
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SEXUAL HEALTH OUTREACH SERVICE

Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Andy Scott, Health and Partnerships Portfolio

Responsible Director - Murray Rose, Director of Commissioning

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To seek Members' approval to waive Contract Procedure Rules, under Rule 18, to issue the direct award in respect of the contract for young people's sexual health outreach service.

Summary

2. The Council decision taken on 31 January 2013 enabled a review of the sexual health services, which is now completed. Following the findings of this review, a full procurement process for specialist sexual health and community contraceptive services has now been undertaken. The third component of services to be commissioned is in part a pilot programme for targeted outreach for young people. This delivers a sexual health outreach clinic from Darlington College and the Dolphin Centre (pilot component). The pilot period is due to end on 31 March 2015 and in advance of this a decision on future procurement needs to be reached.

Recommendation

3. It is recommended that Members approve a waiver of the Contract Procedures Rules in accordance with Rule 18 and to grant approval to issue a direct award of a contract for 12 months with the option for Council to extend for a further two x 12 month period for young people's sexual health outreach services.

Reasons

4. The recommendation is supported by the following reasons:-
 - (a) Provision of sexual health and contraception services are prescribed duties of the Council following the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

- (b) Young people are a high risk target group and services should be in place, in locations and at times, to specifically respond to their needs.
- (c) The procurement of wider sexual health services September-December 2014 demonstrated a limited market for the provision of this type of service within Darlington.

Murray Rose
Director of Commissioning

Background Papers

Annex A Local Authority Circular (DH) (2013)1 Public Health Ring Fenced Grant (Annex C)

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S17 Crime and Disorder	Contracts covered within this report contribute to Crime & Disorder Strategies
Health and Well Being	Contracts covered within this report contribute to Health & Well Being Strategies
Carbon Impact	There are no impacts included within this report
Diversity	There are positive implications for young people's diversity issues included within this report.
Wards Affected	All
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	This does not alter the budget or policy framework
Key Decision	No
Urgent Decision	No
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The contracts included within this report make a contribution to narrowing the health and inequalities between different groups within the Borough
Efficiency	The terms Members are being asked to agree allow for effective re-procurement timescales which will enable efficiencies to be realised.

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

5. A full open procurement process has been undertaken for community contraceptive service and sexual health services (all age) which form part of the integrated sexual health offer within Darlington. The market response to this wider procurement strongly suggested that there is unlikely to be a reasonable level of response to an open competitive tender process for the young person's outreach component of this wider service.
6. The current provider delivers a very high quality cost effective clinical service which has been designed and developed by the current provider to meet local need.
7. This is a prescribed (mandatory) service under Annex C delivering to a high risk population and securing continuity of this service is a priority. Loss of continuity puts at risk a vulnerable population who currently have high levels of engagement with the existing provider. The service sees over 600 young people during term time at the college site alone (non-pilot site) with these numbers set to grow with the additional pilot site at the Dolphin Centre, in turn demonstrating the engaging nature of these non-clinical settings for young people.
8. Offering young people the opportunity to maintain good sexual health is an essential part of giving every child the best start in life, particularly with regard to reducing rates of teenage pregnancy.
9. Value for money, high performance and clinical quality is demonstrated by the current provider for this relatively small service and this should be balanced against the cost of undertaking a full procurement exercise in this context.
10. Issuing a direct award would give time to develop the local market in advance of future procurements of all aspects of sexual health services. The end date for this proposed service has been set to tie in with the wider sexual health service, to enable a fuller procurement process at that stage, should the market be in a position to respond to it.

Financial Implications

11. The contract is provided under the public health ring fenced grant under which these services are prescribed.

Legal Implications

12. Under the Public Contracts Regulations 2006 (PCR), this is a 'Part B' service. This means that whilst the Council still has an obligation to be open, fair and transparent in the procurement of its services, there is no requirement to carry out a full procurement exercise. From the information contained in this report, the chosen method of procurement is compliant with the PCR.

Procurement Advice

13. The Commercial Team (procurement and legal) have been fully consulted and have agreed the recommendation.

Equalities Considerations

14. When making its decision, Members will be aware of the requirement to have 'due regard' to the Public Sector Equality Duty under section 149 Equality Act 2010. This duty requires the Council, when exercising its functions to have 'due regard' to the need to:-
 - (a) Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act;
 - (b) Advance equality of opportunity between those who share a 'protected characteristic' and those who do not share that protected characteristic, and
 - (c) Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it (this involves having due regard, in particular, to the need to (a) tackle prejudice, and (b) promote understanding).
15. Section 149 (3) of the Act states in general terms that having 'due regard' to advancing equality of opportunity involves having due regard to:-
 - (a) The need to remove or minimise disadvantages;
 - (b) Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups;
 - (c) Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.
16. An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out as part of the review of the wider sexual health services and been updated to take into consideration the young people's sexual health outreach services.
17. A copy of the EIA is attached as an **Appendix**. Members are required to read the EIA before making any decision.
18. The service will have a positive impact on protected characteristics, specifically age as the service will provide an enhanced outreach service for young people who are most vulnerable to poor sexual health.

Consultation

19. During consultation on the future of contraceptive and sexual health services in Darlington local stakeholders raised a number of priority issues.
20. Accessibility and a flexible responsive approach were specifically seen as key to engaging young and vulnerable people.

21. The ability to build rapport was seen to be crucial both for the clinical staff and administrative staff who might be the first point of contact.
22. Geographical accessibility of service was also a priority with a consensus that the town centre was accessible to most.