

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – PROPOSED RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Mike Hill
Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services

DECISION NO:

17/00064

For publication

Key decision*

Yes –

Subject: Contract for Post Mortem Facilities for the Mid Kent & Medway Coroner Area

Decision details

As Cabinet Member for Community and Regulatory Services, I agree to award a four year contract for the provision of post mortem (PM) facilities for the Mid Kent and Medway coroner area

Reason(s) for decision:

The Coroners and Justice Act 2009 places a duty on Coroners to investigate deaths that are referred to them if they have reason to think that:

- The death was violent or unnatural;
- The cause of death is unknown; or
- The deceased died while in prison, police custody or another form of state detention eg where a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguard Order (DoLS) is in place

In some cases the Coroner will order a PM to establish the cause of death. In these cases, bodies are taken to a pre-designated mortuary. In 2016, of the 2,272 deaths referred to the Senior Coroner, Mid Kent and Medway, 988 required a Post Mortem.

On behalf of the Senior Coroner, KCC ensures there is adequate storage capacity for Coroner's bodies and that the Coroner has access to Post Mortem facilities. KCC does not have its own public mortuary facility and so like many other coroner areas across England and Wales it has always used local NHS hospitals which have the necessary facilities for this purpose as there are no private sector providers of PM facilities anywhere in England and Wales.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

The matter will be considered by the Cabinet Committee at its meeting on 15 June 2017 and any comments made will be considered when the decision is taken

Any alternatives considered:

The service has explored alternative providers to inform the procurement process but there are no viable alternative service providers.

Other Kent-based NHS providers were considered but there is no capacity to deliver this service

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

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signed

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date

Name: