

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services

DECISION NO:

23/00007

For publication [Do not include information which is exempt from publication under schedule 12a of the Local Government Act 1972]

Key decision: YES

Key decision criteria. The decision will:

- a) result in savings or expenditure which is significant having regard to the budget for the service or function (currently defined by the Council as in excess of £1,000,000); or
- b) be significant in terms of its effects on a significant proportion of the community living or working within two or more electoral divisions – which will include those decisions that involve:
 - the adoption or significant amendment of major strategies or frameworks;
 - significant service developments, significant service reductions, or significant changes in the way that services are delivered, whether County-wide or in a particular locality.

Subject Matter / Title of Decision: Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Support Service – procurement of a new service to support children and young people residing in Safe Accommodation

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services, I agree to:

- A) Commence formal procurement activity to tender for a Domestic Abuse Support Service in Safe Accommodation for Children and Young People affected by Domestic Abuse,
- B) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director CYPE to take relevant actions to facilitate the required procurement activity
- C) Delegate authority to the Corporate Director CYPE to award the contract and take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

- Decision required because total value of the contract will exceed £1m and impact across multiple districts of the Local Authority.

Background:

- The current Domestic Abuse (DA) provision commissioned by KCC, with multi-agency funding, is managed through the Kent Integrated Domestic Abuse Services (KIDAS) contract, which is managed by the Vulnerable Adults Commissioning Team. This contract provides support for adult victims and survivors (16+) both within the community and refuge.
- There is currently no KCC commissioned Domestic Abuse support offer that specifically supports Children and Young People residing in Safe Accommodation.
- Most cases that Integrated Children's Service (ICS) interact with are linked to either present or historic Domestic Abuse, therefore ICS currently spend a significant amount of time and resources working with children and families who have been affected by Domestic Abuse. This proposed service, whilst may not reduce caseload numbers, could alleviate some pressure on KCC's Children's Social Care services that are supporting victims of domestic

abuse and also ensure more children have access to support.

- Historically, Local Children's Partnerships Groups have set Domestic Abuse as a priority within their districts and grant funded organisations and projects accordingly.

Financial implications

- This service will be funded entirely from the New Burdens Funding, which has been allocated to Kent County Council from the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) There are very specific requirements regarding how this funding can be spent by local authorities and the proposed service is in line with these.
- A maximum annual contract value applies to this contract of £760,446 and will be funded in full by the New Burdens Funding. The proposed contract length is two years (24 months) giving a contract value of £1.52m. The contract will have the potential to be extended for one plus one year (12+12 months). Should the two individual one year (12+12 months) extensions be granted, the value of the total contract would amount to £3.04m.
- Any commercial negotiation in addition to the existing contract values would be subject to budget and Director approval.
- The cost of staffing resource to the Local Authority to procure this service is funded through the New Burdens Funding. This is primarily a tendering, evaluating, and awarding a contract and finalising mobilisation plans. This process will be managed by a Commissioner and Project Officer.

Legal implications

- The Local Authority has a statutory obligation to meet the statutory duty set out in Part Four of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to provide support for all victims in Safe Accommodation. Under Section Three of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021, children are seen as victims in their own right if they have experienced, witnessed, or heard Domestic Abuse. This duty is currently not being met through KCC commissioned services.
- A Safe Accommodation support service for Children and Young People will allow KCC to meet the statutory duty set out in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

Equalities implications

- An Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) screening has been completed and has concluded that the proposed decision does not present any adverse equality impact.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The Children, Young People and Education Cabinet Committee on 17 January 2023 were asked to CONSIDER and ENDORSE, or MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS to the Cabinet Member for Integrated Children's Services on the proposed decision (attached as Appendix A) to:

A) Commence the procurement of a service to provide support for Children and Young People who reside in Safe Accommodation in Kent and support the case for it to be funded by the New Burdens Funding.

and

B) Delegate authority for the Corporate Director Children, Young People and Education, or other Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member, to award a contract and implement the Decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Option 1: Do nothing: Continue to deliver support for adults through KIDAS and make no offer of support for children or young people.

Option 2: Build capacity in-house to provide support to children and young people who reside in Safe Accommodation.

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

signed		date