

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

## DECISION TAKEN BY

Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

## DECISION NO.

15/00003

*If decision is likely to disclose exempt information please specify the relevant paragraph(s) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972*

**Subject:** MENTAL HEALTH CORE OFFER

### Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, I:

AGREE to fund the Mental Health Core Offer services by grant funding for 2015/16 as set out in the recommendation report

AGREE to the development of a Mental Health Core Offer - Primary Care & Wellbeing Service, with contracts to commence from the 1 April 2016.

DELEGATE the authority to the Corporate Director, Social Care Health and Wellbeing, or other suitable officer, to undertake such actions as necessary to implement this decision.

**Any Interest Declared when the Decision was Taken** None expected

### Reason(s) for decision, including alternatives considered and any additional information

The Care Act 2014 makes it a requirement for the council to deliver early intervention and preventative services for adults with mental health needs. The move from grant funding to contracts will ensure that there will be:

- Consistent set of expected outcomes for services
- Greater emphasis on promoting recovery and integration back into people's communities
- Greater transparency of the allocation of funding with distribution being based upon need and will be awarded using a competitive process
- Improved transition between services

All of which will lead to improved outcomes for individuals.

### Background Documents:

There will be a recommendation report from Corporate Director to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

### Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The 15 January Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee considered the proposed decision and the recommendation report. Officers introduced the report and set out the background to and context of the core offer. The committee discussed:

- a) the budget for mental health services seemed to have been reduced, and concern was expressed that service provision should not suffer. Officers reassured Members that the overall level of funding had not been reduced; the organisation of funding had simply changed, leading to figures being listed differently;
- b) the plan to continue grants made to the voluntary sector was welcomed, as working with this sector was vital when preparing for change, and to retain knowledge and expertise. Contracts with the voluntary sector would need to include notice that regular monitoring would be undertaken. Officers added that partners in the voluntary sector were supported and prepared to enable them to enter into and compete in the contracting process so they were able to take part fully;

- c) officers clarified that 'informal community services' listed among the grants and contracts to be awarded referred to day services, and that projects listed as 'others' were those which were supported by a collaboration of adult social care, public health and clinical commissioning groups;
- d) officers explained that adult social care staff worked with the NHS to improve access to psychological therapy services and was seeking further investment on this aspect of the mental health core offer;
- e) concern was expressed that some organisations listed to receive grants and contracts were unknown to elected Members. Members surely needed to be aware of the organisations with which the Council was working in their areas, and what services were available, so they were able to help and advise local people. Officers advised Members that local information could be found on the Live it Well website; and
- f) one of the stated aims of the core offer was to achieve 'parity of esteem' for those suffering from poor mental health. This sought to address the disparity which had existed historically between the perception of mental health and physical health issues, to reduce stigma and emphasise that mental health issues needed to be treated as would any other health issue. Research had shown that people experiencing serious mental health problems tended to die up to 25 years earlier than those without.

1. The Cabinet Member, Mr Gibbens, thanked Members for their comments and added that the voluntary sector was keen to work with the County Council. He said he had been pleased to visit and see the work undertaken by the Porchlight charity across the county. He undertook to look into methods of keeping Members informed of work going on in their divisions.

The committee resolved that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to provide grants for one further year, 2015/16, and then to award contracts for mental health services, as detailed in the report, from 1 April 2016, be endorsed, taking account of the comments made by this committee.

**Any alternatives considered:**

The alternative is to maintain the current arrangement for awarding annual grants.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:**

None.



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signed

*27 FEBRUARY 2015*

.....  
date

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Decision Referred to Cabinet Scrutiny			
YES		NO	

Cabinet Scrutiny Decision to Refer Back for Reconsideration			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration Record Sheet Issued			
YES		NO	

Reconsideration of Decision Published			