

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Graham Gibbens
Cabinet for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

16/00098

For publication or exempt – please state

Key decision*

Affects all Electoral Divisions in the county and the decision will shape the total expenditure and savings programmes in adult social care.

Subject: Your life, your well-being a vision and strategy for adult social care 2016 - 2021

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

- a) **APPROVE** Your life, your well-being as the vision and strategy for adult social care from 2016 to 2021 and the supporting Accommodation Strategy for Adult Social Care and the Community Support Market Position Statement;
- b) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer to refresh and/or make revisions as appropriate to the above documents during their lifetime; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision.

Reason(s) for decision:

Demand for care and support is increasing which is making finances come under pressure. At the same time, public expectations are changing; people want a life, not a service. Adult social care needs to continue to respond to these challenges, and the new strategy sets out how we will do this. The five-year strategy explains our plans for the future and it provides the basis for health and social care integration which is in progress and aims to deliver more person-centred care and support for people.

The strategy breaks the approach to adult social care into three key themes. These are:

- Promoting wellbeing – supporting and encouraging people to look after their health and wellbeing to avoid or delay them needing adult social care;
- Promoting independence – providing short-term support so that people are then able to carry on with their lives as independently as possible, and;
- Supporting independence – for people who need ongoing social care support, helping them to live the life they want to live, in their own homes where possible, and do as much for themselves as they can.

Four 'building blocks' support the above themes. They are, ensuring effective protection for people (safeguarding), developing a flexible workforce, smarter commissioning and improving the way we work with key partners.

The strategy will be delivered through the next phase of the transformation programme journey that we are already on. The details of how we will deliver it will be set out in an implementation plan which is being developed. In summary, this will include activity over the next 18 months around the following:

- **Assessment** - this involves investigating the current delivery model and assessing against the proposed alternatives, supported by best practice. It means confirming the expected financial

benefits and the changes needed to achieve the benefits. It also involves developing options to inform the next stage;

- Design – this means testing changes in specific areas and refining the expected financial benefits and, before putting into practice across the county;
- Implementation - this means putting changes into practice across Kent and monitoring the benefits and making sure that performance is consistent.

Legal Implications

KCC is obliged to fulfil its statutory responsibilities as set out in the Care Act 2014 and the associated statutory regulations and guidance alongside a number of relevant legislation such as the Mental Capacity Act 2005, Mental Health Act 1983.

Equality Implications

We have adhered to KCC's legal obligations as defined in the Equality Act 2010 and KCC's Equality and Diversity Objectives 2016 -2020. An equality impact assessment has been completed which will be taken into account in the decision-making.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on 6 December 2016. *Mr M Thomas-Sam, Head of Strategy and Business Support, and Ms S Annan-Veitch, Policy Advisor, were in attendance for this item.*

1. Mr Thomas-Sam introduced the report and presented a series of slides (included in the agenda pack) which set out the context of the strategy, the range of responses received during the consultation exercise and the resulting changes made to the draft strategy since last reporting to the Cabinet Committee in October 2016. Mr Ireland added that the strategy had been generally well received in focus group sessions with staff and partners as part of the consultation. The strategy was both forward-looking and aspirational in seeking to determine the future of social care in Kent. Mr Ireland and Mr Thomas-Sam responded to comments and questions from Members, as follows:-

- a) the strategy had been awarded a crystal mark by the Plain English Campaign at its first attempt, for which Mr Thomas-Sam received Members' congratulations;
- b) the easy-read version of the document was also much welcomed, and Members asked that this be made available to all Members ahead of the strategy being considered by the County Council on 8 December;
- c) concern was expressed that, as the strategy was aspirational, and as the economic situation worsened and staff and resources became more scarce, the County Council may not be able to put into practice what it had set out in it. Mr Ireland responded that, although aspirational, the strategy was not naïve, and although external events would have an effect, the strategy was robust;
- d) it was important that such a document take account of the support needs of people with learning disabilities, especially young people making the transition from children's to adults' services. Ms Southern advised that much work had been done on the needs of the 16 – 25 age group and was now continuing to identify the best model for the 26+ age group. This would be reported to the Cabinet Committee when completed;
- e) concern had been expressed during the consultation that some people may be forced into living independently when this did not suit them or was not what they wanted. Mr Thomas-Sam reassured Members that the revised strategy relied on 'needs-led' assessments which would be carefully undertaken to ensure that the support being put in place was appropriate;

- f) in response to a question about how well the strategy had been received by the voluntary sector, Mr Thomas-Sam advised that the County Council had increase the emphasis placed on the role of the voluntary sector and had linked the strategy to those of other organisations which provided related services; and
- g) concern was expressed about the impact of carers needing to continue in paid work later in life and hence not being so able to fulfil the carer role that they might traditionally have taken on, and how this shortfall could be covered. Mr Thomas-Sam advised that part of the role of the carers' assessment process would be to take account of changing patterns such as this. Furthermore, information about carers' issues had been revised in the equality impact assessment in response.
2. The Cabinet Member, Mr Gibbens, thanked Mr Thomas-Sam and the officer team for the huge amount of work which had gone into preparing and developing the strategy. He praised the clarity of the document and supported the sharing of the easy-read version with all Members prior to its consideration by the County Council.
3. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to:
- a) approve Your Life, Your Well-being as the vision and strategy for adult social care from 2016 to 2021, with the supporting Accommodation Strategy for Adult Social Care and the Community Support Market Position Statement;
 - b) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to refresh and/or make revisions as appropriate to the above documents during their lifetime; and
 - c) delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing, or other nominated officer, to undertake the necessary actions to implement the decision,
- be endorsed.

The strategy was also presented to County Council on 8 December 2016, where Members endorsed the document.

KCC has consulted widely on the new strategy which commenced on 30 September 2016 and it closed on 4 November 2016. This included consulting the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 11 October 2016.

Any alternatives considered:

This strategy replaces the previous 'Active Lives' strategy which was based on the post-war National Assistance Act legislation. A new strategy based on the Care Act 2014, was required and which also reflect KCC's 'Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015-2020' and the 'Commissioning Framework for Kent County Council'.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None.



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signed

15 DECEMBER 2016.
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date

17. Decision: none

(Signature)