

Officer Decision

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

David Cockburn
Chief Executive

DECISION NO:

OD – 23 - 0002

For publication

Subject matter: Domestic abuse, acceptance of funding allocation for support in safe accommodation.

Cabinet Member or Council/Cabinet decision to which this action relates:

Leader Decision 22/00040 - 22/00040 - Domestic Abuse Duty: 2022 to 2023 funding
<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2601>

Decision:

As Chief Executive, I agree to:

- accept money on behalf of Kent County Council to meet support in safe accommodation duties within the Domestic Abuse Act, provided funding is given on similar terms to previous years,
- delegate acceptance of any future monies to the Corporate Director of Finance, again providing funding is given on similar terms,
- Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Finance to enter into relevant agreements with Government (e.g. Memorandums of Understanding), as required to accept funding.
- delegate management and oversight of the expenditure of the DA Act funding to the Corporate Director for Adults Social Care and Health, within the scope of the terms and conditions of the Grant Funding, including entering into relevant legal agreements as required to implement this decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed new duties on local authorities across England to ensure that victims of domestic abuse and their children can access the right support in safe accommodation when they need it.

£257 million support in safe accommodation funding is being allocated to local authorities for delivery of their duties. Local authorities will receive £127.3 million in 2023 to 2024 and £129.7 million in 2024 to 2025. Of this Kent will receive

£3,174,764 for 2023/2024 and £3,234,663 for 2024/2025.

Within the Domestic Abuse Act the definition of safe accommodation includes refuge, dispersed accommodation (non-communal supported accommodation), sanctuary schemes (security provision within a survivor's home) and move-on accommodation where some levels of support are still required. Funding associated with the Act is to provide support services for those in these forms of accommodation.

Financial Implications:

This two-year allocation supports certainty in relation to 2023/25 DLUHC allocations to support those in safe accommodation impacted by domestic abuse. These monies support the authority to meet statutory duties under the Domestic Abuse Act.

Legal implications:

The 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) sets out terms of the grant including principles and practices that will apply to the working relationship between DLUHC and local authorities with regard to delivering the new functions under Part 4 of the Act.

DLUHC have communicated that they expect no change to the terms of the MoU for 2023/2025, however if funding is not given on similar terms this officer decision would not apply.

Equality Implications:

The support in safe accommodation funding aids the delivery of elements of the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy. An equality impact assessment, conducted for the Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy found the impact of this work to be positive across all groups.

Comments received from members consulted:

The Leader of the Council supported the decision.

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, and it supports the council to meet its statutory duties.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'V. Blom', is positioned above a horizontal dotted line. A vertical solid line is drawn to the right of the signature, extending from the top of the signature down to the dotted line.

Signed

5 April 2023

date