

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Smith,
Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health

DECISION NO:

OD/24/00001

For publication: YES

Subject matter: Community Wellbeing Services Contract Extension

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

[Decision - 20/00109 - Contract Award for Community-Based Wellbeing Services - Phase 1 \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

A cabinet member decision was recorded on 28 of December 2020 (decision number 20/00109) to

- a) **AWARD** contracts for the provision of Community Based Wellbeing Services, to the successful providers identified through the procurement exercise and as detailed in exempt Appendix 1, for a period of three years with the option to extend for further twelve-month periods, up to two years;
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and the Corporate Director for Finance, to agree the relevant contract extensions as required; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of 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.

Decision: EXTEND the current Community Wellbeing Services Contracts for a period of 12 months, from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Reason(s) for decision: Preventions are actions that prevent or delay the need to receive care and support, by keeping people well and independent. Community Wellbeing Services are part of the prevention offer and contribute to KCC's statutory duties in the Care Act for preventing, reducing and delaying needs for support.

This service works together with the contracted Community Navigation service and general social prescribing to ensure there are groups and activities for the community to access.

Social Enterprise Kent (SEK) leads a group of providers, known as the East Kent Strategic Partnership, to deliver these services. Involve lead on delivery of community wellbeing services in West Kent. These services are primarily for people aged over 55 and help to prevent or delay deterioration in people's health and wellbeing, enabling them to live safely in their own homes for longer. This includes, but is not limited to, a range of activities such as:

- peer support, so that people with similar experiences are able to help each other
- befriending, offering supportive relationships with people and reducing loneliness
- arts and heritage visits
- creative activities
- physical activities for all abilities
- enabling people to pursue new and old interests as desired.

Wellbeing services for adults with sensory impairments in the community are delivered by Kent Association for the Blind (KAB). This service provides a similar offer to the community wellbeing service described above but with a particular focus on supporting those aged 18 and over with a sensory impairment, such as someone who is blind and/or Deaf. Another element of this service is maintaining the Vision Impairment Register, which is a list of people who are blind or partially sighted in Kent, on behalf of KCC.

The services are contracted under three lots as set out below:

Lot	Provider
1- Universal Wellbeing in West Kent	Involve Kent
2- Universal Wellbeing in Thanet & South Kent Coast	SEK
3- Specialist Sensory Wellbeing Services (countywide)	KAB

The current Community Wellbeing Services Contracts commenced in April 2021, for an initial three-year period and are due to expire on 31 March 2024. There is provision within the current contract to extend for further twelve-month periods, up to two years.

In December 2020 the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health took the decision to delegate authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, after consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health and the Corporate Director for Finance, to agree the relevant contract extensions, should it be required.

Community Wellbeing Services support the Making a Difference Everyday strategy by taking a preventative approach to promoting wellbeing for older residents. All of the lead providers for these three contracts sub-contract to a number of smaller, local providers in the community, contributing to a resilient community, where people are supported to maintain their independence via a diverse local support network. The services are performing well and supporting the delivery of outcomes for residents.

Provider and service	Where in Kent	Total number of residents supported in 2022/23
Involve Kent – Universal Wellbeing	West Kent	4,835
Social Enterprise Kent (SEK) – Universal Wellbeing	East Kent	5,928
Kent Association for the Blind (KAB) – Sensory Wellbeing Service	Across Kent	25,704

Extending the current Community Wellbeing Services Contract for a further 12 months (from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025) will allow commissioners to explore options for the future recommissioning strategy for the services from April 2025 and for commissioning, in partnership with the NHS Kent & Medway Integrated Care Board, to develop the work that is underway to deliver a plan to grow a joint culture for change in approach and to review the current internal procedures and processes to support the contract in line with the Kent Social Prescribing and Navigation strategy.

The proposed decision supports the New Models of Care Support priorities of 'Framing Kent's Future – Our Council Strategy 2022 – 2026':

- reshaping our commissioning practice to ensure we build strategic partnerships with our providers, through earlier engagement, more consistent and proactive commissioning practice, and a stronger focus on co-designing services
- seizing the opportunity of integrating our planning, commissioning and decision making in adult, children's, and public health services through being a partner in the Kent and Medway Integrated Care System at place and system level.

Postural Stability Service

In September 2021, a variation was made to the West Kent Community Wellbeing contract, using Public Health funding, for Involve to deliver the Postural Stability service in West and North Kent until March 2024. The Postural Stability service sits naturally alongside the Wellbeing service in delivering preventative services to older people. It is proposed that the Postural Stability service element of this contract is also extended for 12 months, bringing the end of the contract for West and North Kent in line with the end of the contract in East Kent (where KCHFT are the commissioned provider).

Financial Implications: The Community Wellbeing Services are funded by the Council.

The table below outlines the funding breakdown and one year contract extension cost to KCC Adult Social Care. The Postural Stability service is funded by Public Health.

Services	Contract value for year 4
Wellbeing Services West Kent	£990,000
Wellbeing Services East Kent	£1,240,000
Specialist Sensory Wellbeing Services	£1,058,000
Postural Stability Service	£72,837
	£3,360,837

The services listed in this report are under consideration to reduce by 40%, as set out in the Council's planned budget for 2023-24. This is subject to the outcome of consultation and completion of equalities impact. Should the proposed reduction be agreed, the contract would be varied accordingly.

Legal implications: Wellbeing services contribute to the Council's prevention duties under The Care Act 2014. There is provision, under the existing contract, to extend for two single year periods.

Equality Implications: An EQIA was completed when the services were commissioned. There are no equality implications to extending the contracts for an additional 1 year.

Comments received from Members or Officers consulted:

The Corporate Director Finance and Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health have both been consulted and have endorsed the decision.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

End the contract on 31 March 2024

While it is recognised that ending these contracts could deliver a significant saving to the Council, ending the contract was dismissed at this point for the following reasons:

- Potentially increase the number of vulnerable adults, older people and carers becoming isolated and lonely, with the potential to therefore increase demand on health and social care services.

- There is a Social Prescribing and Navigation Strategy being developed, and the outcome and direction set for these services through that Strategy should in some way determine the future of these services.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None



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signed

..15 January 2024.....
date