

DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH DECISION

Date of decision 30 OCTOBER 2019

A PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERVICE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AGED 0-19 YEARS

Relevant Cabinet Members

Mr J Smith

Mr A C Roberts

Relevant Chief Officer

Director of Public Health (Interim)

Recommendation

- 1. The Interim Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Health and Wellbeing and Children and Families is recommended to:**
 - a) note the progress made in the commissioning of a Prevention and Early Intervention Service for Children and Young People aged 0-19 years (the Service) in line with the decision of Cabinet on 13 December 2018;**
 - b) note the final specification and tendering process which had been approved in accordance with that Cabinet decision;**
 - c) approves the selection of the Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust as the provider of the new Service;**
 - d) approves the decision to award the contract for the Service to the successful bidder the Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust, following due procurement process to do so; and**
 - e) authorises all necessary steps to put these decisions into effect for commencement of the new Service by 1 April 2020, including cancelling the current contracts by 31 March 2020.**

Background

- 2. On 13 December 2018, Cabinet agreed the commissioning of an integrated prevention and intervention service for children, young people and their families (the Service), and approved a revised procurement timetable (including ensuring interim service provision). Cabinet also delegated authority to approve the final specification, tendering and contractual decisions for the Service including award to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Members with Responsibility for Public Health and for Children and Families. The overarching services in scope include the delivery of Public Health Nursing Services and the Parenting and Family Community Support Services. This provision includes work**

delivered by trained volunteers and professionals who deliver some of the baby and children's groups run at Children's Centres and targeted parenting programmes.

3. The commissioning of this service is designed to strengthen the early identification and support to better meet the needs of children and young people identified as having additional needs, their parents and carers. The new service will be closely aligned to deliver services in partnership with Worcestershire Children First.
4. In addition, the intention is to co-ordinate provision to be more closely linked to local maternity services and the provision of maternity hubs to improve outcomes and develop integrated pathways across the system.
5. Interdependencies incorporated in the new procurement arrangements include:
 - Sustained implementation of Children's Social Care Improvement Plan
 - Implementation of Worcestershire Children First
 - Delivery of the SEND Improvement Plan
 - Implementation of refreshed Education and Early Years strategies
 - Implementation of revised Local Maternity Plan.
6. The Prevention and Early Intervention Service for Children and Young People will allow the Council to meet its duties to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people and reducing inequalities as defined under the Childcare Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012. This is in addition to meeting its statutory responsibility to deliver and commission public health services for children and young people aged 0-19 years (as set out in Health and Care Act 2012 and 2015 Regulations for Health Visitor Reviews). There is a requirement to use the Public Health Ring-Fenced Grant to provide prevention services which improve outcomes for children, young people and families.
7. An Early Help Needs Assessment (EHNA) was undertaken to inform the service specification including a review of local needs, current provision and best practice to identify recommendations to improve outcomes and inform local commissioning arrangements. The Needs Assessment recommended the redesign of the service to include a lead provider model using a whole systems approach to ensure a greater proportion of activity is focussed on prevention and early intervention.
8. Contracts with existing service providers have been extended from their original end date to allow time for the commissioning process to be completed. These contracts will be terminated in time for the new contract to commence on 1 April 2020.
9. The Procurement Process commenced on 2 April 2019. The approach used was Competitive Procedure with Negotiation (compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015) which enabled the Council to enter a dialogue with tenderers before seeking final tenders. The three stages included an initial selection questionnaire, initial tender response, negotiation and submission of final offer.
10. Initially two bids were received for stage 1 and both tenderers were invited to proceed to stage 2. One bidder withdrew due to their concerns about the impact

of escalating costs on the long-term viability of contract delivery. One final bid was received which progressed to stage 3 and one final offer received by 12 September 2019.

11. The evaluation process was completed for stages 1,2 and 3. These included evaluation of written submissions and two face to face presentations from the bidder to inform the dialogue process. These presentations were delivered at meetings attended by representative Council officers to obtain further clarifications and responses to questions. Service users were also included to submit their views on a presentation of their service model by potential bidders which were included for consideration in the evaluation.
12. Following the final negotiation meeting, the tenderer submitted their best and final offer which was evaluated on the award criteria of price and quality. Based on the evaluation, the offer was determined to meet the Council's requirements on best value.

Budget and Costs

13. The current allocation for the contract is £9.3 million per annum for 5 years commencing 1 April 2020, with the option to extend for 2 further years. The majority of funding will be from the Public Health Ring-Fenced Grant (PHRFG), along with an £80,000 contribution from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG).
14. The new contract will evidence cost avoidance equating to £1.86m over 5 years, since there has been an agreement that there will be no contract inflation uplift on the £9.3 million contract price year on year. There will also be a release of £80,000 of the current PHRFG funding as there will be an allocation of £80,000 from DSG to contribute to this contract.

Risk Implications

15. There will be a termination clause in the contract to ensure that due notice can be served in the event of termination of PHRFG funding.
16. The contract will also include the option of variation in case of funding reductions and the expectation that the Provider demonstrates increasing efficiencies during the lifetime of the contract. Poor performance will be addressed through contract mechanisms including early termination if required.

Legal and HR implications

17. It is recommended that The Worcestershire Health & Care NHS Trust is awarded the contract. The award is conditional on the Council having full oversight and being included in decisions on the implementation of the new service.
18. An agreed implementation timeline will need to be established and close management of the key performance indicators and service delivery will be required by the Council.

19. The Contract award will be subject to receipt of evidence of insurance levels and safeguarding clarifications.
20. The services in scope are all currently delivered by third parties so there are no direct HR implications for the Council.

Privacy and Public Health Impact Assessments

21. The Privacy Impacts have been assessed under General Data Protection Regulations. The potential Public Health impacts of current proposals have been assessed prior to commencement of procurement (see below link) and will have a positive impact or neutral impact. This service will contribute to improvements in the health of the population of Worcestershire. This will continue to be monitored within the new arrangements.

Equality and Diversity Implications

22. An Equality Relevance Screening was completed in respect of this recommendation prior to commencement of procurement (attached). The screening has not identified any potential equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation although this will continue to be monitored during the delivery of the new contract.

Contact Points

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Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Interim Director of Public Health) the following are the background papers relating to the subject matter of this report:

Agenda for the meeting of Cabinet held on 13 December 2018

http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/11034/2018_early_help_needs_assessment.pdf

