

Report of Head of Public Health
Report to Director of Public Health

Date: 2nd December 2020

Subject: Extension of contract for a twelve month period with BHA for Equality and Yorkshire Mesmac for the HIV Prevention and Community Testing Services 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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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

- In 2014 Leeds City Council commissioned two organisations to deliver HIV prevention and sexual health promotion activities including community based HIV testing: BHA for Equality to work with Black African communities and Yorkshire Mesmac to work with men who have sex with men (MSM).
- The contract is currently in an extension period, which is due to expire on 31st March 2021. There are two 12-month extensions still available.

2. Best Council Plan implications (see the [latest version of the Best Council Plan](#))

- This provision addresses the health and wellbeing priorities of “*Reducing health inequalities and improving the health of the poorest the fastest*” and “*Supporting healthy, physically active lifestyles*”.

3. Resource implications

- The cost of the contract extension is met by revenue Public Health funding and there is provision within the Public Health budget for this contract extension.

- In light of the council's current financial situation, it is acknowledged that efficiencies may be required in future on this contract and these would be the subject of a contract variation or reflected in the final contracting documentation.

Recommendations

- a) The Director of Public Health is recommended to approve the extension of twelve months with effect from 1st April 2021 to the following contracts:
- BHA for Equality, to the value of £114,770.00 per annum.
 - Yorkshire Mesmac, to the value of £161,600.00 per annum

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek approval to extend contracts for HIV prevention and community testing services with BHA for Equality and Yorkshire Mesmac for a period of twelve months.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The UK is one of the first countries to meet the UNAIDS 90-90-90 targets. In 2018 Public Health England estimated that 92% of people living with HIV in the UK had been diagnosed, 98% of those diagnosed were on treatment, and 97% of those on treatment were virally suppressed. The UK Government has set out a commitment to end transmission of HIV in England by 2030.
- 2.2 Leeds is a high prevalence city for HIV with a diagnosis rate of 11.4 per 100k population (15-59) compared to the national average of 8.1 per 100k and a late diagnosis rate of 57.1% compared to the national average of 43.1%.
- 2.3 Heterosexual black African communities and men that have sex with men (MSM) are disproportionately affected by HIV.
- 2.4 In 2014 Leeds City Council commissioned HIV prevention activity with a focus on sexual health promotion activities, condom provision and community based HIV Point of Care testing within most at risk populations. After a competitive procurement exercise, contracts were awarded to BHA for Equality, to work with Black African communities, and Yorkshire Mesmac, to work with men who have sex with men (MSM).
- 2.5 Activities include group sessions, 1:1 support, peer support, testing for HIV and other STIs, and distribution of condoms.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The contract term was 5 years with the option of four 12-month extensions available. In 2018, approval was given to extend the contract for 24 months, which expires on 31st March 2021.
- 3.2 Both services are performing well – they are meeting Key Performance Indicators and achieving quality outcomes for service users.
- 3.3 As such, approval is being sought to extend the contracts for a period of 12 months.

3.4 If this decision is not taken, the provision will end in March 2021. This will harm the city's efforts to reduce its HIV prevalence, onward transmission and early detection rates as well as the ambition to achieve Fast Track City status.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

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

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Impact Screening has been completed in relation to this decision and is attached for information as a background document. There are no issues to be addressed.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

4.3.1 These services support the best Council Plan priority of supporting healthy, physically active lifestyles.

4.3.2 They also contribute 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'.

4.3.4 It is also relevant 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 services operate in local communities to ensure easy access for service users, and therefore minimising the need to travel and encouraging the use of public transport. This helps to reduce carbon emissions and environmental pollution which contributes to city actions to better manage air quality.

4.3.6 Through preventing ill health, the provision helps to ensure we better manage our use of resource intensive (and high footprint) health and care services.

4.3.7 The service specification requires that all legislation, guidance and good industry practice in environmental management and the objectives of the Council's sustainability policies are met. Officers from Adults and Health work with the providers 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 cost of the contract extension is met by revenue Public Health funding and there is provision within the Public Health budget for this contract extension.

4.4.2 The extension currently in place comprises of two of the four 12-month periods available. However, in light of the council's current financial situation, approval is only being sought for 12 months on this occasion.

- 4.4.3 Furthermore, it is acknowledged that efficiencies may be required in future on this contract and these would be the subject of a contract variation.
- 4.4.4 It is our intention over the coming year, during the extension period, to review both elements of the service with a view to recommissioning an integrated HIV prevention service from 2022/23 onwards. This process will involve benchmarking against other core cities as well as considering the changing landscape of HIV including the roll out of PrEP and emerging most at risk groups for HIV and how this impacts on the role of a HIV prevention service.
- 4.4.5 As a high prevalence area for HIV, It is important that HIV prevention, early detection and the reduction of onward transmission remain key Public Health priorities. The DHSC roll out of LA funding for PrEP in October of this year signifies a milestone in terms of clinical developments in preventing HIV and it was prudent to wait until this funding was confirmed before reviewing the HIV prevention services as it offers us more scope for changing and potentially reducing activity.
- 4.4.6 The recommendation within this report is in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rule 21.1 as it is in accordance with its original terms and proves to deliver Best Value.
- 4.4.7 The service will continue to be contract managed by officers in Adults and Health Directorate. Robust contract management processes allow for the on-going monitoring of quality, performance and value for money.

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

- 4.5.1 This is a Significant Operational Decision, as the value of the decision will not be greater than £500,000, and as such is not subject to Call-In.
- 4.5.2 There are no grounds for treating the contents of this report as confidential within the Council's Access to Information Rules.
- 4.5.3 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 Appropriate governance arrangements are in place to identify and mitigate identified risks including regular contract management meetings, overview of contract risk and reporting to the Public Health Programme Board where appropriate.
- 4.6.2 If approval is not granted, the city will lose an opportunity to reduce HIV transmission rates.

5. Conclusions

- 5.1 A contract extension is required to ensure continuity of the current services which are high quality, performing well and meet the original aims of the contract.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Director of Public Health is recommended to approve the extension of twelve months with effect from 1st April 2021 to the following contracts:
- BHA for Equality, to the value of £114,770.00 per annum.
 - Yorkshire Mesmac, to the value of £161,600.00 per annum

7. Background documents¹

7.1 Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration 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.