

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 15 March 2018  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Public Health  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing  
**SUBJECT:** The NHS Health Check Programme  
**WARD(S):** Borough-wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek approval from the Executive Board to offer and award new direct contracts to local GP Practices for the delivery of the NHS Health Check Programme for a two year period from 1st April 2018 to 31st March 2020 with the option of three further one year extensions.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Executive Board**

- 1) **Notes the content of the report; and**
- 2) **agree to the use of Procurement Standing Orders 1.14.3 to waive Standing Order 3.1 in respect of contracts below the EU threshold.**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 As a result of the Health and Social Care Act (2012) local authorities have been given the responsibility for public health in conjunction with strategic partners including NHS England and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG). In line with the national policy requirement and performance framework, the council commissions clinical health improvement services from General Practice, including the mandatory provision of an **NHS Health Check** vascular risk check screening programme for eligible residents aged 40-74 to identify early signs of key long term conditions including diabetes, hypertension, kidney disease and dementia. This is an important prevention program for our population and aims to prevent progress to cardiovascular disease which includes heart attacks and strokes.

3.2 The Council currently holds individual service level agreements/ contracts with all General Practices (GPs) for the provision of services. It is not possible for them to be delivered by anyone other than GPs as not only do providers of these services need to be able to effectively manage the clinical risk inherent in the delivery of these clinical interventions but they need to hold a pre-existing contract with NHS England for the provision of personal or general medical services and have access to the registered patient list. The current contracts are outlined in Appendix 1 and are variable in value according to the activity of each practice.

3.3 Practices are paid a set fee for each element of the programme. They are requested to invite up to 20% of their eligible practice population per year and are currently paid the following amounts:

- £4 per completed set of invitations and reminders
- £15 per Health Check
- £6 per completed data submission

Halton's Health Improvement Team complete Health Checks in the community and in most GP Practices so not all Practices will claim the fee for the actual check. The GPs are however, responsible for the invitations and reminders, clinical risk score, the clinical follow up and quality and governance of completed data submission.

In 2016/17 the individual annual values paid to each GP practice for the service ranged from £282 to £9,838, and the total paid to all GP practices for the provision of this service in 2016/17 was £74,178. It is anticipated that the available budget for 2018/2019 will need to be increased to reflect an increase in both activity and the patient population to c. £120,000 and the pricing schedule will be amended to reflect local priorities and need. This will reflect a financial value of c. **£600,000** for the period between 2018 and 2022.

#### **4.0 PROPOSAL**

4.1 This report seeks a waiver of the Council's Standing Orders to directly award a contract to each of the GP Practices listed in Appendix 1 for the delivery of the NHS Health Check and the clinical support and oversight of service delivery. This will also enable us to extend the current offer to ensure maximum take up amongst the local GP providers of essential public health services.

4.2 This award via a waiver is sought on the following basis:

- Only General Practices holding a contract with the NHS for provision of healthcare are entitled to keep, maintain and access a registered patient list. Access to confidential patient data contained within this list, is essential to fulfil obligations to deliver these health improvement services, especially NHS Health Checks.
- This proposal will allow the release of staff capacity in the Public Health commissioning team that is currently devoted to the contractual and financial management of these individual contracts.
- It will enable consideration to be given as to future contractual relationships as part of the One Halton work.
- Prevent disruption to the delivery of statutory services.

4.3 The public health services referenced (for which the council is responsible) involve an element of clinical delivery. They must be delivered by appropriately trained, accredited, experienced and supervised professionals to meet the standards required of the NHS, CQC and other health and social care professional regulatory bodies, as well as nationally recognised clinical guidelines. This is a contractual requirement.

4.4 The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 don't apply to the proposed contracts. The current EU Value Threshold for Light Touch Regime for Services which these contracts fall under is £615,278. No publication on the Official Journal of European Union (OJEU) is required.

#### **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 These services are commissioned in pursuance of the local authority's statutory responsibility to improve the health and well-being of the local population through the delivery of specialist Public Health advice and the continued access to health improvement services for residents in Halton. The method of procurement complies with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders and Public Contract Regulations

2015. The service objectives are in line with the Health and Wellbeing and Clinical Commissioning Group Priorities.

## **6.0 FINANCIAL/RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 The provision of NHS Health checks is a mandated element of the Public Health Grant and the resources are included in the ring fenced budget. It is anticipated that the annual budget will be c. £120,000 per year, with an anticipated overall budget over the five years to be in the region of £600,000.

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

### **7.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

None identified.

### **7.2 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.

### **7.3 A Healthy Halton**

The proposal supports the council's delivery of the Health and Wellbeing strategy by maintaining access to health improvement services from primary care. This is essential given the impact on vulnerable individuals of the burden of long term health conditions that are prevalent in Halton. These commissioned services contribute to the achievement of the council's outcomes, including population health and reducing health inequalities as outlined in the priorities contained in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).

### **7.4 A Safer Halton**

None identified.

### **7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified.

## **8.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 Contracts will be monitored by means of regular review meetings with the providers over the life cycle of the contract. These contract monitoring meetings will consider both overall activity and financial management alongside review of key quality and performance indicators which will be agreed jointly with the provider. This will assist commissioners in establishing whether the service performing against intended outcomes and represents value for money.

## **9.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this report.

**10.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

10.1 To support the council in meeting its statutory duties with regards to the provision of the NHS Health Check programme.

**11.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

11.1 A procurement exercise would need to be limited to local GPs and as such would be a time consuming exercise and may lead to dis-engagement from existing providers.

**12.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

12.1 It is intended that the provision of a direct award would be undertaken following Executive approval with the new contract to commence in April 2018.

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

13.1 None.

## APPENDIX 1 - GP SERVICES

### NHS Health Checks 2016/17

Appleton Village Surgery	Health Checks	5,093.00
Beaconsfield Surgery	Health Checks	1,376.00
Bevan Group Practice	Health Checks	1,920.00
BROOKVALE PRACTICE	Health Checks	5,446.00
CASTLEFIELDS HEALTH CENTRE	Health Checks	6,799.00
Grove House Practice	Health Checks	9,838.00
Hough Green Health Park	Health Checks	3,510.00
<i>Windmill Hill - Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust (Now closed)</i>		<i>1,455.00</i>
Murdishaw Health Centre	Health Checks	8,109.00
Newtown Surgery	Health Checks	1,168.00
Oaks Place Surgery	Health Checks	1,410.00
Peelhouse Medical Centre	Health Checks	6,706.00
The Beeches Medical Centre	Health Checks	6,492.00
Tower House Practice	Health Checks	4,995.00
Upton Rocks Surgery	Health Checks	4,153.00
Weaver Vale Practice	Health Checks	5,426.00
<i>West Bank Medical Centre (Now part of Bevan)</i>	<i>Health Checks</i>	<i>282.00</i>
<b>TOTAL FOR 2016/2017</b>		<b>£74,178.00</b>