

## EQIA Submission – ID Number

### Section A

**EQIA Title**

Extension of Amparo service

**Responsible Officer**

Rachel Westlake - AH AIC

**Approved by (Note: approval of this EqIA must be completed within the EqIA App)**

Victoria Tovey - AH AIC

**Type of Activity****Service Change**

No

**Service Redesign**

No

**Project/Programme**

No

**Commissioning/Procurement**

Commissioning/Procurement

**Strategy/Policy**

No

**Details of other Service Activity**

No

**Accountability and Responsibility****Directorate**

Adult Social Care and Health

**Responsible Service**

Integrated Commissioning

**Responsible Head of Service**

Victoria Tovey - AH AIC

**Responsible Director**

Anjan Ghosh - AH Public Health

**Aims and Objectives**

The contract for a Support Service for People Bereaved by Suicide, known as Amparo (which means shelter or safe haven in Spanish), is currently delivered by Listening Ear and due to expire 31 July 2026. This support has been delivered in Kent and Medway by Listening Ear's Amparo service since 2021. The service provides timely emotional and practical support to anyone affected by suicide, an experience which differs to bereavement through natural or accidental means as it usually comes with senses of guilt and stigma, which often leads to social isolation and the increased risk of suicide mentioned above.

Support is delivered by trained Liaison Workers and can include providing emotional support and assisting with a range of practical matters, such as dealing with the police and coroners, helping with media enquiries, preparing for (and attending) inquests and helping individuals to access any other relevant services. Support is delivered both in person and on the phone.

The service provides support to individuals living in Kent or Medway, and targets:

- Close family members of the individual who died
- Friends, colleagues, witnesses, and other people affected by a suicide
- People who are working to support, or who are spending time with, people bereaved by suicide

An 8-month extension (from 1 August 2026 until 31 March 2027) is proposed to maintain continuity of service and allow time to consider options for future commissioning. This period will also allow for discussions with the ICB, which fully funds the service, to secure a long-term financial commitment.

## Section B – Evidence

**Do you have data related to the protected groups of the people impacted by this activity?**

Yes

**It is possible to get the data in a timely and cost effective way?**

Yes

**Is there national evidence/data that you can use?**

Yes

**Have you consulted with stakeholders?**

Yes

**Who have you involved, consulted and engaged with?**

The proposed extension of Support Service for People Bereaved by Suicide (Amparo) has been discussed and endorsed at the Suicide Prevention Steering Group. Statutory members include ICB, KCC, Medway, KMPT and Kent Police.

This has also been endorsed by the Integrated Commissioning Advisory Group which is led by the Director of PH (KCC).

A public consultation has been delivered to shape the new Kent and Medway Suicide & Self-Harm Prevention Strategy with support given to commit to the provision of support for people bereaved by suicide.

**Has there been a previous Equality Analysis (EQIA) in the last 3 years?**

Yes

**Do you have evidence that can help you understand the potential impact of your activity?**

Yes

## Section C – Impact

**Who may be impacted by the activity?**

**Service Users/clients**

Service users/clients

**Staff**

Staff/Volunteers

**Residents/Communities/Citizens**

Residents/communities/citizens

**Are there any positive impacts for all or any of the protected groups as a result of the activity that you are doing?**

Yes

**Details of Positive Impacts**

Continuing to deliver support services for people bereaved by suicide can have significant positive impacts for individuals with protected characteristics.

Disability - Bereavement by suicide is linked to higher risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation.

Accessible, inclusive support reduces these risks and promotes recovery for vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities or mental health conditions.

Race, Sexual orientation - People from minority ethnic backgrounds, LGBTQ+ communities, or older adults may face stigma and isolation after a suicide loss. Targeted support groups and culturally competent services foster connection and belonging.

Sex - Support can prevent job loss or educational disruption for those affected, particularly women, carers, and people with caring responsibilities.

## **Negative impacts and Mitigating Actions**

### **19. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Age**

#### **Are there negative impacts for age?**

No. Note: If Question 19a is "No", Questions 19b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

#### **Details of negative impacts for Age**

Not Completed

#### **Mitigating Actions for Age**

Not Completed

#### **Responsible Officer for Mitigating Actions – Age**

Not Completed

### **20. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Disability**

#### **Are there negative impacts for Disability?**

No. Note: If Question 20a is "No", Questions 20b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

#### **Details of Negative Impacts for Disability**

Not Completed

#### **Mitigating actions for Disability**

Not Completed

#### **Responsible Officer for Disability**

Not Completed

### **21. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Sex**

#### **Are there negative impacts for Sex**

No. Note: If Question 21a is "No", Questions 21b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

#### **Details of negative impacts for Sex**

Not Completed

#### **Mitigating actions for Sex**

Not Completed

#### **Responsible Officer for Sex**

Not Completed

### **22. Negative Impacts and Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender**

#### **Are there negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender**

No. Note: If Question 22a is "No", Questions 22b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

#### **Negative impacts for Gender identity/transgender**

Not Completed

#### **Mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender**

Not Completed

#### **Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Gender identity/transgender**

Not Completed

### **23. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Race**

#### **Are there negative impacts for Race**

No. Note: If Question 23a is "No", Questions 23b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval

#### **Negative impacts for Race**

Not Completed

#### **Mitigating actions for Race**

Not Completed

#### **Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Race**

Not Completed
<b>24. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Religion and belief</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Religion and belief</b>
No. Note: If Question 24a is "No", Questions 24b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
<b>Negative impacts for Religion and belief</b>
Not Completed
<b>Mitigating actions for Religion and belief</b>
Not Completed
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Religion and Belief</b>
Not Completed
<b>25. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Sexual Orientation</b>
No. Note: If Question 25a is "No", Questions 25b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
<b>Negative impacts for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Completed
<b>Mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Completed
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Sexual Orientation</b>
Not Completed
<b>26. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
No. Note: If Question 26a is "No", Questions 26b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
<b>Negative impacts for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Completed
<b>Mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Completed
<b>Responsible Officer for mitigating actions for Pregnancy and Maternity</b>
Not Completed
<b>27. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
No. Note: If Question 27a is "No", Questions 27b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
<b>Negative impacts for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Completed
<b>Mitigating actions for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Completed
<b>Responsible Officer for Marriage and Civil Partnerships</b>
Not Completed
<b>28. Negative impacts and Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
<b>Are there negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
No. Note: If Question 28a is "No", Questions 28b,c,d will state "Not Applicable" when submission goes for approval
<b>Negative impacts for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Completed
<b>Mitigating actions for Carer's responsibilities</b>
Not Completed
<b>Responsible Officer for Carer's responsibilities</b>

Not Completed