

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Richard Smith,
Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health

DECISION NO:

OD.24.00002

For publication: YES/NO?

Subject matter: Community Navigation Services Contract Extension

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

[Decision - 22/00092 - Community Navigation Services Contract Extension \(kent.gov.uk\)](#)

A cabinet member decision was recorded on 21 October 2022 (decision number 22/00092) to

- a) **EXTEND** the current Community Navigation Services Contracts for a period of 12 months, from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; and
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to use the second one-year contract extension option (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025), should it be required; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to take 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 Navigation Services Contracts for a period of 12 months, from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

Reasons for decision: Kent County Council has a statutory responsibility under The Care Act 2014 to meet the needs of people who are 18 years or older, identifying as unpaid Carers, older people who are frail and vulnerable, and those who are under 55 years of age who are frail and vulnerable.

Kent County Council meets this duty through the provision of the Community Navigation Service. This service works together with the contracted Wellbeing Services and is complimented by general social prescribing; however, it also stands alone as a way of ensuring people are supported so that they do not move into crisis, that they have choices, control, and independence within their lives, whilst being supported by expertly trained Community Navigators.

It provides a proactive link between different parts of the social care and health systems; being both a first point of contact for people we support, carers and health and social care professionals, as well as guiding and co-ordinating the person's journey through the care system.

Community Navigation works collaboratively across agencies to support individuals to gain access to care packages, health support, groups, sessions; using social prescribing; working beyond signposting and referrals. It puts in place care and support in addition to social prescribing.

The contract is divided into two parts:

- **Part A** is universal navigation for all adults aged 55+ and people with complex issues/frailty under 55. The service is delivered by Involve, Imago and East Kent Strategic Partnership.

- **Part B** is navigation specifically for adult carers and is delivered by Involve, Imago and Carers Support East Kent. The service includes Carers Assessments.

The Community Navigation Services Contracts are jointly funded by Kent County Council (Adult Social Care) and the NHS Kent and Medway Integrated Care Board (NHS K&M ICB).

The current Community Navigation Services Contracts commenced in April 2019, for an initial four-year period, with the fourth year ending on 31 March 2023. There is provision within the current contract to extend for two single year periods.

In October 2022, The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health took the decision to extend the Community Navigation Services for a period of 12 months and delegated authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health to use the second one-year contract extension option (1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025), should it be required.

Extending the current Community Navigation Services Contracts 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 K&M ICB 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’ of

- 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

Financial Implications: The Community Navigation Services contract is jointly funded by Kent County Council and NHS K&M ICB.

The table below outlines the funding breakdown and one year contract extension cost to KCC Adult Social Care.

Funding Partner	Part A: 1 Year (12 Months) Contract Extension Cost	Part B: 1 Year (12 Months) Contract Extension Cost	Total
KCC Adult Social Care	£848,829	£2,507,501	£3,356,330
Kent & Medway Integrated Care Board	£692,531	£1,252,704	£1,945,235
Total	£1,541,360	£3,760,205	£5,301,565

The NHS K&M ICB has confirmed funding for the recommended extension period.

The Part A services listed in this report are under consideration to reduce by 40% (for the Council funded element only), 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: Kent County Council has a statutory responsibility under The Care Act 2014 to meet the needs of people who are 18 years or older, identifying as unpaid Carers, older people who are frail and vulnerable, and those who are under 55 years of age who are frail and vulnerable. Kent County Council meets this duty is through the provision of the Community Navigation Services. The current Community Navigation Services Contracts commenced in April 2019, for an initial four-year

period, with the fourth year ending on 31 March 2023. 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 one 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