

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

The Leader

DECISION NO:

22/00040

For publication

Key decision: YES

Title: The Domestic Abuse Duty: 2022/23

The Leader of the Council is asked to consider taking the decision to:-

- a) accept £3,112,501 domestic abuse funding (2022/23) for delivery of domestic abuse support in safe accommodation duties as defined by the Domestic Abuse Act;
- b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Strategic and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Leader, the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care & Health and the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, to accept future years' allocations of safe accommodation funding, provided funding is given on similar terms; and
- c) continue to delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Strategic and Corporate Services to take other necessary actions, including but not limited to entering into contracts or other legal agreements, as required, to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

In April 2021 the Domestic Abuse Act was passed. Part 4 of the Act gives upper-tier authorities duties to support victims of domestic abuse within safe accommodation services. The definition of safe accommodation includes refuge, sanctuary (where security measures are applied within existing homes) and move on accommodation (as people move out of refuge or other safe accommodation into longer-term homes). The council is also required, via statutory guidance, to monitor any impact of the new duties on community-based services (those who access support in their own home and communities).

To support the Act and the delivery of the new duties, £3.1 million was allocated to the council in 2021/22 and this allocation has been repeated for 2022/2023. A decision is needed to accept the funding.

Accepting the available funds from the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities allows the council to continue to develop and expand this crucial work.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was discussed and endorsed by the Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee on 4 May 2022.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The option of turning down the grant was discarded as there are many people in Kent who will benefit from this resource.

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

None

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger J. M.', written in a cursive style.

13 May 2022

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signed

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date