
0-19 (up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities) Public Health Nursing Service Contract Award – Supporting Information

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 West Berkshire carried out a procurement exercise for the delivery of 0 – 19 (up to 25 for young people with special educational needs and disabilities) Public Health Nursing Services in accordance with national guidance. The current 0 – 19 (25) Public Health Nursing Service was tendered in 2016/17 and awarded to Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT). A two year contract commenced 1st April 2017, ending 31st March 2019. An exception was granted by Executive in October 2018 for a one year extension to 31st March 2020.
- 1.2 The Head of Public Health & Wellbeing presented a paper to the Chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board which highlighted the potential to jointly commission the 0-19 (25) contract across Berkshire West from 1st April 2021 and align with the emerging Integrated Care Partnership. It was subsequently agreed by the Chief Executives from West Berkshire Council, Reading Borough Council, Wokingham Borough Council and the chairs of the Health and Wellbeing Board in May 2019 that the 0-19 (25) contract will be jointly commissioned from 1st April 2021. This was presented and agreed within the Procurement Strategy for this tender.
- 1.3 The current West Berkshire contract ends on the 31st March 2020 and there was no provision for extension, in order to ensure that West Berkshire were in a position to jointly commissioning a new joint contract with Reading and Wokingham Council from 1st April 2021, there was a requirement to tender a West Berkshire contract commencing 1st April 2020.
- 1.4 The tender was published on 9th September 2019, 6 expressions of interest and 2 bids have been received.

2. Supporting Information

- 2.1 The Procurement Strategy recommended a route to market for a West Berkshire 3+2 0-19(25) Public Health Nursing Service from 1st April 2020 with a 6 month termination clause to allow for a joint procurement with Reading and Wokingham Borough Council from 1st April 2021. This strategy was agreed by Procurement Board on 7th June 2019. Although the requirement for West Berkshire's service to align with this timescale is for one year, a longer contract duration with a 6 month termination clause was agreed by Procurement Board to mitigate risk to West Berkshire Council and increase flexibility should joint commissioning requirements change.
- 2.2 The tender clearly specified that the contract may terminate on the first anniversary to allow for a joint contract with Reading and Wokingham Council.

- 2.3 Following a market engagement exercise and Prior Information Notice published in May 2019, the tender was published on 9th September 2019. There were 6 expressions of interest and 2 bids for the contract.
- 2.4 The evaluation process will be concluded by October 31st 2019.

Tender timetable:

Issue (OJEU/non-OJEU) Contract Notice	09/09/2019
Closing Date and Opening of SQ/Technical Questionnaire/ITT	09/10/2019
Award Decision	22/11/2019
Standstill Period	23/11/2019 – 2/12/2019
Contract Award	03/12/2019
Contract Work starts	01/04/2020

3. Options for Consideration

- 3.1 Commission a joint contract from 2020. This would not be possible due to Reading and Wokingham's commissioning timescales.
- 3.2 Extend the current contract. This was explored but the legal risk of challenge was deemed too high as there was no further provision for extension within the contract.
- 3.3 Do nothing, this is not an option as it is a mandated service.

4. Proposals

Following an open competitive procurement exercise, approval is sought to award the contract to the successful bidder following completion of the evaluation process. There is scope to award this contract for up to 5 years from 1st April 2020 (3+2).

5. Conclusion

West Berkshire Council has agreed to jointly commission the 0-19 (25) Public Health Nursing Service across the West of Berkshire with Reading and Wokingham Borough Council. It has been agreed by Public Health Consultants that the joint procurement will be undertaken by the Berkshire Public Health Shared Team with a contract start date of April 2021. In order to align with this procurement timeline, it was a requirement for West Berkshire to tender a 0-19 (25) Public Health Nursing Service commencing 1st April 2020 with a 6 month termination clause to allow for joint commissioning.

6. Consultation and Engagement

Service Users, Children's Services, Family Hubs, Health Visitors, School Nurses, Public Health & Wellbeing, Commissioning, Legal Services

Subject to Call-In:

No: ☒

Delays in implementation could have serious financial implications for the Council ☒

Delays in implementation could compromise the Council's position ☒

Strategic Priorities Supported:

The proposals contained in this report will help to achieve the following Council Strategy priorities:

☒ **PC1: Ensure our vulnerable children and adults achieve better outcomes**

☒ **PC2: Support everyone to reach their full potential**

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