



Date: May 2021

REPORT TITLE:	OUTCOME OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH RE-COMMISSIONING PROCESS FOR A YOUNG PEOPLE'S CONFIDENTIAL ONLINE COUNSELLING AND ADVICE SERVICE
REPORT OF:	ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: CONSULTANT IN PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

On 19 November 2020, the Adult Social Care and Health Committee authorised the Director of Public Health to recommission a range of services. Given the nature of this particular service, it was agreed that this should be formally authorised by the Children, Young People and Education Committee, which took place on the 1st December 2020. This report provides an update on the recommissioning process and outcome.

The process has concluded, the tenders received have been fully evaluated according to Council procurement rules and the Director of Public Health will take the decision to award the contract to the successful bidder.

The proposed actions affect all Wards within the borough and the decisions requested are key decisions.

The details of the tender evaluation are detailed in Appendix 1 to the report. This information is commercially sensitive and is restricted by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Director of Public Health is recommended to accept the winning tender for the Young People's Confidential Online Counselling and Advice Service which has been submitted and evaluated in accordance with Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules and approves the award of a one-year contract (with the option to extend for one year) commencing on 1st September 2021. The contract term has a maximum value of £202,640.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 The current service contract is due to end on 31 August 21. A procurement exercise has been completed in accordance with Council Contract Procedure Rules and the successful bidder is the most economically advantageous, is fully compliant and is within allocated budget provision. New contract will be in place 1 September 21.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Valued support is provided via this contract so it was not considered an option not to re-commission the service, particularly in view of the current concerns for young people's mental health as a result of Covid 19. The short-term contract period is proposed across a range of services for children and young people 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 Service tender documents including the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) notice were posted onto the Chest (the council e-procurement portal) on 23 February 2021. The closing date for tender submissions was 24 March 2021. The contract term is 1 year +1 and has a maximum value of £202,640.
- 3.2 It is anticipated that the new contract will be operational 1 September 2021. The current contract for this service will continue during the re-commissioning process so that there is no loss of service to local people.
- 3.3 It has been necessary to re-commission this service to comply with Public Contract Regulations and Wirral Council Contract Procedure Rules. The value of the proposed contract is above the relevant European Union threshold and the supplier selection process has been conducted in accordance with The Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Wirral Council Contract Procedure Rules.
- 3.4 The specification for the retendered service was based on insight with local people and stakeholders, identified need as referenced by the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and evidence-based practice. This has provided an opportunity to re-consider funding and delivery models, enabling the release of cost savings and the refocusing of service delivery considering current developments and the healthcare needs of service users.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The value of the Public Health grant for 2021/2022 is £30.1m from which the value of this service has been allocated.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 It is necessary to ensure the proposed procurement complies with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and Wirral Council Contract Procedure rules.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) is not applicable.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 In the context of 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 activity and services is unknown. The value and availability of the Public Health grant for 21/22 is £30.1m. 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. The Public Health department has and maintains a five-year financial plan to provide assurance that the projected funding is in place for the commissions that it makes. This contract period is within this timeframe.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The commission incorporated 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.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 Equality Impact Assessment can be found at - <https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>
- 9.2 The commissioned services will be compliant with the Public Sector Equality Duty as contained in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The recommissioning process presented an opportunity to encourage suppliers to consider their policies and practices with respect to environment and climate issues. 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

Appendix 1 (exempt from public report)

By virtue of paragraph (3) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act, 1972.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Corporate Procurement Invitation to Tender (ITT) Scope and Contract Specification for the supply of a young people's confidential online counselling and advice service.

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Social Care and Health Committee (included in overarching Public Health re-commissions paper)	19 th November 2020
Children, Young People and Education Committee	1 st December 2020