

Report of Deputy Director of Public Health

Report to Director of Public Health

Date: 22nd January 2020

Subject: Extension of contract for a thirty three month period with Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust for the Integrated Sexual Health Service in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rule 21.1 (contract extensions).

Are specific electoral wards affected? If yes, name(s) of ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Has consultation been carried out?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Will the decision be open 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: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Summary

1. Main issues

- Leeds City Council commissions an Integrated Sexual Health Service that provides contraception, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, and genitourinary medicine.
- The contract currently in place is delivered by Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust. The contract was put in place in July 2015 for five years, with an option to extend for a further thirty three months available. The contract is therefore due to expire at the end of June 2020.
- A review has been undertaken to inform the decision making process around invoking the extension (see Appendix 1 for full analysis). This has concluded that the service is performing well and is of high quality. It continues to meet the original contract aims and objectives to provide a strategically important service that meets the Council's future ambitions.

2. Best Council Plan Implications (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

This service supports the best Council Plan priority of supporting healthy, physically active lifestyles.

3. Resource Implications

The contract is paid for from the revenue Public Health funding and there is provision within the budget for this extension.

Recommendation

The Director of Public Health is recommended:

To approve the contract extension of thirty three months to the existing contract with Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust for the Integrated Sexual Health Service with effect from 1st July 2020 for a maximum value of £5,851,315 per annum.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to invoke the full thirty three month extension period available to the existing contract with Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust (LCH) for the Integrated Sexual Health Service.

2. Background information

- 2.1 Under the terms of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities are responsible for the commissioning of:
 - comprehensive sexual health services including most contraceptive services and all prescribing costs, but excluding GP additionally-provided contraception
 - sexually transmitted infections (STI) testing and treatment, chlamydia screening and HIV testing
 - specialist services, including young people's sexual health, teenage pregnancy services, outreach, HIV prevention, sexual health promotion, services in schools, college and pharmacies.
- 2.2 In 2015 contraception provision, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, and genitourinary medicine was brought together into one, integrated service. The contract is with Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust (LCH) for a period of 5 years, with provision for extensions of up to a total of 33 months. The initial contract period expires at the end of June 2020. The value of the contract is £5,851,315 per annum.
- 2.3 The service is delivered mainly from the city centre base in the Merrion Centre, along with community clinic sessions in Armley, Beeston Hill, Chapeltown and Burmantofts. There is also an outreach team, working with those who find it hard to access care in the usual way, whether through chaotic lifestyles or not wishing to disclose their sexual behaviour for fear of judgement or outing. This includes sex workers, men who have sex with men, Black African communities, those who are trans or non-binary, and young people. The outreach is largely carried out in partnership with services who are already working with, and are trusted by, these groups.

3. Main issues

3.1 The current contract was set in place through a competitive tendering process that was advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union. The service is due to expire on 30th June 2020. In order to assess whether it would be appropriate to make use of the available extension, a review has been carried out which covers performance, quality and service development. This is included at Appendix 1. The findings were:

- The service has performed well overall across the first four years of the contract, meeting the majority of targets, and with continual improvements.
- The service is of good quality, with a recent inspection from the Care Quality Commission rating it as Outstanding.
- The provider also demonstrates a commitment to improvement, as shown by the CQC inspection ratings, changes made in response to client feedback and how they consider ways in which the service can be developed (see Appendix 1 for recent examples).

3.2 As a result of carrying out this review the recommendation is to invoke the entire extension period available (thirty three months) for this contract. This allows a well-performing service to continue without disruption and provide surety to the provider over the next three years. It will ensure that the service will be able to retain and further develop an experienced staff team.

3.3 Taking this approach will also provide the time for in-depth discussions and consultation to take place about what the long-term future needs of the city are with regards to sexual health provision and to implement any recommendations. Contract terms and conditions still enable changes or termination if required should circumstances change.

3.4 A second option would be to let the contract lapse at the end of June 2020. However, under the terms of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities are required to provide these services and therefore a replacement service would have to be put in place. However the findings of the review are that there are no grounds for doing this as the current contract is performing well and is of good quality.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

4.1.1 Consultation has taken place with the Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing & Adults, Director of Public Health, Procurement and Commercial Services (PACS) and the service.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Screening has been carried out (Appendix 2) and found that there are no implications arising from this proposal, since it would ensure that the current provision is able to continue.

4.2.2 The service includes an element of outreach, which ensures vulnerable groups and those who find it hard to access care in the usual way are supported.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 This service supports the best Council Plan priority of supporting healthy, physically active lifestyles.
- 4.3.2 It also contributes to the Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-21 themes of prevention and providing the best care in the right place at the right time.
- 4.3.3 This provision relates to the 'prevention' strand of the 'Leeds Health and Care Plan', supporting the development of a more integrated healthy living model in Leeds in order to maximise the health outcomes that can be achieved through sustained behaviour change and healthy living.
- 4.3.4 The service is key to "Supporting people to live longer and have healthier lives" which is a key aspiration of the Leeds vision 'to be the best city in the UK by 2030'.

Climate Emergency

- 4.3.5 The service operates primarily from a city centre base, which ensures easy access for service users, and encourages the use of public transport. There are also a number of local clinics, which reduces travel further. This helps to reduce carbon emissions and environmental pollution which contributes to city actions to better manage air quality.
- 4.3.6 The service specification requires that the service meets all legislation, guidance and good industry practice in environmental management and the objectives of the Council's sustainability policies. Officers from Adults and Health work with LCH through the established contract management process to ensure the service is proactively seeking to minimise its carbon footprint and thereby support the Council in achieving its ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

- 4.4.1 The total value of this decision is £16,091,116 and the contract is paid for from the revenue Public Health funding and there is provision within the budget for this extension.
- 4.4.2 The budget for the contract has been reviewed. Demand for the service is growing and LCC is working with LCH to manage this within the current allocation. Therefore no efficiencies are possible at the present time.
- 4.4.3 The performance of the service has also helped to lever in other funding to the city. The Elton John Foundation Trust provided funding to increase the number of places to the PrEP (Pre-exposure prophylaxis) trial and expand the service's HIV testing offer for Black Africans who have never tested.

4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in

- 4.5.1 The extension of the contract is a key decision and is therefore subject to Call In.
- 4.5.2 The recommendation within this report is in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rule 21.1 which allows a contract to be extended before its expiry date where it is in accordance with its terms and proves to deliver value for money.
- 4.5.3 There is provision remaining for extensions up to a maximum of thirty three months within the original terms of the contract.
- 4.5.4 There are no grounds for treating the contents of this report as confidential with the Council's Access to Information Rules.
- 4.5.5 Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the extension of this contract the contents of this report should be noted. In making their final decision, the Director of

Public Health should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for the Council.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 The approval of the full 33-month extension will enable continuity of service provision and increased surety for the providers. This will help to retain experienced staff and enable longer term planning for future provision.
- 4.6.2 If the extension period is not approved then alternative provision will need to be put in place, as this is a mandatory function for local authorities under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- 4.6.3 The Adults and Health budget settlement for future years is still under discussion and it is possible that savings may need to be found. Any extension would therefore be taken on the basis that it may be necessary to work with the provider to implement a budget saving in subsequent years.
- 4.6.4 Increasing demand for the service has the potential to cause pressure on the budget. LCC will work with LCH to manage this to minimise disruption to clients.
- 4.6.5 Throughout the extension period, the contract will continue to be robustly contract managed to ensure that performance, quality and value for money is being achieved for the Council.
- 4.6.6 A collaborative commissioning group, involving LCC, Leeds CCG and NHS England has been established to explore collaborative and integrated commissioning options to develop stronger accountability and improve pathways for service users.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 The contract extension is required to ensure that there is no disruption to the current provision, which is high quality, performing well and meeting the original aims of the contract, namely to deliver an integrated sexual health service to anyone in Leeds who needs it.
- 5.2 Throughout the extension period, the contract will continue to be robustly contract managed to ensure that performance, quality and value for money is being achieved for the Council.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Director of Public Health is recommended to approve the contract extension of thirty three months to the existing contract with Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust for the Integrated Sexual Health Service with effect from 1st July 2020 for a maximum value of £5,851,315 per annum.

7. Background documents¹

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - Review of Integrated Sexual Health Service Contract
Appendix 2 – Equality, Diversity, Cohesion & Integration Impact Screening

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.