
Public Health Nursing Services – 0-19(25 SEND) HCP

Committee considering report: Executive on 16 February 2017

Portfolio Member: Councillor Graham Jones

Date Portfolio Member agreed report: 29 November 2016

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Forward Plan Ref: EX3169

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To seek delegated authority from the Executive relating to the award of the integrated Healthy Child Programme (HCP), Public Health Nursing Services contract to successful bidder following a competitive tender process.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Executive resolves to delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Communities), Head of Public Health and Wellbeing, Portfolio Holder for Children & Young People, Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing in consultation with the Head of Finance and Head of Legal Services, to award the contract to the successful bidder following a competitive tender process as outlined in this report.
- 2.2 Following the tender evaluation, the contract can be awarded subject to the provider implementing any necessary and appropriate changes within agreed timescales.

3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:**
Funding for the service is allocated from the Public Health grant, which is currently ring fenced.

The current provider delivers services to a value of £2,190,000 per annum

The estimated value of the combined services is capped approximately at £1,795,000 per annum. Potential tenderers have been informed that the Council is looking to achieve a high quality evidence based service and obtaining value for money by combining the services into a single contract.

The Council proposes to enter into one Contract for a period of TWO years with the successful tenderer.

The service commencement date will 1st April 2017.

- 3.2 **Personnel:**
No human resource implications for the Council have been identified relating to

the commissioning process. However TUPE would apply to staff transferring from the current provider to a new provider if applicable.

3.3 **Legal:**

The contract would need to be procured in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

3.4 **Risk Management:**

No tenders are received or the tenders received do not meet the minimum standards in terms of budget and quality. We will not know whether these risks occur until after the tender period closes on the 16th December 2016.

3.5 **Property:**

No corporate landlord implications have been identified relating to the commissioning process.

4. Executive Summary

- 4.1 The 0-19(25) - up to 25 years for young people with special educational needs and disabilities - Healthy Child Programme (HCP) sets out a recommended framework of services for Children and Young People to promote health and wellbeing, prevent ill health and provide early intervention when required. Through the programme, families in need of additional support and children at risk of poor outcomes are identified and the appropriate support provided; a key aim of the HCP is to reduce health inequalities.
- 4.2 The 0-19(25) HCP is delivered by Health Visitors (HV) and School Nurses (SN). Health Visitors and School Nurses have a valuable contribution to reducing the number of children who enter the safeguarding system through preventative and early help work as part of their Community, Universal and Universal Plus role (See appendix C).
- 4.3 On 1 October 2015 responsibility for commissioning the 0-5 public health (Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership) services transferred from NHS England to Local Authorities completing the final transfer of statutory responsibilities under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 for public health functions.
- 4.4 Previously, the HCP was delivered via two separate contracts; 1) The Health Visiting Service to provide for 0-5 year olds, and the School Nursing Service for 5-19(25) year olds.
- 4.5 National guidance recommends joining up both services for an integrated 0-19(25) HCP. The aim of this approach is to improve access to services, improve transition into school, improve the experience of children and families, health and wellbeing outcomes for the whole family by using a whole family approach, and to reduce health inequalities.
- 4.6 Below is outlined the minimum requirements to fulfil the Council's statutory 0-19 (25) HCP responsibility.

Health Visiting

The 5 mandated elements of the Health Visiting Service are the 5 Core Visits:

- Ante-natal check
- New birth visit
- 6-8 weeks review
- 9-12 months review
- 2-2.5 years review

As an overview, core elements of the 0-5 HCP include:

- **Health and development** reviews – Assessment of family strengths, needs and risks; providing parents with the opportunity to discuss their concerns and aspirations; assess child growth and development, communication and language, social and emotional development; and detect abnormalities. HV use evidence-based assessment tools – such as the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ 3) for these reviews.

- **Screening and immunisations** – HV conduct vision and hearing screening in line with the National Screening Committee recommendations. HV teams provide parents and young people with tailored information and support and an opportunity to discuss any concerns. HV check children and young people's immunisation status during health appointments and refer to their GP if unvaccinated.
- **Children with additional needs** – HV offer early identification, assessment and help for children with additional needs. HV teams provide care planning and on-going support for babies and children up to school entry with disabilities, long term conditions, sleep or behavioural concerns, other health or developmental issues.
- **Well Baby Clinics** – HV lead drop-in clinics to check the weight of babies and very young children on a regular basis. If a child is found to have lost a significant amount of weight they will be referred to their GP or will be given an emergency hospital admission, depending on the severity of the weight loss. Failure to address the weight loss in very young children could result in child death. Well Baby Clinics offer consultation on issues such as breastfeeding, healthy eating and weaning, sleeping problems, home safety concerns and domestic abuse. Health Visitors are also able to identify mental health issues such as anxiety and depression in parents, or substance misuse issues which they can refer on for specialist help if required.

School Nursing

The mandated elements of the School Nursing Service are as follows:

- The National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). Weight and height measurements offered to all state funded primary school children who are in Reception Year (age 5) and Year 6 (aged 10,11).
- Information, advice and guidance on healthy weight management for parents with a child identified as overweight from the NCMP.
- Audiology screening in Reception year, and immunisations in line with agreed Department of Health schedule for all schools
- In addition to the above, SN provide a highly targeted 1:1 consultation service where the young person has an identified concern such as sexual health and STIs, substance misuse, mental health, etc.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

- The SN service is responsible for ensuring that all children and young people are protected from poor health and harm. In all Berkshire LAs safeguarding activity for SN teams continues to take up a considerable proportion of the specialist school nurse's (Band 6/7) capacity.
- Each school nurse is expected to attend all initial child protection conferences where there may be a possible health need, and undertake a full health assessment for every child. Further to this initial health assessment, a decision will be made regarding future involvement of the school nurse depending on the health needs identified for the child/young person.

5. Procurement Process

- 5.1 The Council has conducted the procurement using the open procedure in accordance with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 for the purpose of procuring the service.
- 5.2 The Council is seeking to procure a Public Health Nursing Services to improve the health outcomes for the population of 0 – 19 (25) year old children & young people and their families and to reduce health inequalities.
- 5.3 The Public Health Nursing Services will be a combined skill mix service of Health Visitors, School Nurses and other appropriate skill mix teams, who can provide expert information, assessment and interventions, working in partnership with a range of different agencies.
- 5.4 The contract duration will be 2 years with no extension option.
- 5.5 The option of going for a 1 year contract as proposed at the September Operations Board was considered, but following further market engagement it was established that putting such a large contract out for less than two years is unappealing for potential providers as well as being very time consuming for the council and thus not cost effective when taking into account officers time, requiring the whole process to be repeated within 6 months of the new contract start date. This decision was reached following discussion and agreement with the Portfolio Holder for Health and Wellbeing and the Chief Executive.
- 5.6 The following key dates for this procurement helps to demonstrate that the process is on track to follow a clear, structured and transparent timeframe to ensure a fair and level playing field is maintained at all times, and that all Tenderers are treated equally.

Event	Date
Issue ITT	14 th November 2016
Deadline for receipt of clarifications	2 nd December 2016 12:00 hours
Target date for responses to clarifications	5 th December 2016
Deadline for receipt of Tenders	15 th December 2016
Evaluation of Tenders	19 th December 2016 – 13 th January 2017
Notification of contract award decision	3 rd February 2017
"Standstill" period	From 4 th February to 13 th February 2017
Confirm contract award	14 th February 2017

Start of mobilisation period	15 th February 2017
Target service contract commencement date	April 1 st 2017

6. Conclusion

6.1 The Executive resolves to delegate authority to the Corporate Director (Communities), Head of Public Health and Wellbeing, Portfolio Holder for Children & Young People, Portfolio Holder for Health & Wellbeing in consultation with the Head of Finance and Head of Legal Services, to award the contract to the successful bidder following a competitive tender process as outlined in this report.

7. Appendices

7.1 Appendix A - Supporting Information

7.2 Appendix B – Equalities Impact Assessment

7.3 Appendix C – Minimum requirements to fulfil our HCP statutory responsibility

7.4 Appendix D – Model of the transformed health visiting service