

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Anjan Ghosh

Director of Public Health

DECISION NO:

OD/23/0009

For publication Yes

Subject matter: Contractual variations relating to the Co-Operation Agreement for Public Health Services between Kent County Council and Kent Community Health Foundation Trust dated 22 March 2021.

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:

Dan Watkins – Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Key Decision **19/00064** <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=2285>

Decision:

As director of Public Health, I agree to the amendments to the Co-Operation agreement relating to Public Health Services dated 22 March 2021 (as accepted under key decision 19/00064) as laid out in the Deed of Variation. Please note that the long term arrangements, pilot outcomes and reviews, and future spend beyond 2025 will be addressed via relevant executive decision processes.

Reason(s) for decision:

Kent County Council took the decision to enter into an innovative partnership with Kent Community Health Foundation Trust (KCHFT) in September 2017, with the aim to maximise the opportunity to improve the health of Kent residents, deliver common objectives and accelerate delivery of the Sustainability Transformation Plan (STP). In October 2019 it was agreed that this Partnership would be extended until March 2025, covered by the key decision 19/00064, and a co-operative agreement was drafted and signed by both Parties for the ongoing delivery of Public Health services listed below:

- Health Visiting
- School Health Services
- Sexual Health Services
- Lifestyle Services and NHS Health Checks
- Oral Health Services
- Postural Stability Services

Since the Co-Operation agreement was signed in March 2021 there has been the requirement to vary programme guidance for the services within the contract, responding to innovations made during the COVID-19 pandemic, pilot opportunities to improve service delivery for Kent residents, and performance indicator changes that are expected during the lifecycle of a contract. Variations to the agreement referenced within the Deed of Variation include projects started in 2021 when the services had moved out of their pandemic response.

Specific changes proposed to the Co-Operation agreement annexes are as follows:

Programme Guidance Changes

1. Changes to a Licence agreement end date between KCHFT and Bluebells Children Centre in response to the change of utilisation of KCC buildings due to the pandemic.
2. Requirement of growth monitoring by Health Visitors at new birth visits. This practice was already being undertaken but the Service but not explicitly in the Programme Guidance and

the variation was made to reflect this responsibility.

3. Implementation of a co-ordination post within the Tongue Tie Service to support a system-wide approach to referrals and improve the service provided.
4. Criteria for the Specialist Infant Feeding Service has been developed with input from across the Infant Feeding pathway to ensure users are appropriately supported and referrals are appropriate.
5. Implementation of a 18 month pilot, funded by ICB, which will deliver an offer of personalised and co-ordinated support for CYP/families who are experiencing atypical neurodevelopment through the School Public Health Service.
6. Enhancement of the tier 2 weight management service, funded by additional Public Health Grant monies, to pilot different interventions with BAME, Learning Disability and Postnatal population to improve the service better catered to their needs.
7. Introduction of a risk stratification tool to be utilised within the Postural Stability service to ensure the correct ratio of supervision to participants across all areas.
8. Requirement for relevant services within the agreement to implement the KCC Youth Charter to ensure the offer meets the needs of young people in Kent.
9. Requirement for all services within the agreement to promote Oral Health messages in line with KCHFT Oral Health promotion service annual priorities.
10. Amendments to performance metrics within the NHS Health Check Service, Kent Integrated Sexual Health Programme, School Public Health Service, Health Visiting Service and Postural Stability Service
11. Changes to contractual budgets for School Public Health Service, Postural Stability and Lifestyle Services. Inclusion of the additional funding for Tongue Tie and Weight management from the ICB and Public Health grant respectively.

Financial Implications:

The variation includes the following financial changes funded by the core Public Health Grant.

1. Increases to the annual budget for Adolescent School Public Health services to reflect revised costings of maintenance of the Resilience Hub website, £5008.00.
2. Reduction of annual budget for the Postural Stability service, the budget for 20/21 had been uplifted due to an increase in delivery and the variation would bring the contract value back in line with the expected costs, -£18,205.50.
3. Reduction of the annual budget for Healthy Lifestyle Service to reflect the fact they were no longer required to undertake Health Checks, -£35,000.
4. Funding from the Co-operation Agreement underspend to jointly fund a Tongue-Tie Co-ordination post, £13,971.52.

Total funding changes relating to the core Public Health Grant -£34,225.98.

The variation includes the following financial changes funded by additional funding streams.

1. Funding from the ICB to jointly fund a Tongue-Tie Co-ordination post, £27,943.04.
2. Funding from Public Health England to help people achieve healthier weight, targeted in Kent to BAME, LD and Postnatal cohorts, £252,589.
3. Funding from the ICB for the development of Neurological Pathway support, £318,501.

Total funding changes relating to additional funding streams £599,033.04.

Legal implications:

We have consulted with Office of the General Council and they are happy that this variation complies with the original co-operation agreement and the Public Contract Regulations.

Equality Implications: EQIA's will be completed on a project/ service basis as required.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Mr Watkins - Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

I have been consulted and am happy to approve this ROD.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

The alternative to varying the contract would have been to not undertake any service variation or to not accept funding for the pilots laid out above. This was discounted as both KCC and its providers are striving for continuous improvement to services to better serve Kent residents.

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

None



6th October 2023

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signed

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date