

REPORT TO: Executive Board
DATE: 16th March 2023
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: NHS Health Check Program
WARD(S) Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 Request for Waiver of Standing Orders

A request for a waiver in compliance with Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 v, of part 3.1 and 3.2 of procurement standing orders is sought to renew current public health services provided by GP Practices, specifically the NHS Health Check Program, for a three year period from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2026, with the potential to be extended on an annual basis for a further two years until 31st March 2028.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION:

That the Executive Board:

- (i) notes the content of the report; and**
- (ii) consider giving approval to the recommendation that the contract with GP practices should be extended for a further three year period, with the potential for two, one year extensions, without going through the Procurement process, in pursuance of Procurement Standing Order 1.14.4 (non-emergency procedures – exceeding a value threshold of £100,000), seeking to waive part 3.1 and 3.2 of Procurement Standing Orders.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The NHS Health Check (NHSHC) program is commissioned in pursuance of the council's statutory responsibility to deliver this program and the council's responsibility to improve the health and well-being of the local population through the delivery of specialist Public Health advice and continued access to health improvement services.

3.2 The NHSHC program is a preventive healthcare screening program for long term health conditions. It is delivered every 5 years to eligible individuals and includes screening for: cardiovascular disease (CVD), stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. The aim is to prevent development of these long term conditions and/or identify as early as possible where they already exist. The program is available to 40-74 year olds without pre-existing diabetes or CVD.

3.3 The council holds a Service Level Agreement with 13 General Practices (GP'S) in Halton for the provision of the NHSHC to eligible individuals. It is not possible for this program to operate without the co-operation of the GP's and their delivery of the NHSHC. The best practice guidance for the NHSHC program indicates that as a national pathway GP's collaboration at the beginning and end of the process is vital. Firstly this is to ensure eligible patients can access the service and secondly so that the required interventions and investigations that may follow a health check can be commenced by the GP's.

The council, via its Health Improvement Team also delivers NHSHC's to eligible individuals, this primarily consists of delivering checks in GP's, but also encompasses community and workplace delivery.

3.4 Providers of the NHSHC need to be able to effectively manage the clinical risk inherent in the delivery of the check, they also 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.

3.5 This report seeks a waiver to the Council's Standing Orders to directly award a contract to the GP Practices listed in Appendix 1 for the NHSHC program within GP practices. This includes ensuring the delivery of the NHSHC in all GP practices according to need and the clinical support and oversight of service delivery.

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

- The NHSHC is a clinical service that can only delivered by organisations that satisfy the requisite clinical and regulatory requirements
- 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 the NHSHC program.
- Prevent disruption to the delivery of important and mandated services.

3.7 The NHSHC program must be delivered by appropriately trained,

accredited, experienced and supervised professionals to meet the standards set out in the NHSHC Best Practice Guidance document. This is a contractual requirement. Working with the GP's we will ensure that all clinical standards are met.

- 3.8 Delivery of the NHSHC program in Halton from April 2023 is being adapted to target those residents that need it most. Invites to attend checks will be targeted to those living in Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) deciles one and two. This is in response to the widening health inequalities gap in Halton and the relatively low level of uptake of the NHSHC previously by this cohort. Residents in more deprived areas of Halton are more likely to develop long term health conditions earlier in life, making an early health check important.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 As stated, the NHSHC program is commissioned in pursuance of the council's statutory responsibility to deliver this program and the council's responsibility to improve the health and well-being of the local population through the delivery of specialist Public Health advice and continued access to health improvement services. 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.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The total projected financial implication of the NHSHC contract with GP's will be an expected expenditure of £90,000 in each of the three years, 2023/24, 2024/25, 2025/26 and the additional extension years 2026/27 and 2027/28.

This equates to a total expenditure over the 5 year period of £450,000 if both extensions are used.

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

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

None

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

A key factor in addressing health inequalities and determining health

and wellbeing is employability. The NHSHC program through its prevention and/or early identification of long term health conditions can support individuals to enter or maintain employment through good health.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The proposal supports public health's delivery of the Health and Wellbeing strategy by maintaining access to health improvement services from primary care and the prevention of long term health conditions. This is essential given long term health conditions that are prevalent in Halton. These NHSHC program contributes 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).

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 The Contract will be monitored by means of regular review meetings with the providers over the life cycle of the contract. GP's are paid a fee for the delivery of each health check and the contract monitoring process ensures these payments are an accurate representation of the amount of checks completed. 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.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The NHSHC program is delivered across all GP's in Halton (See Appendix 1) and as such offers equitable coverage for all Halton residents registered with a GP.
As stated the targeting of residents in IMD deciles one and two is a co-ordinated attempt to improve the uptake of the NHSHC in this underserved cohort of residents.

9.0 **CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS**

9.1 There is no change in environmental impact of this service as it is a continuation of an existing service. No change in emission levels.

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

Appendix 1 List of GP's commissioned under the NHSHC program:

Beeches Health Centre
Bevan Group Practice
Brookvale Practice
Castlefields Health Centre
Fir Park Medical Centre
Grovehouse Practice
Murdishaw Health Centre
Newtown Surgery
Oaks Place Surgery
Peelhouse Medical Plaza
Towerhouse Practice
Upton Rocks Surgery
Weavervale Practice