework acknowledges this by stating that, "*devolution, local government reorganisation and changes to health and social care may also create opportunities and challenges yet to be fully understood. Therefore, we will review our framework regularly to ensure that it remains relevant and aligned to the changing context and needs of the people of Kent*". The delivery plan which will support the implementation of the Adult Social Care Prevention Framework will be 2025-2028 and at that point the Adult Social Care Prevention Framework will be reviewed.

Financial Implications

The implementation of the Adult Social Care Prevention Framework will be taken forward based on the budget allocation to the Adult Social Care and Health Directorate. Service delivery arising from this framework for future years will be determined by the approved budget and the Medium Term and Financial Plan requirements.

Legal Implications

The Care Act 2014 highlights prevention as one of seven key responsibilities for local authorities, with an inextricable link to the fundamental principle of promoting wellbeing. This means intervening early to support individuals, helping people retain their skills and confidence, and preventing need or delaying deterioration wherever possible. The guidance states that it is critical to the vision in the Care Act that the care and support system works to actively promote wellbeing and independence and does not just wait to respond when people reach a crisis point. It is vital that the care and support system intervenes early to support individuals, helps people retain or regain their skills and confidence, and prevents need or delays deterioration wherever possible.

The Guidance goes on to state that a local authority should develop a local approach to preventative support, and must provide or arrange for services, facilities or resources which would prevent, delay or reduce individuals' needs for care and support, or the needs for support of carers. Local authorities should develop a clear, local approach to prevention which sets out how they plan to fulfil this responsibility.

The draft Adult Social Care Prevention Framework complies with Kent's duties under the 2014 Act and the Guidance and sets out a local approach to preventative support. The implementation of the Adult Social Care Prevention Framework will be in line with Kent County Council's (KCC) adult social care responsibilities and more detailed information pertaining to the detailed research that sits behind the Adult Social Care Prevention Framework and the Care Act responsibilities can be found in the appendices to the supporting decision report.

Equality Implications

KCC is under a statutory duty to have due regard to the three equality needs under section 149 (1) of the Equality Act 2010 when exercising their functions. The three equality needs are the needs to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited by the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

The protected characteristics are age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation: section 149 (7).

As part of the planning process for the framework development work, an initial equalities impact assessment (EqIA) was developed. This has subsequently been updated following feedback collected within the consultation. The key equalities implications identified in the EqIA were related to engagement with the consultation itself, ensuring that we mitigated the risks of those in the population that may encounter barriers to engaging with an online consultation e.g. digital inclusion and skills, accessibility needs.

Data Protection Implications

The development of the Framework does not require a Data Protection Impact Assessment to be completed.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: The proposed decision will be discussed at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee on 10 September 2025 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Do Nothing:

It was recommended in the Care Quality Commission (CQC) assessment (September 2024) to create and adopt a single document to showcase the existing and new areas of work linked to Prevention, in accordance with our Care Act 2014 responsibilities. To do nothing, would increase the risk of not fulfilling those responsibilities and that being highlighted in our next CQC assessment.

Design a Kent County Council wide Prevention Framework:

There is an established Kent and Medway Integrated Care Strategy, therefore to adopt a KCC wide Prevention Framework, would duplicate the actions set out in the Integrated Care Strategy.

It was agreed by Corporate Management Team (CMT) on 24 September 2024, that the Framework would be an Adult Social Care document.

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