

Wiltshire Council

Cabinet

12 September 2023

Subject: **Recommissioning of Public Health Services in Primary Care**

Cabinet Member: **Councillor Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling - Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure, Libraries, Facilities Management, and Operational Assets**

Key Decision: **Key**

Executive Summary

The purpose of this paper is to seek Members approval to commence the procurement process of commissioning the Public Health Services contract to NHS Primary Care through utilising the Public Health Grant, of a value up to £4,645,000 over a 5 year duration as part of the Council's constitution. The specific services this contract refers to are NHS Health Checks, Smoking Cessation, long acting reversible contraception services and No Worries Young People Sexual Health Service.

NHS Health Checks and sexual health contraception services are statutory services Local Authorities must provide, funded by the Public Health Grant. These services along with smoking cessation have been previously commissioned by Public Health to Primary Care over a 5 year period, 2019-2024, and in preceding contracts prior to 2019. The current contract expires 31 March 2024.

Proposals

Cabinet is asked to approve:

- 1) the commencement of a procurement process to commission these Public Health Services in Primary Care;
- 2) budget spend of up to £4,645,000 over the 5 year duration of the contract;
- 3) To delegate authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health, Leisure, Libraries, Facilities Management, and Operational Assets to take all necessary steps to commission Public Health Services in Primary Care

Reason for Proposals

The current contract of these Public Health Services is due to expire 31 March 2024, therefore there is the need to recommission these services from 1 April 2024 to avoid any gap in service provision. This is of particular importance as these services have been paused at times during the Covid-19 pandemic.

There is a statutory responsibility for Public Health to provide NHS Health Checks and Sexual health contraception services through the Public Health Grant.

Approval of the spend of Public Health grant monies allows for these statutory Public Health services, as well as additional Public Health recommended services to be commissioned and delivered for Wiltshire residents.

Terence Herbert
Chief Executive

Wiltshire Council

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Purpose of Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet approval of expenditure of Public Health Grant monies over £1 million over a 5 year duration of the Public Health Services in Primary Care contract. The full expenditure for this contract will be up to £4,645,000 over the 5 years.
2. It also seeks approval to proceed with intentions to tender these services to Primary Care in preparation for commencement date of 01 April 2024.

Relevance to the Council's Business Plan

3. The commissioning and contract management of the Public Health Services in Primary Care contract is underpinned by the following themes from the Wiltshire Council Business Plan:
 - Prevention and early intervention
 - Improving social mobility and tackling inequalities
 - Understanding communities
 - Working together

Background

4. The Public Health services included in this Procurement to Primary Care include sexual health contraception services, NHS Health Checks and smoking cessation. Sexual health, cardiovascular disease prevention including smoking cessation services are Public Health priorities within Wiltshire Public Health team.
5. NHS Health Checks and Sexual Health Contraception services are a statutory requirement of Public Health Grant usage under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
6. Smoking is the single biggest cause of preventable death and ill health in England. Further to this, smoking is a leading risk factor for many other diseases including lung cancer, heart disease and cardiovascular disease. It is estimated smoking prevalence in Wiltshire is 12.0% amongst the adult population. Access to smoking cessation services to aid smokers to quit by providing behaviour change support and access to stop smoking medications is pivotal in driving down smoking prevalence in Wiltshire. Primary Care are well placed to provide this service as health professionals that

members of the public would approach for support. Primary Care are also able to utilise opportunistic conversations to engage smokers in behaviour change.

7. Cardiovascular disease is highly preventable and one of the main causes of death nationally as well as locally. The NHS Health Checks programme is a national programme which aims to identify patients early and provide early intervention or treatment based on an individual's risk factors of cardiovascular disease. NHS Health Checks is a proactive preventative programme that invites adults aged between 40 and 74 in England for a health check-up every five years to screen for key conditions including heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, and stroke.
8. Sexual health is an important matter to both individuals and communities. Most adults are sexually active and sexual health needs vary according to factors such as age, gender, sexual orientation, and ethnicity. Access to high quality sexual health services and quick access to treatment and interventions improves the health and wellbeing of both individuals and populations. Long-Acting Reversible contraception service is for adults who seek information and treatment on all methods of contraception to prevent unplanned pregnancies. This service also includes information and signposting about prevention of STIs and where to seek testing and treatment. There are strong links between deprivation and STIs.
9. Young Adults and adolescents are some of the population groups who experience the highest burden of STIs and teenage pregnancies and abortions. People's experience of and access to quality sexual health services is key to providing the right support and treatment. No Worries young people's sexual health service aims to offer a friendly, non-judgemental advice and information service to Wiltshire residents aged 24 and under. Services available include access to free condoms, pregnancy testing kits, emergency contraception, opportunistic chlamydia testing for women and those with a womb, Chlamydia treatment for Chlamydia positive young people and their partners.
10. The delivery of these services needs to be by trained health professionals following each of the services Best Practice guidance within their role. Stakeholder engagement work has been undertaken through surveys and focus group discussions with Primary Care, external providers and members of the public (surveys only). The findings indicate these services are well received and accessed through Primary Care, with the need for some enhancements through improved booking systems, an outreach provision of NHS Health Checks (which will be commissioned separately). Commissioning these services to Primary Care fits within the principles of an Integrated Care System approach to improving population health, effective use of resources. The service specifications for these services will be informed by this approach.
11. Previous commissioning arrangements for these services have been contracted over a 5 year period from 2019-2024, with an annual budget of £929,000 per year or, £4,645,000 over the 5 years. The budget allocated to these services is paid to Primary Care on an activity basis following quarterly data submissions to Public Health.

Main Considerations for the Council

12. The Public Health Services contract is currently commissioned by Wiltshire Public Health to Primary Care since 1 April 2019, and expires 31 March 2024, and with previous commissioning arrangements to Primary Care prior to April 2019. Cabinet

members are asked to approve the commencement of the procurement of these services.

13. The full expenditure for this contract from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2029 will be up to £4,645,000 over the 5 years. Budget allocation to the three services within the contract is like for like with the previous contract.
14. The budget allocated to these services is paid to Primary Care based on activity on a quarterly basis. It is therefore unknown the true expenditure of these services over the contract period, but quarterly budget management and activity review will be undertaken to manage spend and review outcomes across the contract.
15. The Council are asked to endorse:
 - Approval of budget expenditure on these services
 - Support the commencement of commissioning process

This decision accords with budget requirements which Finance have approved expenditure for.

Consultation

16. Work has begun on consultation as part of the planning of these services This has included a survey to service users, providers of these services as well as other stakeholders with invested interest in these services such as the Local Medical Committee, Local Pharmacy Committee and Integrated Care Board GP Leads.
17. A market engagement event was held in May 2023, with Primary Care and external providers of these services to gauge understanding and insight on the challenges Primary Care face in delivering these services and understanding what improvements could be made in the designing and commissioning of these services. The market engagement event also considered the provision of an external provider to deliver some of these services within the community and workplaces to reach target population who were least likely to access them in Primary Care. Further to this, discussions have taken place with key stakeholders within the Integrated Care Board, the Local Medical Committee and Local Pharmacy Committee to inform service planning. Through appropriate forums, there have been discussions about payments of these services which are based on payment by activity. It has been required to undertake this consultation work at this early stage to inform commissioning and budget planning.

Overview and Scrutiny Engagement

18. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Health Select Committee have been informed that this report to Cabinet and a collaborative discussion has taken place in advance. The Vice-Chair has received a full briefing of the content of this report prior to Cabinet meeting.
19. Annual reporting on the delivery of NHS Health Checks is provided to the Health Select Committee, with the next report being presented to the November committee.
20. The Cabinet Member of Public Health, Cllr Ian Blair-Pilling, has been consulted with in advance of sharing this paper.

Safeguarding Implications

21. There are safeguarding implications within the services delivered through Primary Care. Primary Care will be aware of who their vulnerable children, young people and adults are and so will engage with them appropriately in these services. Likewise, Primary Care will follow their own safeguarding processes in the event of a safeguarding issue linked to any of these services delivered in their settings.
22. The implications on safeguarding if approval is not agreed on budget allocation and tendering these services will have particular impact on those who seek access to the sexual health contraception services including No Worries as vulnerable groups are disproportionately impacted by STIs and teenage pregnancies which these services aim to prevent.

Public Health Implications

23. This proposal will have an impact on, or implications for, people's health and well-being and factors which determine people's health. This may include, but is not restricted to, direct health implications, sustainability, maintaining a healthy and resilient environment, economic impacts, reducing or widening inequalities and the wider determinants of health (e.g., good housing, employment opportunities, social isolation). Data relating to the Wiltshire population and community areas can be found at: <https://www.wiltshireintelligence.org.uk/>
24. The populations that these Public Health Services in Primary Care will serve include;
 - NHS Health Checks – eligible population those aged 40-74 years old who do not have any of the following conditions:
 - a. coronary heart disease
 - b. chronic kidney disease (CKD), which has been classified as stage 3, 4 or 5 within the meaning of the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) clinical guideline 182 on CKD
 - c. diabetes
 - d. hypertension
 - e. atrial fibrillation
 - f. transient ischaemic attack
 - g. hypercholesterolemia – defined as familial hypercholesterolemia
 - h. heart failure
 - i. peripheral arterial disease
 - j. stroke
 - k. is currently being prescribed statins for the purpose of lowering cholesterol
 - l. people who have previously had an NHS Health Check, or any other check undertaken through the health service in England, and found to have a 20% or higher risk of developing cardiovascular disease over the next ten years
 - Smoking cessation – current smoker aged 18 years and older, resident in Wiltshire
 - Long Acting Reversible Contraception - women and those with a womb of contraceptive age, resident in Wiltshire and for contraceptive purposes only.
 - No Worries – in GP practices young people aged 13-24 years old whether registered with the GP practice or not. In pharmacies young people aged 13-24 years old, and partners (of any age) of patients diagnosed with a chlamydia infection.

Procurement Implications

25. A compliant procurement process will be followed in line with Public Contract Regulations 2015.
26. The procurement process will be designed and run, in conjunction with the Strategic Procurement Hub.

Equalities Impact of the Proposal

27. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has not been completed as part of these proposals due to the limited data that Public Health Teams have had available based on current service provision, but consideration for undertaking these for each service commissioned in the contract will be incorporated into the new service specifications to ensure appropriate data sharing between Primary Care and Public Health to undertake these EIA.

Environmental and Climate Change Considerations

28. Environmental and climate change considerations do not affect the decisions required within this proposal, however, the changes with digital access will ensure that the service supports climate change by reducing travel across the county, which may come into effect in the duration of this contract.

Workforce Implications

29. There are no workforce implications within this proposal.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision and related work is not taken

30. Failure to procure the services will result in a failure to comply with the statutory duty as stated in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
31. There is a service delivery risk, should the procurement recommendation not be approved; Wiltshire would not have a NHS Health Check programme services post 31st March 2024 to support some of the most at risk people of CVD in Wiltshire. Not procuring smoking cessation services and sexual health contraception services will put increased pressure on Wiltshire Council's Health Improvement Coaches (for smoking cessation) and Salisbury Foundation Trust (for sexual health services). It will also have negative impacts on the public health agendas these services are commissioned to support, treat and prevent.
32. Procurement not completed on time, this is unlikely as the process has already started with the counsel of legal and an agreement in draft.

Risks that may arise if the proposed decision is taken and actions that will be taken to manage these risks

33. There is a small risk that activity in the three service areas exceeds the budget allocation within the contract. Based on previous activity and population health needs data for the Wiltshire population this risk is assessed as small. Regular contract management and review of activity data will further reduce and manage this risk

Financial Implications

34. The financial commitment to support the delivery of the Public Health Services contract is commensurate with the public health budget, funded through the Public Health Grant. The contract value is a cash limit for each year of the 5 year contract.
35. The annual Public Health Grant is subject to Government decisions and spending reviews. In the event of grant allocation reduction, the contract spend will be reviewed or spend of the grant across other public health services considered to consider service impact and allocation of funds.
36. Public Health Grant allocations are confirmed on an annual basis, and there is no suggestion that the allocation will not be sufficient to maintain this contract, which includes mandatory elements of public health activity under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
37. The financial management of spend under this contract will adhere to budget monitoring and financial management processes of the council.

Legal Implications

38. Legal Services has been instructed to advise on this matter and prepare the new contract. Legal advice will continue to be sought until the conclusion of the project.
39. The proposals will be implemented using a Council template contract which has been tailored to protect the interests of the Council as well as remain commercial so not to put off the market.
40. The procurement will be undertaken in accordance with Constitutional and Legal requirements under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

Conclusions

41. The current contract expires 31 March 2024 for the existing services and there is now a requirement to commission further service provision from 1 April 2024.
42. Agree that a procurement process can be undertaken to enable the provision of these Public Health Services in Primary Care across Wiltshire.

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Appendices

None

Background Papers

None