

Report of Director of Public Health.

Report to Executive Board

Date: 11th February 2015

Subject: Contract Award on Integrated Sexual Health Services.

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary of main issues

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Executive Board of the decision to award a contract to Passionate about Sexual Health, a consortia made up of Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Yorkshire Mesmac, for the Integrated Sexual Health Service. The lead consortia member of Passionate about Sexual Health is Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust, which will be the contract holder.

The report will highlight how the service will contribute towards meeting key strategic priorities particularly in relation to public health.

2. This report provides the background to the current service provision and the decision to undertake a procurement exercise. It then outlines the procurement process and the outcome of the evaluations.

Recommendations

Executive Board is requested to:

- Note the recent contract award for integrated sexual health services.
- Note the inclusive way that service users have been involved in the re-procurement of the service.
- Note the contribution that the service will make towards meeting strategic public health priorities.

1. Purpose of this report

This report briefs Executive Members on the recent decision to award the contract for Integrated Sexual Health services.

It highlights the anticipated contribution that the service will make towards meeting key public health priorities for the Council.

2. Background information

- 2.1 From the 1st April 2013, Local Authorities were mandated to commission comprehensive open access sexual health services (including free sexually transmitted infections testing and treatment, notification of sexual partners of infected persons and free provision of contraception).
- 2.2 The transfer of Public Health functions into Leeds City Council brought with it the opportunity to improve the integration of sexual health services and contribute to the Leeds Joint Health and Well-being Strategy 2013-15.
- 2.3 Leeds traditionally has had a high demand for sexual health services offering over 50,000 appointments per year across Genito-urinary medicine at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust and Contraception and Sexual Health services at Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust. Leeds sexual health services are largely self-referral, open access and commissioned separately from different providers.
- 2.4 The need for rapid, good quality and accessible sexual health care is demonstrated through the rates and prevalence of sexual ill health. Widening access to sexually transmitted infection (STI's) screening and enabling earlier diagnosis of STIs leads to improved health outcomes, reduced treatment costs, reduced onward transmission and reduction in risk taking behaviours, ultimately resulting in a reduction in prevalence of sexually transmitted infections. In addition, increasing access to contraception, in particular Long Acting reversible methods is cited as having the biggest impact on reducing teenage conception rates.
- 2.5 It is evident that current service provision does not fully meet the needs of women accessing the services; for example, contraception and STI testing and treatment is not available together in both open access services, resulting in the need to make two separate appointments with two different organisations. This is an inefficient use of resources.
- 2.6 The newly awarded service model for an integrated service for the city will bring these functions together, to deliver a service with one city-centre location plus clinics in community settings in areas of higher need.

2.7 The provision of integrated sexual health services is supported by national professional bodies and national policy and guidance by the Department of Health and Public Health England.

3. Main issues

3.1. Service Review

A commissioning review of sexual health services has been undertaken by the Council and its strategic partners.

In addition to a financial analysis and work undertaken to map existing service demand, this involved significant consultation and engagement with service providers, service users, strategic partners and other stakeholders.

A project board was established to oversee the process and included membership from across the council (Children's, Adult Social Care, Youth service, Environments and Neighbourhoods, PPPU, Public Health) and representation from the CCG.

3.2 The key drivers for the review were as follows:

- Leeds City Council is mandated to commission 'open access' sexual health services.
- A Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England (Department of Health 2013) recommended sexual health services should be reconfigured or remodelled to meet the service user's needs.
- To eliminate the need for multiple services, remove duplication and provide an opportunity for the optimum sharing of skills and resources.
- To make sexual health services more efficient therefore deliver better value for money and significantly improve the service user experience.
- To lead to better health outcomes by reducing unintended conceptions and reduce the amount of sexually transmitted infections in the population.
- To provide effective clinical leadership for the city.

3.3 Contract Award

This report to Executive Board follows a previous report in September 2013 which requested approval to undertake the re-procurement of services. Following that report a three-stage tender process was undertaken. A detailed evaluation of bids has been completed and we are now able to confirm that a consortium led by Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust received the highest score. A delegated decision was made by the Director of Public Health to award the contract to Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust in December 2014.

The duration of the contact will be initially for five years with the option for three one year extensions. The contact will start on 1 July 2015 and Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust will lead a consortium made up of the following organisations to deliver the service:

- Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
- Yorkshire Mesmac

The value for the proposed contract award is £29,256,575.00 over a period of 5 years. This offers an annual saving of £300,000, which been taken into account in the 2015/16 Public Health budget. This will support sexual health cross charging for Leeds residents who use sexual health services outside of the city.

3.4 Strengths of Winning Bid

Tender submissions were assessed on the basis of 60% quality / 40% price evaluation criteria. With a total of 1000 points available, this division meant that 600 points were assigned to quality and 400 points for price.

The bid submitted by the consortium led by LCH received the highest overall score and included the following key strengths:

- A service model able to deliver self-care and self-empowerment through new technologies and service innovation which considered efficiency and effectiveness.
- Effective outreach targeting those most at risk of sexual ill health and an approach that makes every contact count.
- Quality based service delivered to national standards, with a strong focus on research.
- An accessible and cultural appropriate service with consideration given to ensuring access to those most vulnerable.
- Effective stakeholder engagement and future involvement with all relevant services providers and commissioners.
- Ability to provide a flexible service adapting to the needs of service users.
- Commitment to improving sexual health through effective clinical leadership
- Hub and Spoke model based in locations of high demographic need informed by health intelligence and the needs of the local population.

3.5 Key Elements of Service

The key service areas included within the new contract are as follows:

- Rapid access to prevention, detection and management (treatment and partner notification) of sexually transmitted infections (including HIV testing)
- The provision of a full range of contraceptive services including Long Acting Reversible Contraception for all age groups
- Rapid access to services to diagnose, counsel and onward referral to services to address unwanted pregnancy
- Outreach provision to those most at risk of sexual ill health.

3.6 Priority Groups:

The service will target a number of priority groups, including the following

- Young people under the age of 25.
- Black Africans.
- Men who have sex with men.
- Commercial sex workers.

4. Corporate Considerations

4.1 Consultation and Engagement

4.1.1 Significant consultation has been undertaken on the service specification including targeted consultation with communities most at risk of sexual ill health. This provided a detailed understanding of how services, pathways and referral systems currently operate. In addition, providers' and partners' views were sought on what works well within the current system, any gaps or areas of duplication and also any areas which could improve. The tender documentation was subsequently developed to ensure that the key issues were reflected.

4.1.2 Consultation on specific aspects of the final bids was undertaken via focus groups with men who have sex with men, African communities and young people, their feedback was used as part of the final evaluation.

4.2 Equality and Diversity / Cohesion and Integration

4.2.1 An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out on 31st July 2013 and presented to Executive Board on 4th September 2013. A copy of the assessment can be found at this link

<http://democracy.leeds.gov.uk/documents/s101208/Sexual%20Health%20EIA%2001%2008%2013.pdf>

4.2.2 Appropriate policies and procedures are in place by the recommended provider and were reviewed as part of the PQQ screening process.

4.3 Council policies and City Priorities

4.3.1 This service will contribute towards the;

- Joint Health and Well-being Strategy 2014-2017 –
Outcome: People will live longer and have healthier lives.
- Children & Young People's Plan, 2011-2015
Outcome: Children & Young People Choose Healthy Lifestyles:
Priority 8: Promote sexual health; Key indicator 13: Reduce teenage pregnancy rates

Outcome: Children & Young People are Safe from Harm
Priority 1. *Help children to live in safe and supportive families*

Priority 2. *Ensure that the most vulnerable are protected* by contributing to the reduction of infant mortality, the number of children that become Looked After and improving access to support for those at highest risk of poor sexual health.

- Best Council Plan 2013-2017

Objective: Supporting healthy lifestyles and getting people active with priorities to 'Increase the number of HIV tests and 'Provide accessible and integrated services'.

- Department of Health Public Health Outcomes Framework(2013 -2016);

Objective: The population's health is protected from major incidents and other threats, while reducing health inequalities;

Indicator: people living with HIV presenting with HIV at a late stage of infection

Indicator: chlamydia detection rates (15-24 year olds)

Objective: People are helped to live healthy lifestyles, make healthy choices and reduce health inequalities.

Indicator: under 18 conception rates

- Safeguarding Children and Young People from Child Sexual Exploitation (2009)

The Integrated Sexual Health Service contributes to the prevention and identification of Child Sex Exploitation supporting the Leeds Safeguarding Children Board Policy & Procedures Guidance.

- Leeds Domestic Violence and Abuse Strategy 2014 -15.

- Outcome: Services deliver a fully informed, integrated, multi-agency response to domestic violence and abuse.

A significant number of clients using sexual health services will have experienced domestic violence and/or sexual abuse. The service is required to attain the domestic Violence Quality Mark and make appropriate referrals to the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences (MARAC) sign up to the MARAC operating protocol and share information appropriately.

4.3.2 This decision supports a number of Council values, policies and the Council vision including spending money wisely and facilitating successful communities. It also accords with the Council's priority to maintain strong relationships with partners to deliver the best outcomes for local people.

4. 4 Resources and value for money

4.4.1 The value for the proposed contract award is £29,256,575.00 over a period of 5 years. This offers an annual saving of £300,000, which been taken into account in the 2015/16 Public Health budget. This will support sexual health cross charging for Leeds residents who use sexual health services outside of the city.

4.5 Legal Implications, Access to Information and Call In

4.5.1 The re-commissioning of sexual health services is being conducted in accordance with the Council's contract procedure rules. This report is subject to Call In.

4.6 Risk Management

4.6.1 Risks associated with the re-commissioning of sexual health services have been identified, reviewed and managed through fortnightly Project Team meetings and monthly Project Board meetings.

4.6.2 The identification of new and increasing risks is an on-going process and will continue to through the mobilisation and management of the new contract.

4.6.3 This procurement process was conducted in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules in order to ensure that a fair, open and transparent process was undertaken.

4.6.4 A risk register was created at the start of this project, taking into account the lessons learnt from other tender exercises, and was updated throughout the project life cycle.

5 Conclusions

5.1 The procurement of the Integrated Sexual Health Service has been undertaken in-line with procurement processes. The decision to award the contract was reached following evaluation of the quality and price responses submitted in the compliant bid.

5.2 The successful bid received from Leeds Community Healthcare Trust (on behalf of the Passionate about Sexual Health consortia) was found to meet the requirements set out in the tender documents, which reflect the desired outcomes that Public Health hope to achieve through the delivery of this contract whilst still achieving best value.

6 Recommendations

Executive Board is requested to:

- Note the recent contract award for integrated sexual health services.
- Note the inclusive way that service users have been involved in the re-procurement of the service.
- Note the contribution that the service will make towards meeting strategic public health priorities.

7 Background documents^[1]

None

^[1] The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

