

From: Richard Smith, Interim Corporate Director of Adult Social Care and Health

To: Clair Bell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health

Decision No: 20/00043

Subject: Community Based Wellbeing Services Procurement update

Classification: Unrestricted

Past Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: County Council

Electoral Division: All

Summary: The COVID-19 crisis has had a significant impact on the capacity of key providers to deliver services, while also engage in a procurement process. All staff capacity is needed by these key providers to concentrate on delivering key frontline services to the most vulnerable and elderly in Kent.

Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked 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;

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Community Based Wellbeing Service Procurement Programme is underway and currently in Phase 1 of the 3-phase programme.
- 1.2 The COVID-19 outbreak has significantly impacted on the provider's and potential bidder's demands for support.

2. Strategic Statement and Policy Framework

- 2.1 This decision supports KCC's Strategic Statement through supporting key providers that deliver services to older and vulnerable residents that will ensure they are safe and supported with choices to live independently.
- 2.2 This decision relates to the proposal within the Strategic Delivery Plan of moving organisations from grants to contracts.

3. The Report

3.1 The programme timetable has contracts for successful bidders for Phase 1 starting 1 July 2020. Current programme timetable can be seen in diagram below.

Phase 1	Phase 2	Phase 3
Jan - Mar 2020	Apr – Jun 2020	Oct – Dec 2020
Sensory Impairment	Physical Disability	Carers Short Breaks
Wellbeing: Thanet / SKC	Wellbeing: DGS	Wellbeing: Ashford / Canterbury
Wellbeing: West Kent	Specialist Dementia (all)	Wellbeing: Swale
New contracts start: 1 July 2020	New contracts start: 1 October 2020	New contracts start: 1 April 2021

3.2 Given the target audience for these contracts are generally older more vulnerable people, or those with other long term conditions, the impact of COVID-19 on the delivery of the current grant aided providers and any potential new providers could be severe, especially with changing Government advice.

3.3 The biggest issue presented by current providers is the cost of retaining staff, and redeploying them to provide support in other ways, while not receiving the same level of income.

3.4 To that end the following options have been explored in terms of ensuring a continued community presence and support for this vulnerable client group.

- OPTION 1: Keep Current Programme Timetable.
- OPTION 2: Complete Phase 1. Delay remaining phases until 2021/22.
- OPTION 3: Halt Phase 1 and delay all phases until 2021/22 and extend all current grants for the remainder of 2020/21 and into 2021/22.

	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 ⁱ to help reduce feelings of isolation
Option	Current Grant aided	Reduced income for	Changing to new contracts

2	providers are reporting an impact on service use, from people cancelling attendance to services. No reports yet on impacts on staff / volunteers	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	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

3.5 **Option 1: Not recommended.** At this stage and given current government advice and reports from providers, the risk to stability of provision and asking providers to divert resources to engage in a procurement process is an ask that puts pressure into a system that will be under severe strain.

3.6 **Option 2: Not Recommended.** At this stage and given current government advice and reports from providers, the risk to stability of provision and asking providers to divert resources to engage in a procurement process is an ask that puts pressure into a system that will be under severe strain.

3.7 **Option 3: Recommended.** Given the uncertainty and changing picture with the progression of this issue, this will allow further assessment of the financial risk to organisations and risk of provider failure. Extending all grants until 31 March 2021 would prove the most stable of options, while exploring what further support might be necessary. A revised procurement programme would need to be devised and with the phasing approach currently being used look at further grant extensions into 2021/22 to allow the procurement programme to take place.

4. Financial Implications

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

4.2 Appendix A, details the value of the current grant arrangements per provider.

5. Legal Implications

5.1 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.

6. Equality Implications

6.1 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.

6.2 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.

7. Data Protection Impact Assessment Implications

7.1 None

8. Conclusions

8.1 The main benefit of this action is to ensure the continuation of key community-based services, that will be key to supporting the most vulnerable and isolated residents through the COVID-19 crisis.

9. Recommendation(s)

9.1 Recommendation(s): The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked 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;

10. Background Documents

None

11. Contact details

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Organisation	Current grant value
Age Concern Deal	£170,739.50
Age UK Ashford	£118,946.89
Age UK Canterbury	£166,585.98
Age UK Dover	£78,767.51
Age UK Faversham & Sittingbourne	£442,990.27
Age UK Folkestone	£137,862.40
Age UK Herne Bay & Whitstable	£271,832.25
Age UK Hythe & Lyminge	£200,046.15
Age UK Maidstone	£216,731.39
Age UK NWK	£575,235.27
Age UK Sandwich	£83,820.64
Age UK Sevenoaks & Tonbridge	£272,971.18
Age UK Sheppey	£139,478.49
Age UK Tenterden	£68,207.04
Age UK Thanet	£200,134.50
Age UK Tunbridge Wells	£232,290.73
Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services	£263,499.72
Alzheimer's Society (Kent & Medway)	£286,395.54
Ash Cum Ridley Parish Council	£2,404.92
Ashford Citizens Advice Bureau	£746.02
Bright Shadow	£6,871.20
Caring Altogether on Romney Marsh (CARM)	£49,080.00
Centre for Independent Living in Kent (CILK)	£74,684.05
Christians Caring	£8,597.83
Compaid Trust	£11,484.72
CROP (EK)	£69,465.00
Disability Information Services Kent (DISK)	£42,520.95
FACE (Faversham Assistance Centre)	£14,366.70
Good Neighbour Project	£24,540.00
Hersden Neighbourhood Centre Association	£4,908.00
Hi Kent	£277,662.25
Involve – Befriending	£6,225.31
KAB	£803,809.66

Kent Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus	£31,411.20
NWK Volunteer Centre	£38,251.97
Romney Marsh Day Centre	£148,261.85
Rural Age Concern Darent Valley	£61,641.00
Kent Coast Volunteering	£21,325.26
Swale CVS	£17,668.80
The over 60's Community Service (Northgate Ward & Canterbury District)	£63,538.97
Tonbridge Baptist Church	£11,376.74
Trinity Community Resource Centre	£49,729.82
Sevenoaks Volunteer Transport Group	£1,717.80
Edenbridge Voluntary Transport Service	£4,459.41
Hospice in the Weald	£24,540.00
TOTAL	£5,797,824.88