

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

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

DECISION NO:

23/00010

For publication

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

Commissioning of an NHS Health Check System

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Health Reform Public Health, I agree to:

1. EXTEND the current NHS Health Check System contract by nine months to end on 30 June 2024.
2. COMMENCE a formal procurement activity in June 2023 for a new NHS Health Check System contract to start on 1 April 2024, for an initial period of five months with the option of two 12-month extensions.
3. DELEGATE authority to the Director of Public Health to award a new contract and take relevant action, including, but not limited to, finalising the terms, entering into a contract and other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decisions:

Kent County Council (KCC) has a statutory responsibility to provide the NHS Health Check programme which is delivered by Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT), General Practitioners (GPs) and Pharmacy.

Delivery of this programme has been challenging since COVID-19 and there are opportunities to deliver the service differently. A review has commenced which will look at both the clinical and cost effectiveness of the programme and make recommendations on the future service and contracting model.

An IT system is required to facilitate effective delivery of the programme, including data capture, the invitation process and national reporting. KCC has contracted with Health Diagnostics since 2018 and the current contract comes to an end on the 30 of September 2023, following previous extensions.

To allow time for the review to conclude, a further six months extension is needed for the system, meaning the contract will come to an end on 31 March 2024.

The NHS Health Check system supports the councils' legal responsibilities to deliver the NHS Health Check programme. It is recommended for the council to conduct a competitive procurement in June 2023 and award the contract following this compliant process.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:
Options (other options considered but discarded)**

Decommission the service - Decommissioning the service was concluded as a non-viable option as the system supports the mandated NHS Health Check Programme. Not providing a system for providers of the NHS Health Check and requesting that they revert to other methods (such as using paper forms, manual reporting and invoicing) was deemed a not suitable option. It would move away from an automated approach, risking increased errors and losing the structured, logical, and standardised approach to providing consistent NHS Health Checks across the county. This option would likely put KCC at reputational risk, Primary Care may disengage with the programme or request additional funding and i. furthermore, the outreach team delivered by KCHFT would need to find other solutions in facilitating the NHS Health Check.

Hybrid model – Commissioners looked at whether systems already in place in Primary Care can be used to meet the requirements. This would involve using various Integrated Care Board systems to facilitate the NHS Health Check, such as EMIS. Analysis suggested that this could cause fragmented commissioning, with different systems having to be updated to meet the needs of the requirements. The cost modelling for these upgrades and additional time needed for staff to collate the data showed that it would be more costly to commission in this way and KCC would have less control when changes are needed.

An 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