

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	1 September 2022
Subject:	Activation of the extensions to the Integrated Sexual Health Service contract.		
Report of:	Director of Public Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	Y	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	N		

Summary:

The Integrated Sexual Health Service is currently provided by Southport & Ormskirk NHS Hospital Trust. The Service was procured in 2018 through an OJEU light touch open procedure. The contract started 1st July 2018 and has a four-year nine-month core contract ending on 31st March 2023 with three, one-year built in extension options. Considerations is now required for activating the first of the 12-month extensions.

The available options are:

1. To activate the first of x 12month contact extension clauses within the contract and the further 2 extension options available as required.
2. To re-procure the service with a start date of 1 April 2023

Recommendation(s):

(1) Approval is requested for the Director of Public Health to be granted delegated authority to activate the first of the 12-month contract extension clauses in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and the 2 further 12-month extensions as required. The first contract extension would be activated on the 1st of April 2023.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Integrated Sexual Health Service is a nationally mandated service which all local authorities are required to provide.

The Service continues to deliver against the priorities identified in the service specification to a satisfactory level.

The service has been impacted during the covid pandemic and is still in a period of recovery. The service is reviewing the effectiveness of new models of working introduced in response to Covid 19 including a digital offer and telephone triage, to assess how far

they meet the needs of the population post pandemic. This will require time for a period of review.

A procurement exercise has the potential to destabilise current service delivery and create uncertainty at a time when it is important to fully re-establish provision. The service is currently the testing site for Monkeypox within the borough and there are national NHS England plans for sexual health services to become local vaccination centres. The stability of the service is important for implementation of local service delivery.

Public Health have recently completed a sexual health needs assessment which is intended to inform service developments which will require time to implement across the wider system and will need to be considered within the context of the new Integrated Care Board.

It is expected that a new national sexual health strategy will be launched in 2022/23 and it is advisable to wait and assess any new requirements before entering into a procurement exercise for a new service.

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

The alternative option is not to extend the current contract with the Service and move to procure a new Integrated Sexual Health Service. This has been rejected due to economic and operational reasons.

Moving to a procurement exercise has the potential to destabilise current Service delivery and to stall progress in re-establishing the service post pandemic.

Additionally, there would be a resource cost associated with the officer time required for a procurement which would reduce capacity to deliver against other key priorities in Sefton.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The current annual core contract value is £2,700,253 plus an additional payment of £56,265 for Pre- Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP). PrEP involves giving a HIV medicine to people without HIV during periods of risk to prevent them acquiring HIV and an additional Agenda for Change payment of £32,471. The current total annual cost of the contract is £2,788,989. Full costs of the contract are provided for within the Public Health Grant and budget.

PrEP involves giving a HIV medicine to people without HIV during periods of risk to prevent them acquiring HIV.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no capital costs for the Council associated with this service.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
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The full costs of the service will be met by the Public Health Grant and are allocated within the Public Health budget.

Legal Implications:

The contract extension clauses are part of the existing contract with the Provider.

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications. This is an open access all age borough wide service.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

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	N

The proposed contract extensions to the current service contract will have a neutral impact.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Investment in sexual health services is important to the health and wellbeing of residents. Lack of provision of sexual health services will have unintended consequences e.g., increased unplanned pregnancies including teenage pregnancies and increase in the prevalence and spread of sexually transmitted infections.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable

Commission, broker and provide core services: Commissioning the Integrated Sexual Health Service is a mandated public health responsibility of the Local Authority.

Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable.

Drivers of change and reform: Not Applicable

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable

Greater income for social investment: Not applicable

Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 6888/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5088/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Informal discussion in relation to the contract period and potential extension with service provider Southport & Ormskirk NHS Hospital Trust.

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.

1. Background

- 1.1. The Council commissions sexual health services in Sefton; these include contraception services, services for the prevention, detection and treatment of sexually transmitted infections (STIs), teenage pregnancy services and health promotion and outreach services. Since 1 April 2013 the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk> require that each local authority “shall provide, or shall make arrangements to secure the provision of, open access sexual health services in its area”
- 1.2. The Integrated Sexual Health Service provides free, confidential services on a self-referral basis within the Borough and through healthcare professional referrals for residents of Sefton or people registered with a Sefton GP. The aim of this service is to improve access to services through providing community based ‘one-stop shops’ where the majority of sexual health and contraceptive needs can be met on-site.
- 1.3. Therefore, this service provides a single point of access to a wide range of screening, tests, treatments and interventions, and works in collaboration with the wider health service. Onward referrals and collaborative working practices with specialist services, such as the drugs and alcohol service, and the youth offending team, ensure that targeted provision to people at increased risk or vulnerability, are delivered.

- 1.4. The Integrated Sexual Health Service was procured in 2018 through an OJEU light touch open procedure. The contract started 1 July 2018 and has a four-year nine-month core contract ending on 31 March 2023 with three, one-year built in extension options. Following this procurement process the contract was awarded to Southport & Ormskirk NHS Hospital Trust.

2. Summary

- 2.1. The Sefton Integrated Sexual Health Service core contract expires on 31st March 2023.
- 2.2. Current contract extension clauses provide 3 x 12-month optional contract extensions.
- 2.3. Approval is sought for the Director of Public Health to be granted delegated authority to activate the contract extension clauses within the current service contract in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.
- 2.4. The first contract extension would be activated on the 1st April 2023 with further contract extension clauses to be activated as required.