

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**7 JUNE 2021**

REPORT TITLE:	Infection Prevention and Control Service Commission
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks agreement from the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee to progress Public Health's proposed commissioning intentions for Community Infection Prevention and Control Services.

The proposed actions affect all wards within the borough.

The decisions requested are key decisions.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is requested to:

1. Authorise the Director of Public Health to re-commission the Wirral Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Service totalling up to £2,450,000 (£350,000 per annum) for an initial five-year contract (1 April 2022 – 31 March 2027) with the option of two one-year extensions.
2. Agree that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health to award the tender to the successful bidder following the tender process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 To allow Public Health to implement the commissioning intentions for Community Infection Prevention and Control Services as outlined in this report.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 It is necessary to recommission the service highlighted in order to comply with Public Contract Regulations and Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules. Other options related to contract length and contract value were considered. With the proposals being put forward being agreed as the best option.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The current Community Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) service is delivered by Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust. This contract commenced in April 2017 for a 3-year period with the option of two one-year extensions. The final one-year extension was awarded for the 2021/ 22 financial year meaning the contract comes to an end on 31 March 2022. This paper therefore seeks permission for the Director of Public Health to recommission the service in order to comply with Public Contract Regulations and Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules.
- 3.2 The COVID-19 pandemic and response has highlighted the vital importance of IPC and the specialist support required to ensure that IPC standards can be implemented and maintained. COVID-19 has led to a renewed focus on IPC within health and care settings, wider community settings and among our local communities. Due to the increased focus and demand on IPC we have utilised Contain Outbreak Management Funding (COMF) funding to enhance capacity within the current Community IPC Service. This recommission provides an opportunity to review local Community IPC service requirements and ensure we have the right funding and delivery model in place to manage COVID-19 alongside other infectious diseases within community settings going forward.
- 3.3 The recommission of the Community IPC service will:
- Provide a visible and proactive service that ensures the tools and information to maintain high IPC standards are available in all community settings. The service will be a 'one-stop-shop' for all infection prevention and control requirements; make the information easily accessible for all and provide training and ongoing support as required for all community settings.
 - In collaboration with the Wirral Council Public Health Team and the UK Health Security Agency it will ensure a timely response to cases, clusters, and outbreaks of communicable disease such as COVID-19, flu, norovirus in all community settings where IPC expertise and support is required.
 - Prevent and reduce rates of Healthcare acquired infections using evidence-based interventions and through leading on IPC system improvement programmes. In particular Clostridium difficile infection (C.diff), E.coli

bacteraemia (blood stream infection), and Methicillin Resistant Staphylococcus Aureus (MRSA) & Methicillin Sensitive Staphylococcus Aureus (MSSA) bacteraemia.

- 3.4 The current contract will continue during the recommissioning process and a period of service mobilisation will be built into the tender process to ensure there is no loss of service and a seamless transition for existing service users is maintained.
- 3.5 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.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The Public Health grant currently funds the services highlighted. The value and availability of the Public Health grant for 2022/23 onwards is not yet known. However, funding for the Community Infection Prevention and Control Service will be continued once future years of the Public Health grant is confirmed.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (T.U.P.E.) will be applicable.

7.0 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.

- 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 2022/23 onwards is not yet known. However, funding for the Community Infection Prevention and Control Service will be continued once future years of the Public Health grant is confirmed. This risk will be mitigated by the insertion of appropriate termination clauses in the contract.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 In order to inform the development and design of the future service engagement and consultation will be undertaken with key partners, stakeholders, and local communities. This will include:
- Engagement with local commissioners of health and care and community services to understand the impact of COVID-19 and IPC support required.
 - Engagement sessions with a wide range of local community settings to understand their current IPC concerns and challenges.
 - Utilising 3rd sector and community partners to engage with local communities to understand their needs in relation to IPC support.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Public Health will adhere to Wirral Council's legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work do not discriminate against anyone. As part of the recommission, an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be undertaken to ensure all equality impacts are considered and relevant actions are taken to mitigate any potential negative impacts.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 During the procurement process, bids will be evaluated on any social value added to the service. Bidders will need to consider and demonstrate how they can have a positive impact on Wirral's environment and climate.
- 10.2 The content and/or recommendations contained within this report are expected to have no direct impact on emissions of carbon dioxide.

REPORT AUTHOR: *Dr Elspeth Anwar*
Public Health Consultant
telephone: (0151) 666 5177
email: elspethanwar@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

N/A

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
N/A	