

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	29 July 2021
Subject:	Children, Young People & Families Public Health Commissioned Services		
Report of:	Head of Health and Wellbeing	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Since March 2020, Public Health Services have been operating in business continuity in response to restrictions associated with COVID 19. The impact of these changes on service delivery and particularly on children, young people and families are not yet fully known. Currently services are entering a period of recovery and restoration which will require time and stability for providers to adapt to any new circumstances and start to address emerging needs.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for a 1 year out of contract extension to the Children, Young People & Families Services proposed in the report, under article 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

Additionally, to note the novation of Integrated 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP) Contract, to Mersey Care NHS Trust.

Proposed Services

1. The contract for Sefton's Integrated 0-19 HCP Service is due to expire on 31st March 2022, having exercised a two-year extension period, based on the existing contract terms and conditions.
2. The contract for Sefton's Young People and Family Substance Use Service - We Are with You (WAwY) provided by Addaction was awarded with effect from 1st October 2017. The contract was awarded for two and half years with an option to extend for up to a further two years. The extension period is due to expire on 31st March 2022.

In normal circumstances, this would initiate a recommissioning process including the procurement of new services. Given the current restrictions and challenges of carrying out a full commissioning exercise within the current context, also the yet unknown consequences of COVID 19 on Sefton's young people, families and services. It is requested that Cabinet agree to extend the two contracts listed above for a further 1-year period.

Cabinet is also requested to note that from the 1st June 2021, the acquisition of North West Boroughs Healthcare (NWBH) into Mersey Care Foundation Trust was completed. Resulting in the novation of the council's contract for Integrated 0-19 HCP Service.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) To authorise an out of contract 1-year extension to the existing 0-19 Integrated Healthy Child Programme contract and Young People and Family Substance Use Service contract both of which are due to expire on 31st March 2022.

- (2) To authorise the novation of the 0-19 Integrated Healthy Child Programme contract to Mersey Care Foundation Trust.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Services have been working in business continuity for the last 14 months, adapting and responding to the requirements and restrictions associated with COVID-19 guidance. Currently, the services are going through a period of recovery and restoration which needs to be fully exercised to ensure stability in service delivery.

The impacts of COVID-19 on children, young people and families are significant and long lasting. Themes are emerging, which include a decline in emotional health and wellbeing, widening inequalities and increased demand on specialist services. As children return to school and services resume face to face delivery, issues hidden during restrictive periods are presenting. Time to fully assess the changing needs of children, young people and families is required to enable the design of future services that are responsive to those needs.

There is provision for this allocation via a contract variation under Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations which states:

“Contracts and framework agreements may be modified without a new procurement procedure in accordance with this Part in any of the following cases:

c) where all the following conditions are fulfilled: -

- (i) the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen;
- (ii) the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract;
- (iii) any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract or framework agreement.

In this instance:

- (i) the need for modification has been brought about by the Impact of COVID-19 as described within this report and could not have been foreseen.

- (ii) the request to extend the contract does not alter the existing conditions within the contracts
- (iii) any increase in price will not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract or framework agreement.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

To re-tender the services. This is not the preferred option due to the services working in business continuity during COVID-19 restrictive periods and the potentially destabilising effect on the wider system. The preferred option is for the services to have time to go through a period of restoration and for the emerging impacts of COVID-19 on children, young people and families to be fully realised and reviewed to inform future service redesign.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The contract values are as follows:

Mersey Care contract for 0-19 Healthy Child Programme Service has an annual contract value of £5,860,025.

Addaction contract for Young People & Families Substance Use Service has an annual contract value of £345,638.

It should be noted that contracts maybe subject to an inflationary uplift for the extension period pursuant to contract terms and conditions. Inflationary costs will be met within Public Health Budget as required.

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications of the Proposals:

<p>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): Costs will be met from the Public Health Budget, Communities contribute to the Young People an Families Substance Misuse Service</p>
<p>Legal Implications: Utilise Section 72 of the Public Contract Regulations</p>
<p>Equality Implications: There are no equality implications. . (Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)</p>
<p>Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will</p>

Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y/N

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable:</p> <p>Will allow the existing children, young people and family services to restore fully service delivery after a long period of business continuity, including face to face contact for children, young people and families, provide greater stability across the wider system and allow time for catch up programmes to be completed.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</p> <p>Will provide opportunity for meaningful consultation with young people and families.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services:</p> <p>Will provide time to assess, need and evidence to inform future commissioning.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer:</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform:</p> <p>Understanding the impact of COVID-19, on Sefton's young people and families will shape the way services and support is provided in the future.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener</p> <p>N/A</p>

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6461/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4662/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background:

1 Integrated 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP)

- 1.1 Sefton's 0-19 services transferred from LCH in 2016 and Public Health used this opportunity to redesign the offer, with a focus on an integrated service, that was continually adaptable, whilst delivering the national HCP, some of which is mandated.
- 1.2 NWBH have taken the Integrated 0-19 HCP service through significant transformation since mobilisation and have developed an effective and collaborative relationship with the commissioner and wider 0-19 partners within Sefton. Prior to the pandemic, the service had demonstrated significant improvements in delivery, workforce development, collaborative working and reporting to the commissioner.
- 1.3 In response to COVID-19 and restrictive measures, the Integrated 0-19 HCP service has been working in business continuity for the last 14 months, adapting and responding to demands and restrictions. Currently, the service is going through a period of recovery and restoration which needs to be fully exercised to ensure stability in service delivery. This includes completing back logs of screening and immunisations that have not been completed in 2020.
- 1.4 The National Healthy Child Programme (HCP) which provides structure, and which details mandated components of 0-19 HCP, has been under review over the last year, with new iterations paused to consider the impact of COVID-19 on children and families. The first phase of revised guidance has been published with greater emphasis on inequalities and intensive support for vulnerable families. PHE are now working with regional Public Health Children's leads to develop a robust framework for delivery and consistency across the children's system. Time to develop this thinking will shape local service delivery.
- 1.5 The impact of COVID-19 on children, young people and families is still emerging, therefore to ensure the future 0-19 service is responsive to local need, time to fully assess those needs is required.
- 1.6 PH have been exploring the opportunities to re-commission the 0-19 service, that is fit for purpose and meets the needs of children and families in Sefton. The recommended option is to extend the existing contract for a further 1-year period, giving more time for the impact of COVID-19 to be fully assessed.

2 Young People & Family Substance Use Service

- 2.1 The contract for Sefton's Young People and Family Substance Use Service - We Are with You (WAwY) provided by Addaction was awarded with effect from 1st October 2017. The contract was awarded for two and half years with an option to extend for up to a further two years. The final extension was exercised from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2022.

- 2.2 Addaction with support from Public Health Commissioners developed the WAwY Service, an integrated model of young people's substance use services, combining universal, targeted and specialist substance use treatment with family focused breaking inter-generational interventions.
- 2.3 In the period 2017-19, under the core contract, WAwY provided young people and family substance use services that met or exceeded contractual and performance targets.
- 2.4 During the past fourteen months the service has been working in business continuity, continuing to operate and offer support to some of our most vulnerable families and young people. The impact of COVID-19 has affected the number of service users WAwY has been able to support and referral rates have reduced compared to the same period the previous year.
- 2.5 The reduction in referrals from schools has in the main accounted for the decrease in the number of referrals into the young person element of the service.
- 2.6 Within the Breaking the Cycle Family element of the service referrals from Social Care and Early Help have remained broadly in line with the previous year, however referrals from community-based services have reduced. This is a result of services being unable to operate face to face provision for families.
- 2.7 The service has responded to the current circumstances by rapidly extending their virtual offer and social media presence to ensure connectivity and support for young people & families. Communications and reach have been good, providing information about substance use, harm reduction, keeping safe on line as well as promoting information from other community services and Public Health COVID -19 messages.
- 2.8 Currently the WAwY service is in a period of recovery and as such requires time to stabilise delivery, restore pathways and practices. Also, time is required for commissioners to understand the full impact of COVID 19 on the service and to evaluate the efficacy of the mixed delivery model and innovations adopted during the restrictions, to assess if the service is fit for purpose and will meet the needs of young people and families in relation to substance use in the future.
- 2.9 Considering the current context, the preferred option is to extend the existing WAwY contract for a further 1-year period.