

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

Non Key: 25/00070

For publication

Key decision: Non-Key

Title of Decision: Parent Infant Mental Health Service – additional expenditure

Decision:

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

- a) **APPROVE** the additional expenditure of £400,000 across the contract period for the Parent Infant Mental Health Service from the DfE Family Hub Grant and Public Health Grant to support venue costs.
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to exercise the additional expenditure and enter into relevant contracts or legal agreements; and
- c) **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 24 October 2023 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.

On 21 March 2025, a further decision [25/00012](#), was taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health 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; and
- (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

Proposed Decision:

An additional non key decision is being sought to **APPROVE** the additional expenditure of £400,000 across the contract period from the DfE Family Hub Grant and Public Health Grant to support venue costs.

This expenditure was not included in the scope of the previous key decision and is required to ensure full delivery of the commissioned activity.

Reason for Decision:

Feedback from market engagement in April 2025 identified that additional funding for venues costs are needed to the current budget of (£2,059,928) as relying on having consistent access to bookable spaces in Family Hubs would not be operational practical or feasible for the Parent Infant Mental Health Service.

A non-key decision is needed to reflect the additional funding for venues costs. The financial budget including venue costs is £2,459,928

A PSR (Provider Selection Regime) compliant procurement process is proposed, taking into account feedback from suppliers.

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 £2,459,928 over the total contract period.

This includes the initial contract period of 31 months (funded by a mix of DfE Funding and the Public Health Grant) and also possible the extension of 24 months (the extension is subject to availability of Public Health Grant funding).

Equalities Implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) was undertaken for Key Decision [23/00075](#), in relation to the service.

There are no changes to the proposed service or the outcomes required.

The previous EQIA identified potential negative impacts for disability, race and religion and belief, and provided mitigating actions which have been or continue to be implemented.

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:

A Family Hub Model consultation was previously undertaken.

The propose Decision will be considered at the Adult Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee on 10th September 2025 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

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