

KIFDAS FAQ Sheet July 2026

This FAQ should be read alongside the Kent Domestic Abuse Market Position Statement (June 2026). This FAQ provides further clarification on key areas of the proposed Kent Integrated Family Domestic Abuse Service (KIFDAS) and reflects the current position. Information contained within both documents is subject to change and will be finalised within the formal tender documentation.

1. Procurement Process and Timeline

1a. What is the KIFDAS recommissioning timeline?

- In line with the proposed Key Decision 26/00039 which was discussed at [Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee on 02 July 2026](#), KIFDAS will replace existing domestic abuse support services, which are currently commissioned through arrangements planned to end on 31 January 2028. To enable the continuation of a strong partnership approach and an integrated service model across Kent, additional time is required to ensure that the complexities of delivering a multi-partner funded and commissioned service are fully reflected and aligned within the future model. This includes working with key partners to agree governance, funding arrangements, and service design.
- Detailed procurement timelines are currently in development and will be shared with the market at the appropriate point, in line with procurement regulations. Timelines remain indicative at this stage, pending Key Decision which is scheduled to be discussed at Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee on 22 September 2026, however, it is anticipated that the procurement window will open Autumn 2026 meaning sufficient time will be built into the process to support effective mobilisation and transition, ensuring continuity of provision and no disruption to victims and survivors accessing support.

1b. Can the Council confirm when the final specification and tender documents will be released, and guarantee sufficient time for bid preparation?

- At this stage, the detailed specification and procurement timelines are still being finalised. The Council is committed to providing sufficient notice and time for bidders to prepare high-quality submissions. All relevant dates and documentation will be published via the [Kent Business Portal](#) and [Government Central Digital Platform](#) once confirmed.

1c. Will there be further market engagement events related to KIFDAS?

- The Council will continue to keep the market informed as further information becomes available. Additional market engagement activity may be undertaken in advance of the procurement process, which could include the publication of market position statements, updates, or engagement events such as webinars to support providers in understanding the opportunity.
- Details of any further engagement opportunities will be communicated in due course via the [Government Central Digital Platform](#) and [Kent Business Portal](#), we therefore recommend that you register with both.

1d. What are the expected dates for the final specification to be released and deadline for applications?

- At this stage in the procurement process, the detailed specification and associated timelines, including submission deadlines, are still being finalised and will be published as part of the formal tender documentation which is anticipated to open in Autumn 2026.
- To ensure you are kept informed of all updates, including the release of the opportunity, organisations are encouraged to register on both the [Kent Business Portal](#) and the [Government Central Digital Platform](#).

2. Commercial and Funding Arrangements

2a. What is the source of funding for KIFDAS?

- Funding for the Kent Integrated Family Domestic Abuse Service (KIFDAS) will be drawn from a range of partners, reflecting the multi-agency nature of domestic abuse provision across Kent.
- The Homelessness, Rough Sleeping and Domestic Abuse Grant will form part of the funding envelope for KIFDAS, with current allocations confirmed for the period 2026–2029.
- It is anticipated that KIFDAS will continue to operate as a collaboratively funded, integrated service. The final composition of funding partners is currently being confirmed, but is expected to include Kent County Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Kent Fire and Rescue Service, Integrated Care Board and district and borough councils across Kent.

2b. What is the anticipated contract value and contract length?

- The anticipated contract value and length are currently being finalised and are considered commercially sensitive at this stage. These details will be

published as part of the formal tender documentation to ensure all bidders have access to the same information at the same time.

- The Council is committed to securing a sustainable, high-quality service model that reflects both the scale of need across Kent and the complexity of delivering an integrated, multi-agency domestic abuse service.
- The Council has taken into account feedback received through market engagement activity, including the importance of contract stability and sufficient duration to support workforce retention, service continuity, and long-term investment by providers.

2c. Will there be an uplift throughout the duration of the contract?

- Commissioning are exploring mechanisms to support the stability and sustainability of services, taking into consideration feedback received through market engagement activity, including the impact of wider cost pressures on the sector. At this stage, no assumptions should be made regarding the inclusion of an uplift mechanism. Further details will be published as part of the tender documentation.

2d. Will individual grants be available within KIFDAS?

- The Council's current intention is to commission KIFDAS through formal contractual arrangements to support the delivery of a consistent, high-quality and sustainable service model across Kent.
- While grant funding can play an important role in supporting innovation and smaller-scale initiatives, KIFDAS is intended to deliver core services which require clear accountability, performance management, and continuity of provision. Contractual arrangements are therefore considered the most appropriate mechanism to support these requirements.
- At this stage, no grant funding arrangements are proposed as part of KIFDAS. Any future opportunities relating to alternative funding approaches would be considered separately and communicated accordingly.

3. Service Model and Delivery

3a. How has the proposed KIFDAS contract been structured into Lots, and what are the reasons behind this approach?

- The Council is currently reviewing the proposed lotting structure for KIFDAS, taking into consideration feedback received through market engagement activity and in line with relevant procurement and commercial guidance. As

such, the final structure remains subject to change and will be confirmed within the formal tender documentation. At this stage, a multi-lot model is being explored to support the delivery of an integrated, countywide service while enabling flexibility in how services are delivered. This includes consideration of how different elements of domestic abuse provision are best structured to reflect service need, market capacity, and partnership arrangements.

- In parallel, the Council is working with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to review options for the future delivery of the referral hub function, including whether existing arrangements remain appropriate. Any decisions regarding this element are still under development and will be communicated in due course.
- Feedback from market engagement has also informed ongoing consideration of how Training, Education and Awareness Raising (TEA) is best positioned within the overall model. A range of options are being explored to ensure this function is delivered effectively and aligns with wider system priorities. Geographical considerations are also being reviewed and may evolve to reflect broader system developments, including Local Government Reorganisation (LGR).
- Further detail, including the confirmed lotting structure and scope of each lot, will be provided as part of the formal procurement process which is anticipated to begin in Autumn 2026.

3b. Will subcontracting opportunities be available?

- The Council welcomes a range of delivery approaches, including subcontracting and partnership models, where these support effective, high-quality service provision. Bidders may consider subcontracting arrangements or consortia models as part of their proposals, including opportunities to involve smaller and specialist organisations. This can support a diverse provider market and enable the inclusion of local knowledge and expertise where appropriate.
- The procurement process will be structured to allow sufficient time for providers to engage with potential partners and develop collaborative delivery models, should they wish to do so.
- All subcontracting arrangements will be subject to appropriate governance and quality assurance. Lead providers will be responsible for ensuring that any subcontracted organisations meet the required contractual standards, including compliance with performance expectations, safeguarding requirements, and effective partnership working.

3c. Will KIFDAS be a Kent & Medway wide contract?

- Kent County Council and Medway Council have explored the potential for establishing a joint Kent & Medway service. Following this consideration, both authorities are proceeding with separate commissioning arrangements.

3d. Can an organisation be a lead or subcontractor in more than one bid?

- Organisations may act as a lead bidder or subcontractor in more than one bid across the procurement.
- Bidders are welcome to submit proposals for multiple lots. All bids will be evaluated in accordance with the criteria set out in the tender documentation. The Council will consider how best to structure contract awards to support a resilient, high-quality and sustainable provider market, taking into account factors such as service continuity, delivery risk, and overall value.

3e. What are the proposed key principles of KIFDAS?

- The proposed Kent Integrated Family Domestic Abuse Service (KIFDAS) is being developed in line with a set of overarching principles intended to support a consistent, high-quality and integrated approach to domestic abuse provision across Kent. These principles include:
 - Integrated and accessible support
 - Inclusive and equitable provision
 - Whole-family approach
 - Trauma-informed practice
 - Early intervention and prevention
 - Safety and independence
 - Consistency and quality assurance
 - Workforce development and system leadership

3f. What are the expectations for mobilisation and exit planning?

- The Council recognises the importance of effective mobilisation and exit planning to ensure continuity of service delivery and minimise disruption for victims and survivors. The anticipated mobilisation period is expected to allow sufficient time for a safe and robust transition, including workforce transfer (where applicable), system implementation, and partnership working. TUPE may apply.

4. Governance and System Change

4a. What will be the impacts of the dissolution of OPCC's/Local authorities/LGR?

- Kent County Council is working closely with partners, including the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Integrated Care Board (ICB), to understand and plan for potential impacts arising from organisational changes.
- At this stage, the full implications of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and any associated changes to partner organisations are still emerging. The Council is therefore taking a proactive approach to scenario planning to ensure that commissioned domestic abuse services remain stable, effective, and responsive throughout any transition period.
- As further clarity becomes available regarding the future landscape, appropriate transition and mobilisation planning will be undertaken. This is expected to include the development of interim governance arrangements and continuity planning for commissioned services, with a focus on maintaining service delivery and minimising disruption for victims and survivors. The responsibilities under the Domestic Abuse Act will remain, requiring succession authorities to continue their duties.
- Further detail will be provided as part of the procurement documentation where relevant.

5. Quality, Equality and Inclusion

5a. Are there specific requirements for equality and inclusion?

- Bidders will be expected to demonstrate how they will meet their obligations under the Equality Act 2010, including the Public Sector Equality Duty, and embed equality, diversity and inclusion throughout service delivery.
- Services should be accessible, inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of individuals affected by domestic abuse. This includes, but is not limited to, consideration of protected characteristics and those who may face additional barriers to accessing support.

5b. What performance measures will apply?

- An overview of the performance framework, including key performance indicators (KPIs), will be set out within the tender documentation.
- While performance expectations will be clearly defined, the Council will work with the successful provider(s) to ensure that delivery is supported through appropriate contract management arrangements and continuous improvement approaches.

6. Technical and Accommodation Requirements

6a. Will providers be required to migrate to a new IT system, and will costs be covered?

- The Council is considering a range of options to ensure that data reporting and performance monitoring requirements are met effectively, while taking into account feedback received through market engagement regarding the potential impact on providers, but it will not be a requirement for providers to obtain the same IT/case management systems.
- The Council's focus is on achieving a proportionate and practical approach that supports consistency of data while minimising unnecessary burden on providers.
- Further detail, including any funding support and technical requirements, will be set out in the tender documentation.

6b. What are the housing expectations for this service?

- The Council will provide funding for support within safe accommodation (refuge) as part of its statutory duties, however, responsibility for its management will sit with the provider or relevant accommodation partner
- The Council expects providers to demonstrate how they will ensure access to safe, appropriate and compliant accommodation for service users, in line with the requirements of the service model.
- This may include identifying, securing and managing accommodation directly, or working in partnership with relevant organisations, such as housing providers and local authorities, to deliver suitable provision.

6c. How will refuge bed space capacity be considered as part of recommissioning

- The Council is reviewing current and anticipated demand, alongside existing provision, to inform future service design and overall capacity requirements. The recommissioning process will focus on ensuring that sufficient, safe and appropriate accommodation is available to meet the needs of victims and survivors.
- In developing the future model, the Council is also exploring how capacity can be sustained (107 bed spaces) and, where appropriate, increased over time in a way that is deliverable, responsive to need, and supports a resilient provider market.

- Further detail regarding capacity expectations will be set out as part of the formal procurement process.
- You may wish refer to the current [Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment](#) and the [Kent and Medway Domestic Abuse Strategy](#).