

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO:

21/00063

For publication

Key decision: Yes. Expenditure in excess of £1m

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Title of Decision: KENT INTEGRATED DOMESTIC ABUSE (KIDAS) CONTRACT EXTENSION

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

- a) **AGREE** to use the first of the two, two-year options to extend the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse contract to 31 March 2024; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to use the second two-year option, subject to market testing and good performance, to extend the KIDAS Contract to 31 March 2026, should it be required.

Reason(s) for decision: The current term of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) contract is due to expire on 31 March 2022. The performance of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (KIDAS) contract has been evaluated and found to be good. The contract provides an ideal vehicle to mobilise the 2021/22 new funding allocation and effectively and compliantly to support the council in delivering its new statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The contract has two options to extend. The first contract extension runs to 31 March 2024 at a value of £4,636,690.40.

The second two-year extension available will be subsequently needed, subject to good performance and market testing. This will enable the council to respond to the future government plans for this agenda. This extension will run to 31 March 2026 and its value is £4,636,690.40.

Financial Implications: The cost to extend the KIDAS contract until 31 March 2024, is £4,636,690.40. The second extension to run to 31 March 2026 is valued at £4,636,690.40.

Legal implications: The KIDAS contract contributes to the council's response to the Home Office's 'Call to End Violence Against Women and Girls' Strategy, with the main themes focussing on:

- prevention
- the provision of good quality services and
- improved partnership working

The Domestic Abuse Act received Royal Assent on 29 April 2021 Under the new statutory duties, KCC must ensure appropriate and adequate support within safe accommodation that meets the needs of all survivors. The council has a significant advantage in its ability to meet the requirements of the Act by having the existing contract already in place. Without extension, the contract would lapse, support provision to this vulnerable group would end and the council would be unable to deliver to the new legislative requirements.

Equalities implications: An EQIA has already been completed for the commissioning of the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Service and is being revised as part of the Needs Assessment and Strategy work which will be published by 31 October 2021.

Other corporate implications: As the agenda is cross cutting other directorates are involved and supported by the contract and proposed decision including Children Young People and Education and Community Safety

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation: It has not been possible to bring this decision to an earlier Cabinet Committee due to the timing of the Domestic Abuse Act legislation and accompanying guidance. Whilst Domestic Abuse Act legislation received Royal Assent in April, the guidance about the new legal obligations was not published until mid-June and the government's consultation period on this guidance does not conclude until 27 July 2021. It is this guidance that enables the council to judge whether the existing contractual arrangements are best placed to meet its newly acquired responsibilities. With no cabinet committee date between June and September, taking the decision out of cycle gives members the most time to make any alternative recommendations, should they wish. A delay until the September committee would mean the decision could not be taken and implemented until the end of October which will leave members with little alternative but to extend.

The proposed decision cannot reasonably be deferred until the next meeting of the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee, however all members of the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee will have an opportunity to comment on the proposed decision and these comments will be included in the record of decision. The proposed decision was circulated to all members of the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 12 August 2021.

The decision will be reported retrospectively to the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 29 September 2021.

Any alternatives considered and rejected: Without extension, the contract would lapse, support provision to this vulnerable group would end and the council would be unable to deliver to the new legislative requirements

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

Clair Bell

20 August 2021