
Sexual & Reproductive Health Contract Award - Supporting Information

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The current jointly commissioned integrated sexual health service provides cost-effective, high quality provision to improve sexual health for Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire Council. The contract for this service expires on 31st March 2020.
- 1.2 Following a sexual health needs assessment, a service specification for an integrated sexual and reproductive health service across the three Berkshire West Authorities was developed to ensure that the service would be responsive to current needs and flexible enough to adapt to changing needs.
- 1.3 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 service was commissioned separately and the requirement has been built into the service specification within the overall budget.
- 1.4 From year 3 the contract will be subject to negotiation based on demand. In advance of year 3, a joint review of the contract to date (actual activity levels and costs of delivering the service in line with the jointly agreed service specification) will be held. Through this process an agreed, and revised if necessary, service specification and cost model can be agreed for years 3-5. If the Local authority wishes to keep the budget the same and costs are proven to rise, the commissioners will need to agree an appropriate change to the service specification. The basis of moving forward will remain in line with the terms of the contract (12 months' notice) and any revision of terms of agreement (volumes, price, specification) will need to be jointly agreed by both parties. This means beyond year 2 there will be a mechanism to ensure that the maximum budget is not exceeded.

2. Supporting Information

- 2.1 Diagnosis rates of all new STIs are lower than national and regional averages in West Berkshire. New diagnosis and re-infection rates are highest among young adults. Attendance rates at sexual health services for STI related care are the lowest out of all Berkshire local authorities.
- 2.2 Sexual health services include; free testing and treatment for sexually transmitted infections (STIs), notification of sexual partners of infected persons and advice on, and access to a range of contraception, and advice on preventing unplanned pregnancy.
- 2.3 An integrated sexual health service model aims to improve sexual health by providing non-judgmental and confidential services through open access, where the

majority of sexual health and contraceptive needs can be met at one site, often by one health professional, usually within a single attendance.

- 2.4 Extended opening hours and accessible locations are offered operating on a 'hub and spoke' model with a central specialist service for more complex care and smaller satellite clinics providing more routine services across Berkshire West. The service also provides three specialist nurses delivering outreach services to young people, vulnerable older women, men and at risk groups.
- 2.5 The key aims of these services are to support good sexual and reproductive health, increase the proportion of pregnancies that are planned, reduce unplanned pregnancy, prevent onward transmission of STIs and blood borne viruses, reduce late diagnosis of HIV, improve the diagnosis of HIV and the sexual health of those with HIV.
- 2.6 Tender timetable carried out by the Shared Public Health Team:

Issue (OJEU/non-OJEU) Contract Notice	08/05/2019
Closing Date and Opening of SQ/Technical Questionnaire/ITT	05/06/2019
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 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 likely be higher for a West Berkshire only service due to duplication of senior management, clinical posts and facilities across Berkshire West.
- 3.2 Doing nothing is not an option as this is a mandated service.

4. Proposals

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 1st April 2020.

Following a procurement exercise subject to the Light Touch Regime carried out by the Shared Public Health Team. There is scope to award this contract for up to 10 years from April 2020. The Public Health Consultant's from each local authority agreed a rolling contract for flexibility over the ten year period to allow for review and notice to be given in case of changes to mandated services or reductions in funding.

5. Conclusion

West Berkshire Council has previously agreed to continue to co-commission the integrated sexual health service across the West of Berkshire, with the Berkshire Public Health Shared Team leading the procurement exercise subject to Light Touch Regime, a preferred provider has been chosen.

6. Consultation and Engagement

Service Users, 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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