

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

## DECISION NO:

23/00011

For publication

Key decision: NO

### Title of Decision

Interpreting and Communication Services for People who are D/deaf and Deafblind – Award of Framework Contracts

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

- a) **APPROVE** the award of contracts for Interpreting and Communication Services for People who are D/deaf and Deafblind.
- b) **DELGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to take other 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:** Kent County Council's (KCC) statutory responsibilities under The Care Act 2014, Equality Act 2010 and the Accessible Information Standard 2016 are partly delivered through an Interpreting and Communication Framework for People who are D/deaf or Deafblind. The framework provides a list of pre-vetted and approved communication professionals from whom interpreting and translation services can be purchased as and when required. The current framework commenced in June 2019 and will end in June 2023. New contractual arrangements for purchasing these communication services need to be in place by 17 June 2023. This decision supports the principles of Making a Difference Every Day, by offering a person-centred approach to accessing communication support for people who need it.

Once in operation, the Framework will open periodically throughout its period to allow potential new providers to tender and join the list of approved providers.

**Financial Implications:** As this is a framework approach, there is no fixed contract value or commitment to spend for any provider or service provided under the Framework, however the estimated annual cost of this service to Kent County Council Adult Social Care is £20,000 per annum, or £80,000 over the proposed 4 four-year contract period.

The Adult Social Care and Health (ASCH) budget was £29,400 for 2022/23, this is inclusive of spend for Children's Services. Based on the number of bookings remaining stable, the estimated annual income to ASCH from booking fees from users of KDIS is £4,500.00.

In addition to ASCH, all other council directorates and the council's public sector Contract Partners can also use the Framework to purchase communication services. Based on this the total estimated value of the Framework is £50,000 per annum (£200,000 over the four-year period).

Contractual payments will be managed using the Council's budgetary approval hierarchy within the iProcurement system.

**Legal Implications:** The procurement of this Framework has been undertaken in line with the Public Contract Regulations (2015).

**Equality Implications:** An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out and has concluded that there should be no negative impact on people with protected characteristics.

**Data Protection Implications:** A Data Protection Impact Assessment is likely to be required and will be carried out during the Framework mobilisation process.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:** The proposed decision will be discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 15 March 2023 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

- Not to put contractual arrangements in place
- To put alternative contract arrangements in place, e.g., a contract with a single supplier

**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