



## Operational Officer Decision Record

Where the decision has a financial value of between £100k - £350k and does not have a significant impact on two or more wards

### 1. Subject and details of the matter (to include reasons for the decision)

Approval is sought to extend the Kooth contract until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 with the Local Authority continuing to commission this service. After the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care System will commission this service.

The current contract ends on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2023 and a paper was heard at the 7<sup>th</sup> June Health and Care Contracting Group (HCCG) meeting to ask for approval to extend the Kooth contract by 12 months until 1<sup>st</sup> November 2024 and for the Humber and North Yorkshire Integrated Care System to commission this contract. This was approved.

Following this decision by the HCCG, the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which the authority could not have foreseen.

**Value of Contract (23/24):** £76,275

**Whole Life Value:** £308,950 (excluding modification value)

**Value of the Modification:** £31,782 (5-months contract payments)

Funding is from NHS England and is passed across to the Council via the Children's Trust Agreement. There is no ask on Council funding.

### 2. Decision being taken

Approval by the Director of Children's Services in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Children and Education to approve the extension of the Kooth contract until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

**3. Anticipated outcome(s)/benefits**

To ensure that children and young people can continue to access Kooth online counselling.

**4. Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the officer when making the decision** (this should be similar to original cabinet decision)

The alternative decision was to end the contract with Kooth online counselling and decommission the service. This would leave a gap in service provision for young people to be able to access online, anonymous support.

**5. Background documents considered** (web links to be included and copies of documents provided for publishing)

**6. Does the taking of the decision include consideration of Exempt information? If yes, specify the relevant paragraph of Schedule 12A and the reasons**

None

**7. Details of any conflict of interest declared by any Cabinet Member who was consulted by the officer which relates to the decision (in respect of any declared conflict of interest, please provide a note of dispensation granted by the Council's Chief Executive)**

No conflict of interest raised.

**8. Monitoring Officer Comments (Monitoring Officer or nominee)**

A contract extension is prudent to ensure service provision.

**9. Section 151 Officer Comments (Deputy S151 Officer or nominee)**

There are no direct financial implications to NELC by the extension of this contract as it is funded through grants from NHS England.

**10. Human Resource Comments (Head of People and Culture or nominee)**

There are no direct HR implications arising from the contents of this report.

**11. Risk Assessment (in accordance with the Report Writing Guide)**

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**12. Has the Cabinet Tracker been updated with details of this decision?**

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**13. Decision Maker(s):**

Name: Ann-Marie Matson

Title: Director of Children's Services

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 12.12.23

**14. Consultation carried out with Portfolio Holder(s):**

Name: Cllr M Cracknell

Title: Portfolio Holder for Children and Education

Signed: REDACTED

Dated: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023

**15. If the decision is urgent then consultation should be carried out with the relevant Scrutiny Chair/Mayor/Deputy Mayor**

Name:

Title:

Signed:

Dated: