

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL –RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:**

Mr Peter Oakford

Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services

**DECISION NO:**

16/00060

**For publication****Key decision**

**As Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services.I agree to:**

to make the award of contracts for the Family Support Service to **Porchlight (South and East)** with a financial pot of **£1,240,000.00** and **Salus (North and West)** with a financial pot of **£860,400.00** for a period of three years with the option to extend for a further two years

**Reason for decision:**

The role of Early Help and Preventative Services is to deliver effective early help and prevention in order to achieve improved outcomes for vulnerable children and families as well as reducing demand for social care services.

The Family Support Service will form part of the Council's Early Help and Preventative Services provision and will deliver a flexible, innovative and holistic family approach that makes significant progress towards achieving outcomes that support the Troubled Families Programme.

The Early Help and Preventative Services Commissioning team undertook analysis of the current service provision and produced a diagnostic report which identified a need to deliver a targeted and intensive level Family Support Service. This Family Support Service would reduce the number of separate contracts currently in place and improve the service offered to children, young people and families in Kent.

The Family Support Service will provide additional capacity to the internal Early Help Units and will support families with an intensive level of need that meet a minimum of three Troubled Families criteria with a particular focus on those that have children who need help and those that have parents out of work or at risk of financial exclusion.

The Family Support Service is proposed to be in place by December 2016 following Cabinet Member Decision in late September 2016 and contracted to then be awarded in early October 2016.

**Financial Implications:**

It is proposed that the budget available for the Family Support Service will be £2.1 million per year. The Service is split into two lots of South and East, North and West. The contract will be for three years, with the potential to extend for up to 24 months.

Current contracts end on 30 September 2016, and the new Family Support Service will be in place by December 2016 and as a result, the current contracts will be extended. This will incur financial costs which will need to be offset against the commissioning budget for this year.

Any delays to the procurement processes will result in a £86k per month cost pressure. Due to the cost pressures, it is proposed that authority be delegated to Peter Oakford to make the Cabinet

Member Decision for the award of the Family Support Service contracts.

**Legal implications**

The tendering process was completed using the agreed processes set out in Kent County Council's Constitution.

**Equalities implications**

Please refer to the EQIA initial assessment. There is no change to any policy or eligibility criteria.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

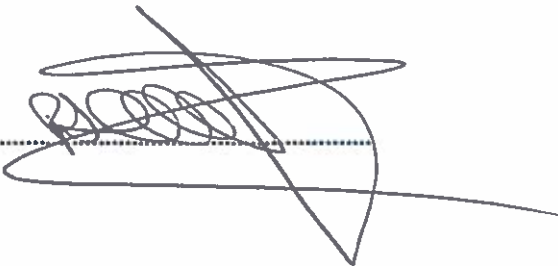
**Cabinet Committee 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016 report to Education and Young Person's Cabinet Committee:**

The Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee at its meeting RESOLVED to: endorsed the proposed decision by Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services to make the award of contracts for the Family Support Service.

**Any alternatives considered:**

A robust procurement process is being undertaken to identify providers for Family Support Service which was fully explained in the report that went to Education and Young People's Services Cabinet Committee on 1 July 2016. There is potential to secure financial savings through the new contract and ensure that the needs of vulnerable children continue to be met by the local authority.

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

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signed 

..... 9 Sept. 2016  
date