

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 19 January 2017

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, People

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People & Families

SUBJECT: Children and Young People Speech and Language Therapy Contract

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To request authorisation to commence a joint tender process for Children and Young People's Speech and Language Therapy by Halton Borough Council and Halton Clinical Commissioning Group, noting that the preliminary estimated value over the proposed two-year contract period would exceed £1 million in total.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board approve the request for authorisation.**

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 **Background**

Halton Borough Council (HBC) and Halton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) currently commission speech and language therapy provision for children and young people separately, with the respective contracts delivering different service elements.

The proposal to commission the service jointly will confer the following benefits:

- further enhance seamless and effective provision for children, young people and their families, drawing together the best practice and learning from the current separate contracts
- anticipated cost savings in respect of service management overheads
- reflection of the government's focus on joint commissioning arrangements across health, education and social care

3.2 **Funding for joint contract**

HBC will contribute £260,000 per annum and Halton CCG will

contribute £550,000 per annum to form a specific funding pool for this provision. The proposed total funding to be committed over two years will be £1,620,000.

It is proposed that the new contract commence 1st July 2017 until 30th June 2019, with the option to extend for three further 12 month periods to 1st July 2020, 1st July 2021 and 1st July 2022 respectively.

3.3 Procurement Process

In order that the Council fully complies with EU and Procurement Contract Regulations 2015, showing value for money, transparency and accountability, an Open Tender procedure will be conducted in line with the Light Touch Regime.

4.0 BUSINESS CASE FOR APPROVAL OF PRELIMINARY ESTIMATES

4.1 Value for Money

The financial contribution from the Council is supported by the contribution from Halton Clinical Commissioning Group and as such conveys the potential for cost savings resulting from reduced management costs and reduced shared resource and accommodation costs. The Council's contribution to the service will be subject to further review in 2017/8.

4.2 Accountability

The contracts will be performance managed and service standards monitored by HBC and CCG commissioners via a Joint Working Agreement and by the HBC contracts team.

4.3 Transparency

Contracts will be recorded in the Council's Contract Register accessible via the internet together with the publication of all spend in excess of £500.00.

4.4 Propriety and Scrutiny

The contract referred to in this report will be compliant with Halton Borough Council's Procurement Standing Orders. Compliance with anti-corruption practices will be adhered to and the contract will be terminated if there is any occurrence of corruption by any organisations or their staff.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The jointly commissioned service will support integrated working

developments across key partner services in Health, Education and Social Care.

- 5.2 A joint working agreement, to include an agreed governance structure, has been proposed and is being further developed. This will reflect similar arrangements in Adult services.

6.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 Contributions to the specific funding pool are within both HBC and Halton CCG current budgets.

7.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The delivery of Speech and Language Therapy provision to children and young people is key to supporting Halton's focus upon the Early Years, Early Intervention and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, and the priorities within Halton's Children and Young People's Plan. It also supports Halton Health and Wellbeing Board priorities.

7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Support for children and young people with identified Speech and Language needs exerts a critical impact upon their learning and future employment and skills development.

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Speech and Language Therapy services impact directly upon the health and well-being of children and young people with an identified language or communication need.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

Speech and Language Therapy services provide support to vulnerable children and their parents/carers, and help them to access appropriate service provision within their local communities. This links to satisfaction with services and overall perception of the area in which people live.

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None.

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

Continuation of separately commissioned services would result in

the loss of, or reduction in, opportunities to commission a service that brings together the best practice that each of the separate contracts offers, as well as the potential for innovation that would deliver enhanced services to children, young people and families. It would also impact negatively upon the potential for cost savings, particularly in relation to management costs.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 The current proposal would not impact upon any equality and diversity issues as all relevant protected characteristics are fully provided for in the new service.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None.