

# KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF DECISION

**DECISION TAKEN BY:**

**Sue Chandler,  
Cabinet Member for Children’s Integrated Services**

**DECISION NO:**

**20/00017**

Unrestricted

Key decision: **YES**

**Subject: Early Help Recommissioning**

**Decision:**

- i. To bring the Family Support Service in-house and align this to the existing Early Help Unit provision.
- ii. Redevelop the NEETs contract into a Service Level Agreement and, utilising Teckal regulations, pass this to The Education People.
- iii. To re-procure the Young Carers Service to account for unmet need, as identified following the SEND inspection, with an additional re-provision of £100k (new total £425,484) from the existing commissioning budget, to increase support for young carers. The Young Carers services will be recommissioned under new a new specification with the tender process to commence in the autumn of 2020.
- iv. Delegate decisions about the establishment of the new services to the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, or other Officer as instructed by the Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education, in consultation with the Cabinet Member

**Reason(s) for decision:**

This Decision ensures that the current NEET, Young Carers and Family Support contracts (and the total financial envelope that these represent) are utilised to be aligned to Integrated Children’s Services and are delivered in a way provides the best opportunities to support children, young people and their families. The increased resource for the Young Carers contract is in recognition from the learning of the SEND Inspection. The proposals also deliver an in-year saving of £1m.

It is recognised that the current contracts are due to end on 30th September 2020.

**Equalities Implications**

The Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) highlighted low-negative impact to the age protected group as the services included within these proposals will remain within the 0-25 age range that is supported within Integrated Children’s Services. Positive impacts include the enhanced support young carers who provide care and support for siblings with SEND

**Financial Implications**

Current spend per annum on these contracts is:

Contract Name	Provider	Costings
<b>A. Young Carers</b>	Imago	£325,484.88
<b>B. NEET</b>	CXK Ltd	£498,410.40
<b>C. Family Support</b>	Porchlight	£1,240,000.00
	Project Salus	£860,400.00
	<b>Family Support Total</b>	<b>£2,100,400.00</b>
<b>Total current Spend</b>		<b>£2,924,295.28</b>
<b>Total revised projected spend</b>		<b>£1,924,295.28</b>

The utilisation of the total in scope financial envelope of £2,924,295.28 per annum is to:

- Increase the Young Carers Contract Value by £100k.
- Reduce the value of the Family Support envelope (proposed to be brought in-house) by £1.1m, providing an in-year saving with families being supported by appropriate KCC tier two and three services.
- Retain the current NEET contract value to move into the SLA with The Education People.

**Legal Implications**

KCC have a duty, under Section 22 of the Children Act 1989, to safeguard and promote the welfare of each child we look after. Section 11 of the Children’s Act 2004 places a duty on a range of organisations and agencies to ensure their functions, and any services that they contract out to others, are discharged having regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.

Section 17 Children Act 1989 places a duty on Local Authorities to assess whether a young carer in their area needs support and what those needs.

**Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation:**

The report was shared with Members of the CYPE Cabinet Committee for comment, prior to a decision being taken.

**Any alternatives considered and rejected:**

The Integrated Children’s Service (ICS) provides a coordinated offer to children, young people and their families across all levels of need. The contracts above have been analysed and the changes to the services outlined above will enhance the provision that ICS provide to the Children and Young People of Kent.

**Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer: None**



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**signed**

**29 May 2020**

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**date**