

## **CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & EDUCATION COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 1 December 2020**

<b>REPORT TITLE:</b>	<b>PROPOSED RECOMMISSIONING OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND EDUCATION</b>

### **REPORT SUMMARY**

This report seeks agreement from the Children, Young People and Education Committee to progress Public Health's proposed commissioning intentions for 2021-2022 for Public Health services for children and young people. These services support the delivery of the Healthy Child Programme for 0-19 years.

The proposals in this report link to the delivery of the Wirral Plan 2025 and the statutory responsibilities of the local authority in respect of public health: *services which help people live happy, healthy, independent and active lives, with public services there to support them when they need it.*

The proposed actions affect all wards within the borough.

The decisions requested are key decisions.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

It is recommended that the Children, Young People and Education Committee:

1. Authorises the Director of Public Health to re-commission contracts totalling £1,811,483 for four Children's Public Health Programmes as detailed in paragraph 3.4 of the report, for initial one year contracts (1 September 2021 – 31 August 2022) with an annual value of £774,429 with the option of a one year extension for each.
2. Note that the short-term contract period is proposed to enable a more collaborative and joint commissioning approach to be developed across the system.

## **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

### **1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1.1 To allow Public Health to implement the commissioning intentions for 2021/2022 as outlined in this report.

### **2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 2.1 It is necessary to tender for the services highlighted in order to comply with Public Contract Regulations and Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules.
- 2.2 The short-term contract period is proposed across all services to enable a more collaborative and joint commissioning approach to be developed across the system which will provide greater efficiency/outcomes long-term.

### **3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 3.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 sets out the council's statutory responsibility for delivering and commissioning Public Health services for children and young people. These services are brought together within the framework of the Healthy Child Programme for 0-19 years. In Wirral, the programme is provided as two elements, a Core Programme and a Health Improvement/Promotion Programme. The Core Programme was re-commissioned in 2019 and includes the Health Visiting Service, School Nursing and Family Nurse Partnership. The Health Improvement/Promotion elements are delivered by a range of providers and includes areas such as mental wellbeing, sexual health and substance misuse.
- 3.2 Whilst performance against contracted outputs for these services are good, it is clear that outcomes for children and young people would be greatly improved if systems were better integrated, particularly around areas such as mental wellbeing, support to our more vulnerable families and support to young people. In order to do this, it will be necessary to break down the barriers that exist in our strategic commissioning plans and move forward with radical service redesign; informed by full consultation and engagement. There is strong commitment across the Children, Young People and Families Partnership that to make a true difference at an early stage, there must be a complete re-think of our strategic and commissioning approach.
- 3.3 All Public Health contracts are subject to on-going evaluation as part of a clearly defined commissioning cycle, which is designed to maximise return on investment and improve outcomes. This methodology ensures that Public Health services (and contracts) are consistently and routinely tested against a range of criteria. Criteria against which contracts are tested include the following:
- Evidence base e.g. academic research, engagement feedback, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
  - Performance of targets e.g. financial and activity based and outcomes against plans and benchmarking information
  - Value for money
  - National policy and technical guidance e.g. Public Health Outcomes Framework

- Strategic direction e.g. Wirral Plan strategic aspirations (narrowing the gap in life expectancy), delivery of Public Health outcomes through council services
- Legal and contractual frameworks e.g. incorporate national updates to contract templates used for NHS providers.

3.4 It is proposed that the following services are retendered during the 2021/2022 financial year as the current contracts conclude on the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021:

- Preventative and Early Intervention Secondary School Based Service for young people (counselling - Action for Children)
- Confidential Young People's Online Counselling and Advice Service (Kooth.com - Xenzone)
- Healthy Child Programme (Health Improvement) for 0 -19 year olds (breastfeeding; healthy weight; substance misuse; sexual health and relationship education for professionals) (Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust)
- Sexual Health Education for young people (Brook)

This will provide an opportunity to reconsider the funding and delivery models, enabling the potential release of cost savings and the refocussing of service delivery. The provider selection process will be conducted in accordance with The Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Wirral Council Contract Procedure Rules.

3.5 The services account for an annual value of £774,429. The current contracts will continue during the recommissioning process and a period of service mobilisation will be built into the tender process in order to ensure there is no loss of service to residents and a seamless transition for existing service users is maintained. It is proposed that the services would be commissioned on a one-year contract basis with the option of a one-year extension. The recommission is on a short-term basis in order to enable a longer-term strategic vision to be developed as part of an integrated commission with Wirral Children's Services and the NHS Wirral Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).

3.6 Considerable work will be involved in developing this offer in partnership as it incorporates services beyond the above specific commissions. Initial discussions have taken place at appropriate commissioning groups which report into the Partnership Group for Children, Young People and Families and key partners including Wirral CCG are in agreement that this approach will enable the most effective support to be developed to improve outcomes for children, young people and families. The longer-term proposal will be informed by the findings of a wealth of local insight work, including the Youth Offer Review.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The value and availability of the Public Health grant for 2021/22 onwards is not yet known but is due for publication at the end of this calendar year. Budget has been allocated for the services highlighted based on the grant funding being consistent with this financial year.

4.2 Should the grant vary and be reduced then contract amounts would be varied, and the proposed tender exercises will consider appropriate mitigating measures.

- 4.3 The tendering exercises highlighted will provide the opportunity for longer term more integrated and cost-effective models to be developed.

## **5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The recommissioning of the services detailed within this report will need to be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations and Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules.

## **6 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS**

- 6.1 The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (T.U.P.E.) will be applicable will be applicable to any contracts awarded.

## **7 RELEVANT RISKS**

- 7.1 It is necessary to recommission the services highlighted in order to comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules and as a result of the full-term conclusion of a number of Public Health contracts.
- 7.2 There is always a risk of disruption to service provision during service redesign, recommissioning and commencement of new services. To mitigate against this and minimise disruption, adequate time to plan for, and implement the mobilisation of new services, is built into the procurement process between contract award and commencement.
- 7.3 The procurement process is also subject to scrutiny and at risk of legal challenge. Particular regard is given to contract procedure rules and relevant legislation at all stages of the process and the Public Health team works closely with the Procurement team to ensure compliance.
- 7.4 In the current challenging financial climate, the impact of any future reductions in budget or policy implications on the amount of funding available for Public Health is unknown. The value and availability of the Public Health grant for 2021/22 onwards is not yet known. It is important to acknowledge that the Council will need to review all financial allocations in order to achieve a balanced budget over the next few years.

## **8 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION**

- The commissions will incorporate findings from a range of previously completed consultations/insight work, including the Youth Offer Review completed during 2019 by the Children and Young People's Department and the 'Moonshot' insight work previously completed by a range of partners with children, young people, and families. There will be ongoing consultation with key stakeholders, community groups, children, young people, and their families using services in order to inform future service design and delivery.

- There will be a review of all current specifications to establish synergies across services. Feedback from the current service provision will be considered alongside this to ensure that any future provision builds on what is currently working well.

## 9 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 An equality impact assessment has been completed and can be found via this link:

<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

## 10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The proposed recommissioning process presents an opportunity to encourage suppliers to consider their policies and practices with respect to environment and climate issues. During the procurement process, bids will be evaluated on any social value added to the service. Environment and climate TOMs (Themes, Outcomes and Measures) are included in the social value evaluation.
- 10.2 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no direct impact on emissions of carbon dioxide.

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**APPENDICES:** None

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Action for Children Public Health Contract for the provision of a Preventative and Early Intervention Secondary School Based Service
- Brook Wirral Public Health Contract, for the provision of Sexual Health Education for Young People
- Xenzone Public Health Contract for the provision of a Confidential Young People's Online Counselling and Advice Service for Young People
- Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust Public Health Contract for the provision of a Healthy Child Programme (Health Improvement) 0-19 year olds.

## SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
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Adult Social Care and Health Committee (included in overarching Public Health re-commissions paper)	19 <sup>th</sup> November 2020
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