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# Sexual and Reproductive Health Contract Award

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<b>Committee considering report:</b>	Executive on 21 November 2019
<b>Portfolio Member:</b>	Councillor Rick Jones
<b>Date Portfolio Member agreed report:</b>	7 November 2019
<b>Report Author:</b>	Zoe Campbell
<b>Forward Plan Ref:</b>	EX3817

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## 1. Purpose of the Report

This paper seeks to inform Members of the outcome for the tender process for sexual and reproductive health services in Berkshire West and approval to award the contract from the Executive. The joint procurement of this service is conducted by the Berkshire Public Health Shared Service on behalf of West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham Council.

## 2. Recommendation

The Executive resolves to delegate authority to the Head of Public Health & Wellbeing in consultation with the Executive Director of Resources and the Portfolio Holder for Public Health & Community Wellbeing to award the contract for the provision of an integrated sexual and reproductive health service to the winning Provider following the evaluation process from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 aligning with the emerging Integrated Care Partnership. The contract will be 10 years in length.

## 3. Implications

- 3.1 **Financial:** The contract value is in line with Council's Public Health & Wellbeing budget available for this service, capped for the life of the contract. This represents a cost avoidance saving on CPI at an average of 2.5% per annum over the life of the contract. Cost avoidance savings are intangible cost savings, avoidance of incurring costs or potential increases in costs averted through pre-emptive actions.
- The new service will incorporate an improved digital offer and additional sexual health services including online chlamydia and HIV testing. This will offer savings of approximately £10,000 per annum for West Berkshire. This saving will be used to reinvest in Public Health & Wellbeing services for West Berkshire residents.
- 3.2 **Policy:** n/a
- 3.3 **Personnel:** Sexual health service providers across the country are struggling to recruit and retain specialist trained staff and many are closing sites. Any further reductions in

service budgets will likely increase the fragility of this mandated service.

- 3.4 **Legal:** The tender process conducted by Bracknell proposes several extension to the term and price mechanisms which are not detailed in the proposed form of contract by Bracknell. It would be necessary to include and agree these prior to award.
- 3.5 **Risk Management:** N/A
- 3.6 **Property:** N/A
- 3.7 **Other:** An additional outreach spoke clinic in Lambourn has been included within the service specification within the same budget. It is anticipated that this will help to reduce the need for residents to access sexual health services outside of Berkshire.

#### 4. Other options considered

- 4.1 Tender for a West Berkshire only sexual health service. This decision was not taken due to disadvantages in relation to the value and attractiveness to providers of a smaller contract. Costs would be higher for a West Berkshire only service due to duplication of senior management, clinical posts and facilities across Berkshire West.
- 4.2 Doing nothing is not an option as this is a mandated service.

## Executive Summary

### 5. Introduction / Background

- 5.1 Local Authorities are mandated requirement to provide open access sexual and reproductive health services for local residents.
- 5.2 The current contract for the integrated sexual and reproductive health services expires in March 2020.
- 5.3 In order to secure greater cost efficiencies, a joint procurement exercise has been undertaken with Reading and Wokingham Council which aligns with the new Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). The procurement was subject to the “light touch regime”; the opportunity was advertised in OJEU and on the South East Business Portal and Contracts Finder in April and May 2019.
- 5.4 Three organisations expressed an interest and two tenders were received. Tenders were assessed against an agreed evaluation criteria approved as part of the procurement strategy, with a price to quality weighting of 40:60.
- 5.5 A successful provider has been agreed following the evaluation process.

### 6. Proposals

- 6.1 The Executive resolves to delegate authority to the Head of Public Health & Wellbeing in consultation with the Executive Director of Resources and the Portfolio holder for Public Health & Community Wellbeing to award the contract for the provision of an integrated sexual and reproductive health service to the winning Provider following the evaluation process from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2020.
- 6.2 West Berkshire Council has previously agreed to continue to jointly commission the integrated sexual health service across the West of Berkshire, with the Berkshire Public Health Shared Team leading the procurement. A Light Touch Regime tender has been undertaken and a provider has been selected.

### 7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment
- 7.2 Appendix B – Supporting Information

## Appendix A

### Equality Impact Assessment – Stage One

We need to ensure that our strategies, policies, functions and services, current and proposed have given due regard to equality and diversity as set out in the Public Sector Equality Duty (Section 149 of the Equality Act), which states:

- “(1) A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:***
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;***
  - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; this includes the need to:***
    - (i) remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic;***
    - (ii) take steps to meet the needs of persons who share a relevant protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it;***
  - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it, with due regard, in particular, to the need to be aware that compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.***
- (2) The steps involved in meeting the needs of disabled persons that are different from the needs of persons who are not disabled include, in particular, steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities.***
- (3) Compliance with the duties in this section may involve treating some persons more favourably than others.”***

The following list of questions may help to establish whether the decision is relevant to equality:

- Does the decision affect service users, employees or the wider community?
- (The relevance of a decision to equality depends not just on the number of those affected but on the significance of the impact on them)
- Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?
- Is it a major policy, or a major change to an existing policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?
- Will the decision have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?
- Does the decision relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?
- Does the decision relate to an area with known inequalities?
- Does the decision relate to any equality objectives that have been set by the council?

**Please complete the following questions to determine whether a full Stage Two, Equality Impact Assessment is required.**

<b>What is the proposed decision that you are asking the Executive to make:</b>		This paper seeks to inform Members of the tender process and seek delegated authority to award the contract from the Executive.	
<b>Summary of relevant legislation:</b>		2012 Health and Social Care Act	
<b>Does the proposed decision conflict with any of the Council's key strategy priorities?</b>		No	
<b>Name of assessor:</b>			
<b>Date of assessment:</b>			
<b>Is this a:</b>		<b>Is this:</b>	
<b>Policy</b>	<b>/No</b>	<b>New or proposed</b>	<b>/No</b>
<b>Strategy</b>	<b>/No</b>	<b>Already exists and is being reviewed</b>	<b>Yes/</b>
<b>Function</b>	<b>/No</b>	<b>Is changing</b>	<b>/No</b>
<b>Service</b>	<b>Yes/</b>		
<b>1 What are the main aims, objectives and intended outcomes of the proposed decision and who is likely to benefit from it?</b>			
<b>Aims:</b>		Re-tender services to meet service user needs	
<b>Objectives:</b>		Secure new supplier that can deliver specified services	
<b>Outcomes:</b>		Supplier award	
<b>Benefits:</b>		Provision of an integrated sexual and reproductive health service in order for residents to achieve good sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing	
<b>2 Note which groups may be affected by the proposed decision. Consider how they may be affected, whether it is positively or negatively and what sources of information have been used to determine this.</b>			
(Please demonstrate consideration of all strands – Age, Disability, Gender Reassignment, Marriage and Civil Partnership, Pregnancy and Maternity, Race, Religion or Belief, Sex and Sexual Orientation.)			
<b>Group Affected</b>	<b>What might be the effect?</b>	<b>Information to support this</b>	
Age	No change to proposed service model		
Disability	No change to proposed service model		
Gender Reassignment	No change to proposed service model		
Marriage and Civil	No change to proposed		

Partnership	service model	
Pregnancy and Maternity	No change to proposed service model	
Race	No change to proposed service model	
Religion or Belief	No change to proposed service model	
Sex	No change to proposed service model	
Sexual Orientation	No change to proposed service model	
<b>Further Comments relating to the item:</b>		
<b>3 Result</b>		
<b>Are there any aspects of the proposed decision, including how it is delivered or accessed, that could contribute to inequality?</b>		<b>/No</b>
<b>Please provide an explanation for your answer:</b>		
<b>Will the proposed decision have an adverse impact upon the lives of people, including employees and service users?</b>		<b>/No</b>
<b>Please provide an explanation for your answer:</b>		

If your answers to question 2 have identified potential adverse impacts and you have answered 'yes' to either of the sections at question 3, or you are unsure about the impact, then you should carry out a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment.

If a Stage Two Equality Impact Assessment is required, before proceeding you should discuss the scope of the Assessment with service managers in your area. You will also need to refer to the [Equality Impact Assessment guidance and Stage Two template](#).

<b>4 Identify next steps as appropriate:</b>	
<b>Stage Two required</b>	
<b>Owner of Stage Two assessment:</b>	
<b>Timescale for Stage Two assessment:</b>	

**Name:** Zoe Campbell

**Date:** 10/10/19

Please now forward this completed form to Rachel Craggs, Principal Policy Officer (Equality and Diversity) ([rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.craggs@westberks.gov.uk)), for publication on the WBC website.