

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**  
Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

**DECISION NO:**  
17/00074

**For publication**

**Key decision**

Expenditure of more than £1m

**Subject: VULNERABLE ADULTS HOMELESSNESS SERVICE REDESIGN**

**Decision:** As Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I agree to work with commissioners to:

- UNDERTAKE** a procurement exercise for the provision of new generic support services contracts for vulnerable homeless adults, which will commence from 1 October 2018;
- PROCURE** a new short-term contract for offender-specific services from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019 at which point this contract will end; and
- DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, or other nominated officer to, implement the decision.

**Reason(s) for decision:** Homelessness Support Services for vulnerable people helps prevent the need for statutory provision and aligns with Kent County Council's vision in the following ways:

- Tackle disadvantage
- Reduce avoidable demand on health and social care services
- Focus on improving lives by ensuring that every penny spent in Kent is delivering better outcomes for Kent's residents, communities and businesses
- Enable adults in Kent to lead independent lives, safely in their own community

These services relate most to Strategic Outcome 2 and 3 by assisting individuals to maintain housing and employment, facilitating better health and quality of life and supporting people to feel safe and supported through the transition from crisis into independent living.

**Financial Implications:** The planned contract arrangements for a generic Vulnerable Homeless Adults Service are anticipated to run for five years with a total value of £25.5m (£5.1 million per annum), with the option to extend for a further two years at a further cost of £10.2 million.

The maximum value of the six-month short-term offender specific services contracts is £315k.

**Legal Implications:** Under the Children's Act 1989, the Council has a legal duty to provide safe and suitable accommodation for Children in Care and to provide Care Leavers with support in relation to maintaining suitable accommodation.

Every resident over the age of 18 and or their representative can contact the local authority and where there is an appearance of need (as defined in the Care Act 2014) can have access to a needs assessment.

The rehabilitation of offenders is the responsibility of the Community Rehabilitation Company and was created under the Offender Rehabilitation Act 2014. Finding suitable accommodation for prison leavers is one of the metrics against which the Community Rehabilitation Company's performance is measured and rewarded. To ensure the current services for offenders are more appropriately provided the council will work with the Community Rehabilitation Company and the Ministry of Justice, in accordance with this legislation.

13/6/18

**Equality Implications:** A full Equalities Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been undertaken and will continue to be refined as the commissioning and procurement process progresses

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:** The proposed decision was discussed at the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee on 18 May 2018  
Clare Maynard (Head of Commissioning Portfolio – Outcome 2 and 3) and Melanie Anthony (Commissioning and Development Manager) were in attendance for this item)

1. Clare Maynard introduced the report which provided an update on the commissioning of generic support services for vulnerable homeless adults and the new and emerging legislative change.
  - a) In response to a question, Mel Anthony said that extensive work had been undertaken to understand the diverse needs of vulnerable homeless adults. She said that some of the feedback received suggested that integrating services together to have 1 comprehensive assessment meant that Kent would be able to deliver appropriate services to people at a time of need.
  - b) In response to a question Mel Anthony said that the current arrangements meant that services were not connected. Bringing the services together would better enable information to be shared, and this would also make things easier for the people who need to use them.
  - c) In response to a question, Mel Anthony said that the prevention of homelessness and earliest intervention possible was critical. She said that work with the district and boroughs was ongoing in light of the Homelessness Reduction Act to ensure that any new service complemented rather than duplicated the work of the housing authorities.
  - d) In response to a question, Mel Anthony said that the Voluntary Sector had been given the opportunity to inform, advise and shape proposals.
  - e) In response to a question, Mel Anthony said that there was an agreed county-wide housing protocol for 16-17-year olds which described how the county and districts would interact with one another. She said that young offenders would be supported by the young person's accommodation offer.
  - f) In response to a question, Mel Anthony confirmed that Adult Social Care in Kent had 9 different providers, although many of the providers had several contracts.
  - g) In response to a question, Mel Anthony said that there were ongoing conversations with districts and boroughs in relation to where the areas of demand were for the service. She added that there was a great deal of homelessness in rural areas, and therefore the offer needed to extend out to rural communities.
  - h) In response to question, Mel Anthony talked about the consultation that had been undertaken for the service and said that a questionnaire had been taken to different environments to ensure that both people that did and did not use the service were able to comment on the proposals.
  - i) In response to a question, Mel Anthony said that ex-service personnel represented a high number of the rough-sleeper population. She said that they were included in the provision and creating the service would help them.
  - j) In response to a question, Mel Anthony said that a key element of the service was to provide support to individuals to access their rights. She said that it was very difficult for people who had been multiply disadvantaged, and that support service do and would continue to pursue

those pathways.

- k) In response to a question, Mel Anthony said that Kent County Council had had conversations with CCGs who were considering a different way to offer GP services to homeless vulnerable adults within the new service.
2. RESOLVED that the decision proposed to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, to
- a) undertake a procurement exercise for the provision of new generic support services contracts for vulnerable homeless adults, which will commence from 1 October 2018;
  - b) procure a new short-term contract for offender-specific services to run from 1 October 2018 to 31 March 2019 at which point this contract will end; and
  - c) delegate authority to the Corporate Director Adult Social Care and Health, or other nominated officer to, implement the decision,

be endorsed.

Since November, the council has continued to work closely with all sections of the community with an interest to help to shape and plan the future service. As well as one to one meetings with individual organisations, over 30 events have been held to engage with suppliers and stakeholders, including the District and Borough Councils, to garner their views on future provision.

Events have taken place in public spaces such as libraries, Gateways, community hubs and day centres across the county, providing the opportunity to listen to members of the public, community leaders and those who are currently using services. Care has also been taken to meet with vulnerable homeless people who are not using services now, to try to better understand the barriers they face.

Public consultation was undertaken between 22 January 2018 and 4 March 2018. Over 265 responses were received. There was strong support for the council's proposals to move towards an integrated service. The consultation will be published shortly.

**Any alternatives considered: None**

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



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signed

*13 JUNE 2018*  
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date

