

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TO BE TAKEN BY:

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

DECISION NO:

20/00043

For publication

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

Subject: COMMUNITY BASED WELLBEING SERVICES PROCUREMENT

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

- a) **EXTEND** all current grant arrangements until 31 March 2021;
- b) **DELAY** all remaining phases of the community based wellbeing services procurement until 2021/2022; and
- c) **DELEGATE** authority to the Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health to take relevant actions, including but not limited to finalising the terms of and entering into required contracts or other legal agreements, as necessary to implement the decision;

Reason for urgency To support the security of the social care provider market in Kent during the COVID19 crisis and while the procurement programme for the Community Based Wellbeing Services Offer is paused, to enable key providers of services and that financial intervention is to enable them to carry on with their critical role during this time, whilst other income streams from commercial activity reduces.

Financial Implications: The value of extending the current grant arrangements until 31 March 2021 will be £5,797,824.88.

Legal Implications: Senior officers in both strategic commissioning and finance have been consulted on this issue and no market or competition issues have been identified. Advice from Invicta Law and the Office of the General Counsel has also been sought and provided. The Council has statutory powers to make these grants under the general power of competence in the Localism Act 2011 and the ancillary power to do what is reasonably necessary to implement the discharge of a statutory function under section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972. The arrangements will be kept under review in consultation with the General Counsel.

Equality Implications: The proposed grant agreements will support vulnerable and elderly people in the community who are required to either shield or isolate themselves to protect them from exposure to COVID-19. A number of these organisations are also engaged with the local community hubs coordinated through local District / Borough Council's. As such they will also be supporting and engaging with other vulnerable and isolated families and residents

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:

No Cabinet Committee consultation possible due to urgency process

The chair of the Scrutiny Committee, in addition to agreeing that the decision could be reasonably deferred provided the following comments:

Mr Booth supported the decision.

The Group Spokespeople of the Scrutiny Committee provided the following comments:

Mr Bird Supported the decision.

The Chair and Group Spokespeople of the Adult Social Care Cabinet Committee provided the following comments:

Mrs Cole supported the decision.

Any alternatives considered:

	Risks		Opportunities
	Service Delivery	Financial	Service Delivery
Option 1	Current Grant aided providers are reporting an impact on service use, from people cancelling attendance to services. No reports yet on impacts on staff / volunteers	Reduced income for providers from those attending service provision could destabilise providers and result in some provider failure, prior to any changes in contract providers through procurement	Changing to new contracts at a time when service provision is reduced reduces impact on providers and service users. Current grant aided providers can refocus activities to support people in the community to help reduce feelings of isolation
Option 2	Current Grant aided providers are reporting an impact on service use, from people cancelling attendance to services. No reports yet on impacts on staff / volunteers	Reduced income for providers from those attending service provision could destabilise providers and result in some provider failure, prior to any changes in contract providers through procurement. Extending grant aid to phase 2 for remainder of 2020/21 could provide some stability, however still impact of reduced income from reduced attendance of those that self-fund	Changing to new contracts at a time when service provision is reduced reduces impact on providers and service users. Current grant aided providers can refocus activities to support people in the community to help reduce feelings of isolation
Option 3	Current Grant aided providers are reporting an impact on service use, from people cancelling attendance to services. No reports yet on impacts on staff / volunteers	Halting the procurement and extending grants to all for remainder of 2020/21 would provide some stability, would not however counteract the reduced income from those that are self-funding their attendance to these services	Current grant aided providers can refocus activities to support people in the community to help reduce feelings of isolation

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

None

7 April 2020

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signed

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date