

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Graham Gibbens
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

DECISION NO:

17/00030b

For publication
Key decision

Affects more than 2 Electoral Divisions and expenditure of more than £1m

Subject: Community Support Services – Homecare contract continuation or variation through mutual negotiation

Decision: As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I propose to:

- a) **AGREE** to continue, for some contracted providers, service provision on the existing terms and conditions through to 31 May 2019 and for other contracted providers where mutual negotiation can be agreed, to award varied interim contracts through to 31 May 2019;
- b) **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; and
- c) **AUTHORISE** officers to commence market engagement in readiness for the full procurement process, where required.

Reason(s) for decision:

Given the freedoms set out in the Care Act 2014 since these contracts started and the council's Strategy for Adult Social Care, Your life, your well-being, there is now an opportunity to move to greater integration with health services. To achieve this it is desirable to continue these services' contracts to a single end date of 31 May 2019.

This will help achieve the corporate objectives of:

Strategic Outcome

Older and vulnerable residents are safe and supported with choices to live independently

Supporting Outcomes

- Those with long term conditions are supported to manage their conditions through access to good quality care and support
- People with mental health issues and dementia are assessed and treated earlier and are supported to live well
- Families and carers of vulnerable and older people have access to the advice, information and support they need
- Older and vulnerable residents feel socially included
- More people receive quality care at home avoiding unnecessary admissions to hospital and care homes
- The health and social care system works together to deliver high quality community services
- Residents have greater choice and control over the health and social care services they receive

Financial Implications

The total annual value of the current contracted service is £ 33,632,993.52. The proposed contract continuations for Homecare include an additional £7,095,568.31 plus circa £145,000 for TDM development costs. This represents the pressure for the remainder of 2017/18 and is subject to further refinement.

Additional pressures relate to four areas of Kent where a separate approach shall be taken, risks highlighted include increased rates should non-contracted (and non-cluster contracted) provider clients require transitioning to a contracted provider resulting in higher costs, new clients entering the service at new rates, the waiting list and any other factors still to be determined.

The activity of some of these services is similar in approach to other community support services commissioned by the County Council in that it is delivered in people's own homes to support, maintain or improve their independence or wellbeing by maintaining a tenancy or in supported and shared accommodation.

Equality Implications

An Equalities Impact Assessment will be completed for the new service design as part of the Transformation Programme. For this arrangement, service users would receive continuity in service provision, pending any planned activity for review.

Legal Implications

There are significant inherent legal implications from this approach. Legal advice has been sought which is legally privileged and therefore attached as an exempt appendix to the recommendation report.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The proposed decision will be discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 9 June 2017 and the outcome included in the paperwork which the Cabinet Member will be asked to sign.

Any alternatives considered:

None

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

.....
signed

.....
date