

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 16 March 2017
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health
PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT: The procurement of a new 0-19 Healthy Child Service for Halton

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 In accordance with Standing Orders, the Executive Board is requested to authorise the Director of Public Health to commence a procurement exercise to determine the most economically advantageous and effective organisation to deliver public health services for children, young people and families. The contract will be awarded for a period of 5 years with the option for two further one year extensions.

1.2 Members' approval is sought to proceed with a tender exercise to test the current market and, subject to the financial implications from any tender submissions received, seek to appoint a provider or providers to provide a 0-19 Public Health Service for children, young people and families in Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board approve the proposal to tender for the 0-19 Healthy Child Service for children, young people and families in Halton.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton Borough Council is responsible for commissioning services to promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people resident in Halton with the aim of improving public health outcomes and reducing health inequalities across the life course. Traditionally this has been through two separate functions – the

Health Visitor Service (0-5) and School Nursing (5-19).

- 3.2 In October 2015, responsibility for commissioning the Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership services transferred to the Local Authority from NHS England. The contract was with Bridgewater Community Health NHS Foundation Trust and was novated for a period of eighteen months to March 2017. The delivery of the Health Visiting Service and the Family Nurse Partnership Programme and is due to expire in March 2017 with no allowance for any extension. In September 2016 the Executive Board supported the recommendation to grant a direct award of a contract to Bridgewater for the delivery of Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership services from 1st April 2017 to 31st August 2017. The reason for this request was to support consultation on the development of a new service specification and ensure continuity of service for local people between the end of the current contract date and the commencement of a new service contract in September 2017. The procurement of the School Nursing Service for Halton took place in 2015, with the contract commencing in September 2015 for the period of three years to August 2018.
- 3.3 Giving every child the best start in life is crucial - the foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are set in place during pregnancy and in early childhood. What happens during these early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and wellbeing, educational achievement and economic status.
- 3.4 We know there will be challenges within a child's or a young person's life and times when they need additional support and the universal and targeted public health services provided by the 0 – 19 Service will be crucial to improving the health and wellbeing of

all children and young people and their families.

4.0 PROPOSAL

4.1 It is proposed that the Executive Board grants approval for the commencement of a procurement exercise to secure a provider to deliver the Integrated 0 – 19 Public Health Service for children, young people and families.

4.2 In order to maximise the impact of service delivery, Halton is seeking to create an integrated 0-19 service (or up to 24 for young people with a disability or complex health care need) that will deliver the **Healthy Child Programme** and provide both universal and targeted support services to help improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families.

4.3 The new commissioning arrangements for children and young people aged 0-19 will provide the opportunity to integrate health visitors, family nurses and school nurses with other **health services** such as midwives, dental teams and dentists, GPs, hospitals and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and also with **children's services** such as social care, children's centres, early years settings, schools, colleges and the wider community.

4.4 The Commissioners will seek the delivery of a high quality service that is both effective in improving universal outcomes through the use of evidence based interventions delivered by skilled practitioners, and also safeguards children by identifying children at risk of harm. The Provider will work with other professionals to devise joint multi-agency plans, to reduce risk to the child and improve their immediate and long term health and wellbeing.

4.5 The expectation is that the service will combine a balance of advice/guidance and direct evidenced based interventions for those that require additional support. Such an approach will

enhance the availability of local services that are joined up, supportive and affordable as they enable new parents, children and young people to access the appropriate information, advice and support they need. to improve health and wellbeing and to tackle health inequalities. The service will particularly focus on supporting children to be ready to start school, and at key transition points in their lives – such as moving up to secondary school, leaving education and also, for those who need it, entering into the care of adult services.

4.6 The service will continue to lead and deliver the universal **Healthy Child Programme** to all children and young people, and will aim to ensure that every child gets the good start they need to lay the foundations of a healthy life. As well as seeking innovation, it is anticipated that such a development will also lead to the realisation of financial savings.

4.7 The Service is intended to provide seamless support up to the young person's 19th birthday, and is described in a number of discrete elements of the specification:

- Health Visitor Service for 0 - 5 years
- Family Nurse Partnership (First time Pregnancy in Teenagers)
- School Nursing Services for 5 - 19 years
- Reception Age Hearing and Vision Screening
- National Child Measurement Programme Services.
- *Immunisation Services for children and young people aged 5 - 19 years; (This element is commissioned separately by NHS England but forms an integral part of the service).*

4.8 The service will be delivered by integrated locality based teams resourced to meet the identified needs of the population of the locality they serve. In addition the Provider will commit to the

“Early Help and Intervention” model for Halton and will develop integrated services with children’s services, social care, education, wellbeing, leisure, lifestyle, cultural and community services. The service will also commit to streamlining and improving access to public health/ health improvement services for children and young people and families and will also seek to be co-located with partner organisations where appropriate.

4.9 Local stakeholders have informed and influenced the development of a refreshed service specification to ensure that it is fit for purpose and represents value for money. A number of engagement activities will take place with head teachers, children’s centres, school nurses and young people representatives to further inform the service.

5.0 BUSINESS CASE

5.1 Value for Money

The contract for the new service will be awarded on the basis of quality and price, thus ensuring value for money. It is anticipated that applications to deliver this service will enable efficiency savings to be made which will represent a reduction on current expenditure. Tender submissions will be evaluated using MEAT (Most Economic Advantageous Tender) principles. The initial contract will be awarded on a five year basis with an opportunity to extend by two one year extensions. An integral element of the procurement process will be a proportionate approach to Social Value and all prospective providers will be evaluated against the Halton Social Value Procurement Framework.

5.2 Transparency

Contracts will be recorded in the Council’s Contracts Register accessible via the internet together with the publication of all spend in excess of £500.

5.3 Propriety and Security

Compliance with anti-corruption practices will be adhered to and

any of the contracts within the subject of this report will be terminated if there is any occurrence of corruption by any organisation or their staff.

5.4 Accountability

The contracts will be performance managed and service standards monitored by commissioners and the contracts team.

5.5 Position of the Contract under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006

These contracts are Part B exempt services and do not need to be advertised in the OJEU.

6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 The method of procurement complies with the Council's procurement policy and Procurement Standing Orders and will utilise The Chest e-procurement portal.

7.0 FINANCIAL/RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Financial provision for the Service is contained within the Public Health ring fenced grant. A contract will be awarded for five years with two one year optional extensions. TUPE regulations will apply for affected staff, and measures will be put in place to review contract values on an annual basis in line with available resources.

8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

8.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Government's aim is to enable local services to meet local needs, and the Healthy Child programme is a critical component in giving every child in Halton 'the best start in life'. Improving child development is a priority for Halton which will be supported by an effective and efficient service that supports both national and local strategies and action plans to meet the needs of children and their families.

8.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

Employment, Learning and Skills is a key determinant of health and wellbeing and is therefore a key consideration when

developing strategies to address health inequalities. An effective service will support children and their families in reducing the impact of ill health on their life chances and also encourage and support “school readiness”, in particular with regards to speech, language and communication.

8.3 A Healthy Halton

Universal and specialist public health services for children are important in promoting the health and wellbeing of all children and reducing inequalities through targeted intervention for vulnerable and disadvantaged children and families. The service contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

8.4 A Safer Halton

Reducing the incidence of crime, improving Community Safety and reducing the fear of crime have an impact on health outcomes particularly on mental health. There are also close links between the service and on areas such as mental health, alcohol and domestic violence.

8.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal

N/A

9.0 RISK ANALYSIS

9.1 Risk will be a particular consideration in the tender evaluation process. Robust service monitoring should provide early warning of any performance issues. The proposals are not so significant as to require a full risk assessment.

10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

10.1 All contractors will be required to demonstrate that they embrace and comply with the Equality Act, and services will be monitored to ensure this is the case.

11.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

11.1 A decision is required to enable the procurement exercise to commence.

As the value of the proposed contract will exceed the EU threshold

for services of this type, we are seeking Executive Board approval.

12.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

12.1 N/A

13.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

13.1 The new procurement process will commence immediately, with the new service in place by September 2017.

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

14.1 None under the meaning of the Act.