
Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 12th September 2013

Subject: Procurement of School Nursing Service and the Integrated Community Sexual Health Service

Report of: Dr Janet Atherton - Director of Public Health Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

Exempt/Confidential

No

Purpose/Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the procurement of the School Nursing Service and the Integrated Community Sexual Health Service during 2013 /14 and seek relevant approvals for the EU-compliant tender exercise.

Recommendation(s)

1. That Cabinet authorise the Director of Public Health to conduct OJEU Open Procedure tender exercises for the 2 new contracts to run for a period of three years, with the option of 2 further one-year extensions for each service. These contracts are the School Nursing Service and the Integrated Community Sexual Health Service
2. That Cabinet approve the basis of evaluation of tenders as set out below
3. That Cabinet authorises the Director of Public Health to accept the Highest Scoring Tender in accordance with the approved basis of evaluation and to report on the outcome to the Cabinet Member for Older People and Health.
4. That Cabinet authorises the Director of Public Health to have delegated authority to award the contracts on completion of the tender process
5. That Cabinet agrees to waive Contracts Procedure Rules and authorises a 6 month extension of the existing School Health Contract to enable the procurement process to be completed

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Children and Young People	√		
6	Creating Safe Communities	√		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

This is due to:

- Procurement requirements in line with council policy.
- The current contracts are due to expire on the 31st March 2014.
- The sexual health contract has been extended for the previous 2 years without open procurement activity
- The recent request for Expressions of Interest identified a number of possible providers

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The cost of the new contracts will be met from within the Public Health budget allocated for this purpose. The current contract values are: Integrated Community Sexual Health Service, £2.3m per annum; and School Nursing Service, £1.5m per annum.

The cost of the school health contract extension would be £750,000 and this would be contained within the existing £1.5m allocated for School Nursing. There is a ceiling price on the tender for the new School Nursing contract and therefore there would be no additional in year costs with regard to the council extending the current contract.

Recognising the uncertainty of future funding, in particular the uncertainty over the Public Health budget allocation from central government beyond the second year, the Invitation to Tender makes it clear that the price agreed for the contract is subject to the ongoing availability of sufficient funding and that in the event that during the contract period the Local Authority does not have sufficient funds to cover the price of the contract the Contractor will develop and agree a contract variation with the Commissioner such that the contract price remains within the funding available

(B) Capital Costs

None

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal There is a risk that the Council could be challenged for extending the contracts with the current providers. However, as the extension is relatively short [6 months] and is for the purpose of facilitating an OJEU Open Procedure tender exercise , that risk is relatively low.	
Human Resources	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

Implementing the new contracts will enable the provision of innovative client-centred services with good clinical governance for residents in Sefton.

Sufficient time has been allowed in the process for smooth and effective implementation of the new contracts.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has been consulted and her comments have been incorporated into the report. Budget provision for the proposal exists within the ring-fenced Public Health budget (FD2496/13)

Head of Corporate Legal Services has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report (LD1801./13).

Planned consultation with Stakeholders, at a Stakeholder Event to be held at Bootle Town Hall on 27th September 2013. This event will present the Commissioner's understanding of needs, current and emerging patterns of current service delivery models within the borough and vision for future services in Sefton. The session will also engage stakeholders in Workshops to test the analysis/understanding and help develop/confirm the outcomes sought.

Specific consultation and engagement with the CCGs, Headteachers and Providers has been completed. Future engagement of young people will be undertaken in partnership with the Youth Service.

Once the contract has been awarded specific consultation with service users and the new providers will take place to ensure smooth implementation of the new service and minimum disruption for service users.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

None

Implementation Date for the Decision

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

Contact Officer: Janet Atherton

Tel: 0151 934 3608

Email: janet.atherton@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

1. The Sexual Health Service (currently provided by Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Trust) and the School Nursing Provision (currently provided by Liverpool Community Health) have been re-specified. These contracts are due to expire on the 31st March 2014. Procurement schedules have been defined with the understanding of the numbers of services who have expressed interest through advertisements on e-procurement portal "The Chest".
2. In commissioning the new service the Council has sought to commission provision of innovative client-centred services with good clinical governance for residents in Sefton.
3. The school nursing contract currently includes vaccinations and immunisations. These are still being reviewed in terms of responsibility and funding across health partners (NHS England Area Team, Public Health England). It would be therefore not appropriate to procure this service until this review has been completed. This would mean that the procurement process would not be able to start until January 2014.
4. As a consequence of this and that the current School Nursing contract is due to expire on the 31st March 2014; we would not have enough time to complete the procurement process.
5. The Cabinet is requested to waive Contracts Procedure Rules and to authorise a 6 month extension of the existing School Health Contract to 1st September 2014 to enable the procurement process to be completed
6. It is intended that the outcomes achieved by the new contract/service will include the following:

Improving the sexual health outcomes of the population of Sefton

- Reduce unintended conceptions (including teenage pregnancies) by provision of sexual health promotion and education at Levels 1, 2 and 3 contraceptive services through to referral to abortion services in line with national guidance.
- Reduce the prevalence and transmission of undiagnosed HIV and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STIs), including through increased awareness and easy access to testing & treatments and partner notification.
- Ensure that services are user friendly irrespective of disability, ethnicity, sexuality, gender, age, religion and spirituality.
- Provide "young people/ user friendly" services, in line with the needs of the local population and the relevant quality assurance frameworks.
- To provide a high quality needs led, targeted service in order to reduce the burden of poor sexual health outcomes for identified at risk/vulnerable groups, and in so doing contribute to reducing overall health inequalities.
- Demonstrate compliance to undertaking impact assessments on current and future policy.

- Demonstrate interventions to reduce inequalities across all the protected patient characteristics as defined by the single equality legislation.

School Nursing Service

7. The School Health Service is about ensuring provision to all school aged young people (5 – 19 years), including those not in school or college (e.g. home educated, in private education settings, in special education services and those excluded from education). The service should provide cover for school holiday periods. The service will proactively work to provide an ongoing commitment to the Sefton integrated model of service delivery. Therefore the special school, LAC and Out of School nursing services will work together with school nurses to deliver support to the whole family and provide:
 - Early identification of needs to improve the health, wellbeing and safeguarding of children and young people (and their families)
 - Early access to health services relating to, weight management, sexual health, smoking cessation, emotional health and well being, drug and alcohol services and targeted services as required;
8. The service will provide a health service for children and young people in Sefton of school age. It will be delivered by nurses within Sefton schools during term time and through appropriate bases during school holidays. The service will seek out and provide for individual and group health needs on a universal basis, focusing on the promotion of health and the prevention of disease from the earliest age.
9. It is intended that the improvements for Service users will include interventions that will be based upon up-to-date evidence-based practice and relate to need. This will include (but not limited to) the following services:
 - Early identification of health needs through formal partnerships with schools
 - Underpinning activities and approach (including safeguarding);
 - Universal advice and support to schools, young people and their families;
 - Signposting and hand-holding into services;
 - Immunisations;
 - Child Measurement Programme

Process

10. A full open procurement process will be engaged in order to award the contracts, with the contract being advertised using an e-procurement portal “The Chest”. Submissions will be invited from Sole Contractors, Prime Contractors with sub-contracted third parties providing some of the service or consortia of agencies working in partnership and exercising effective “end-to-end” accountability for all elements of the service.
11. The tender exercise will follow an OJEU Open Procedure. Approval is requested for Chief Officer delegated authority to award the contract on completion of the tender process.

12. The new contract will run for a period of three years from 1st April 2014, with the option of two further one-year extensions. This is due to the national based service specifications and creating stability within these services models.
13. Recognising the uncertainty of future funding, in particular the uncertainty over the Public Health budget allocation from central government beyond the second year, the Invitation to Tender made it clear that the price agreed for the contract is subject to the ongoing availability of sufficient funding and that in the event that during the contract period the Local Authority does not have sufficient funds to cover the price of the contract the Contractor will develop and agree a contract variation with the Commissioner such that the contract price remains within the funding available.
14. Bids will be evaluated according to a number of standard criteria, cost, quality measures and an interview. The Standard Criteria will produce a Pass or Fail assessment, with only those passing being fully assessed. In the full assessment cost will account for 30%, quality will account for 60% and the Interview will account for 10% of the overall score. Only those bidders within 10% of the leading bidder following the cost and quality assessment will be taken forward to interview.
15. The Standard Criteria and Quality Measures will include:
- Standard criteria:
- Past experience / evidence of technical experience
 - Financial viability
 - Appropriate Insurance
 - Equality submission
 - Health and safety performance
 - Evidence of professional conduct
- Quality measures:
- Nature of service model/service configuration proposed
 - Engagement of service users with service/treatment
 - Service user involvement in service design, delivery and performance monitoring
 - Clinical and information governance
 - Engagement/integration with local agencies/stakeholders
 - Service governance and leadership
 - Planning & performance management
 - Forecasted levels of service activity and outputs
 - Added Social Value
 - Implementation plans
16. The evaluation will be conducted by officers from: Commissioning, Public Health, Finance, Clinical Commissioning Group's, Clinical leads, pharmacist and education leads. A service user will also be involved in the interview process. Support and moderation will be undertaken by officers in Corporate Procurement. The officers involved will score each section against agreed criteria, with scores then being added into the overall bid scoring.