



Report of the Deputy Director, Integrated Commissioning, Adults and Health

Report to the Director of Adults and Health

Date: 10th February 2021

Subject: To extend the contract with Practice Plus Group (Previously Care UK) for the provision of Social Care in Prisons for 3 years in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rule (CPR) 21.1 (contract extensions) and to vary the contract under CPRS 21.7 to reduce the contract price by 10%

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 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
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

- Leeds City Council (LCC) have a Memorandum of Understanding (Contract) in place with Practice Plus Group (formally Care UK) (PPG) to deliver social care in HMP Leeds and HMP Wealstun. This arrangement was put into place to ensure that the Local Authority was in compliance with its obligations under the Care Act 2014 to provide social care support to prisoners that were assessed as having eligible social care needs.
- This arrangement was put in place in April 2016 with an annual value of £52,252. In June 2019 a revised Contract was put in place to award additional monies to more accurately reflect the volume of work required under this arrangement. The additional award was £174,240 for 22 months from June 2019 to March 2021.
- The Contract is due to expire on the 31st March 2021 with the option to invoke an extension for up to a further 3 years.
- Care UK Healthcare changed its trading name on 1st October 2020 to PPG. The legal name on the Contract has been updated accordingly.
- Extending the Contract by 3 years will give LCC the opportunity to work with NHSE to look at options for joint procurement of health and social care services at the end of the extension period.

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

- The main priority the Contract delivers against in the Best Council Plan is under Health & Wellbeing: Working as a system to ensure that people get the right care, from the right people in the right place and supporting healthy physically active lifestyles.

3. Resource Implications

- The annual value of this Contract in 2020/21 was £149,292. In line with the wider value for money and savings work that is underway across the Directorate, Commissioning Officers have worked with PPG to look at how they could deliver efficiencies if the funding was to be reduced. As a result of this work, PPG has confirmed it could achieve a 10% saving on this Contract which would make the annual Contract value £134,363.

4. Recommendations

The Director of Adults and Health is recommended to:

- a) Approve the available extension of the Contract with Practice Plus Group for 3 years for the provision of prison social care at HMP Leeds and HMP Wealstun in the total sum of £403,089. The 3 year extension period will run from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024.
- b) Vary the annual Contract value under CPR 21.7 from £149,292 to £134,363 throughout the extended period of the Contract.
- c) That the Director of Adults and Health notes;
Aidan Smith, Head of Service Working Age Adults is the officer responsible for the implementation of the extension of this Contract.

1. Purpose of this report

- 1.1 To seek approval to extend the Social Care in Prisons Contract with PPG (Previously Care UK) for three years and to reduce the Contract extension value by 10% under CPRs 21.1 (contract extensions) and CPRs 21.7 (contract variations) respectively.

2. Background information

- 2.1 The Care Act 2014 imposed a duty upon local authorities to identify, assess and deliver care to individuals in prisons. Offenders with eligible care and support needs should be able to access the care they need comparable to in the community. This duty was put in place from April 2015.
- 2.2 In order to satisfy this requirement the Adults and Health Directorate entered into an agreement with Leeds Community Health Care Trust (LCHT) in 2015 to initially pilot a service to provide assessments and social care to individuals in HMP Leeds and HMP Wealstun prisons. LCHT were already providing the healthcare service within the prisons at this time. During this pilot, prison health care was placed out to tender by NHS England and as a consequence Care UK were awarded the Contract from

1 April 2016. The Adults and Health Directorate entered into an agreement with Care UK for them to deliver/continue the social care work of the pilot.

3. Main issues

- 3.1 The current arrangement between Adults and Health and PPG expires 31st March 2021. There is an option to invoke a 3 year extension period, as identified in the Contract terms.
- 3.2 The recommendation to invoke the 3 year extension period on this Contract will ensure that this service can continue to deliver good quality support to men with social care needs in Leeds prisons.
- 3.3 At HMP Leeds there are 16 health and social care beds that are housed in a separate wing from the rest of the prison, prisoners who reside on the health and social care unit require additional support with their social care needs. The cells on the social care unit are single cell and are slightly larger than an average cell to assist individuals who use wheelchairs. In addition to the health and social care unit, other prisoners from around the prison access the social care facility for additional support with their activities of daily living.
- 3.4 For prisoners based at HMP Wealstun who are assessed as having eligible needs, arrangements are in place for them to be transferred to the health care wing in HMP Leeds to receive support from the social care assistants if needed.
- 3.5 The unit is staffed by two social care assistants who are seconded from Leeds City Council to deliver support and they work Monday to Friday, providing a total of 67 hours per week. Further to this and under the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding there are 4.4 FTE health care assistants and 0.5 team leader who is the trusted assessor for Care Act assessments. This staffing covers 12 hours per day 7 days a week and is funded through this contract. All staff working under this Contract need to be vetted for security clearance.
- 3.6 A variety of social care needs are met through this Contract including support with washing; dressing; hygiene need and meal prompts. Staff also support the men to engage in other activities to help reduce social exclusion including interaction with staff and other prisoners in scheduled daily activity programmes, education, and exercise based programmes. Staff also work with the Prison Service to provide recommendations on evacuation planning for the individuals they work with. Prisoners who also require health care in addition to social care are cared for by the Prison Healthcare Team, who are employed by PPG.
- 3.7 User surveys are carried out regularly by PPG with individuals who access social care services collecting feedback on how happy people are with the service and suggestions for improvements. Commissioning Officers have requested access to the results of this feedback in order to gain a better overview of the outcomes being delivered by this service. A complaints system for health and social care is also in place across the prison with complaints leaflets and information available on each wing.
- 3.8 There are elements of the service that require improvement, in particular prisoner release planning. Commissioning Officers, through contract management arrangements will work with PPG and Social Work colleagues to improve partnership working to allow for maximum lead in time for release planning.

4. Corporate considerations

4.1 Consultation and engagement

- 4.1.1 Councillor Charlwood (Executive Member for Health, Wellbeing and Adults) received an electronic briefing on the 25th January 2021.
- 4.1.2 No wider consultation is needed for the extension of this Contract as there are no changes to the agreed spec or terms and conditions other than the proposed 10% annual budget reduction and work is ongoing with the provider on the implementation of this.

4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration

- 4.2.1 An Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening Tool has been completed and is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
- 4.2.2 Upon arrival at prison men are given a health care assessment in the Reception/ First Night Centre. At this point PPG gather information on preferred language and use a telephone translation service as necessary to carry out the assessment and ensure where possible equality and diversity needs can be met.
- 4.2.3 HMP Leeds and Wealstun have an Equalities Team. This team produces information including '*health and social care*' in a variety of languages and easy read versions to help promote accessible information and advice.
- 4.2.4 A 'Heathcare Rep' programme also operates within both prisons where prisoners across different wings/ blocks are trained to recognise potential health and social care needs and are able to signpost to services available.
- 4.2.5 Social care staff support men to access religious and cultural services in the prison such as Chaplaincy and prayer rooms, this might involve assisting them to another part of the prison and the contract provides the social care, support and assessment which enables prisoners' to maximise access to the range of services on offer where it is practicable and reasonable given their needs within a prison setting.

4.3 Council policies and the Best Council Plan

- 4.3.1 The Leeds Health and Wellbeing Plan 2016 to 2021 sets out the vision for Leeds to be 'a healthy and caring city for all ages, where people who are the poorest will improve their health the fastest'. This service contributes to the outcomes of this plan, with particular contribution to the following priorities:
- An age friendly city where people age well
 - Support self care with more people managing their own conditions
 - The best care in the right place at the right time

4.3.2 The vision contained within the Best Council Plan 2020 - 2025 for Leeds to be the best city for health and wellbeing is supported through the delivery of this Contract. The service particularly contributes to the following priorities:

- Working as a system to ensure people get the right care from the right people in the right place.

Climate Emergency

4.3.3 The Council declared a Climate Emergency in March 2019, with the stated ambition of working towards a carbon neutral city by 2030. In order to support the achievement of this, it is paramount that the impact on the climate is considered across all officer work. Through ongoing contract management the provider will be encouraged to actively engage with the climate change agenda within the options available to them within the prison setting and being led by the prison service priorities with the aim being to reduce the service's carbon footprint wherever possible.

4.3.4 The provision of direct social care assessment and support within the prison setting with specific interventions on site allows the limiting of prison transit and movement for off-site appointments which would create unnecessary travel/transport arrangements, as well as increased carbon emissions, it also helps support the existing healthcare infrastructure as to not place further demands on services within the community.

4.4 Resources, procurement and value for money

4.4.1 The annual Contract value for 2020/21 was £149,292. Work has been undertaken by Commissioning Officers to analyse the Service Cost Analysis Form (SCAF) and staffing rotas and based on that and discussions with the provider value for money has been sought and the annual value for the 3 year extension period has been reduced by 10% to £134,362.

4.4.2 The service continues to be monitored to ensure value for money is achieved through monthly returns to Commissioning Officers showing that it is meeting the need of prisoners identified as having social care needs. Also through the financial returns identifying that money is being used to maximise staffing to the service. Positive feedback on the two seconded members of LCC Adult Social Care Staff who work under this contract resulted in them receiving LCC Personal Achievement Awards In December 2019.

- The service will continue to be contract managed by the commissioning team in the Adults and Health Directorate. Robust contract management processes ensure the on-going monitoring of quality, performance and value for money is maintained.
- The funding has been agreed as available to use for this extension by the Head of Finance, Adults and Health, who represents this budget.

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

- 4.5.1 As the total value of the 3 year extension is less than £500,000, this is a Significant Operational Decision and therefore is not subject to call-in. The report does not contain any exempt or confidential information under the Access to Information Rules.
- 4.5.2 The recommendations within this report are in accordance with Contracts Procedure Rules 21.1 and 21.7 which allow for a contract to be extended and varied before its expiry date where it is in accordance with its terms and proves to deliver value for money.
- 4.5.3 Although there is no overriding legal obstacle preventing the extension and variation of this Contract the contents of this report should be noted. In making their final decision, the Director of Adults and Health should be satisfied that the course of action chosen represents best value for the Council.

4.6 Risk management

- 4.6.1 The Contract will continue to be performance managed by officers in the Working Age Adults Team. This includes reviewing of monthly monitoring data of numbers of men being supported and number of hours of support being delivered along with regular meetings with the Head of Healthcare, the Trusted Assessor and the Primary Care Clinical Matron
- 4.6.2 Invoking the 3 year extension period will ensure the social care needs of prisoners are being met. It will also allow time for work with NHSE to look at possible joint procurement of healthcare and social care in the future.
- 4.6.3 If the extension of the Contract is not approved there is a risk that the service will automatically cease. If the service was terminated, this would mean that LCC could not meet its legal requirements under the Care Act.

5 Conclusions

- 5.1 Invoking the proposed 3 year extension period under the terms of the Contract will ensure that the local authority meets its obligations under the 2014 Care Act and the service is able to continue to support adults with social care needs in HMP Leeds and Wealstun.
- 5.2 Efficiency savings to the value of 10% of the Contract price have been agreed with the provider, with no anticipated impact on service delivery.
- 5.3 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 Adults and Health is recommended to:
 - a) Approve the available extension of the Contract with Practice Plus Group for 3 years in one block for the provision of prison social care at HMP Leeds and HMP Wealston in the total sum of £403,089. The 3 year extension period will run from 1st April 2021 to 31st March 2024.

b) Vary the annual Contract value under CPR 21.7 from £149,292 to £134,363 throughout the extended period of the Contract.

c) That the Director of Adults and Health notes;

Aidan Smith, Head of Service Working Age Adults is the officer responsible for the implementation of the extension of this Contract.

7 Background documents¹

7.1 None.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendices - 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.