

ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**17th October 2023**

REPORT TITLE:	COMMISSIONING A RISK AND RESILIENCE OFFER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

This report seeks authorisation from the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee to tender for the development of a new offer to support children and young people in relation to health and risk-related behaviours. It is intended that the new offer will be commissioned from September 2024 and will transform support for children and young people, by providing a more effective and co-ordinated approach to improve outcomes for them.

The activities outlined in this report support the vision of the Wirral Plan 2021-2026, specifically the themes of 'Brighter Futures' and 'Active Lives' and Priority Area 3 of the Wirral Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-27 to 'Ensure the best start in life for all children and young people'.

The proposed actions affect all wards within the borough and is a key decision.

RECOMMENDATION/S

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

1. Authorise the Director of Public Health to commence the commissioning of risk taking/health related behaviours offer for children and young people. This will be for a contract period of five years (1st September 2024 – 31st August 2029) with the option of two one-year extensions in accordance with the spend profile in paragraph 4.5 of this report.
2. Authorise 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 authorise Public Health to implement the commissioning intentions for an integrated 'Risk and Resilience' offer to support children and young people as outlined in this report.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 It is necessary to recommission the services highlighted in order to comply with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure rules. Other options related to contract length, contract value and several smaller contracts (the current situation) were considered. However, this work is a transformational project across the whole system of support for risk and resilience support for children and young people. In order to meet the needs of children and young people more effectively, increase access, improve outcomes, and provide value for money it is considered that this support be joined together to better support needs holistically, rather than as stand-alone commissions. The offer will complement the emotional health and wellbeing model recently tendered for. The importance of the links between this offer and the emotional health and wellbeing model, is that broadly defined, resilience is the ability to cope with and recover from setbacks, using skills and strengths to respond to life's challenges. It is widely acknowledged that a lack of resilience may lead to children and young people becoming overwhelmed with their experiences and dwell on problems, using unhealthy behaviours to cope with them.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 Today's children and young people are growing up in an increasingly complex world and many of them live their lives seamlessly on and offline. This presents many positive and exciting opportunities, but also challenges and risks. In this environment, children and young people need to know how to be safe and healthy, and how to manage their academic, personal, and social lives in a positive way. Children, young people, and their families deserve to have the confidence that they will not be passed from one subject-specific support service to another. We know that the issues that children and young people face can often be complex and interlinked, so maintaining separate and siloed services for each issue is not an effective way to proceed.
- 3.2 The approach will build on the parts of the Wirral system that we know are already working well for our children and young people, whilst reducing any duplication and improving effectiveness. A consistent, evidence-based, and practical approach will be developed to promote resilience and reduce vulnerability to risk and the consequences of risk-taking behaviours across the full range of needs for children and young people. The offer will be responsive and agile and driven by local intelligence of risk-related behaviours as they emerge.
- 3.3 The development of a risk and resilience approach will draw together support around issues affecting children and young people to make it easier for children and young people to get the support they need when they need it. The offer would not be topic

specific (such as substance misuse or sexual health), rather would pull support together, enabling a much more holistic approach to the needs of our children, young people, and families. The offer will also be underpinned by the importance of mental wellbeing to develop more resilient children, young people and families. This clearly links with the development of the emotional health and wellbeing model currently out to tender. The offer will be developed to compliment this model and link in with other existing support such as Zillo, Sandbox and the Early Help Family Toolbox.

- 3.4 The scope of this project includes areas such as substance misuse; sexual health and relationships; healthy weight for children and young people aged 0 -18, registered with a GP in Wirral and/or resident in Wirral. The offer will include one-to-one support; group work both in school and community settings with children and young people and training for a wide range of professionals, including school personnel. This will enable them to raise awareness of issues with children and young people and provide support. Within the school setting this will support the delivery of lessons such as Relationships, Sex and Health Education (RHSE). Schools will also be supported to have appropriate policies around for example, substance misuse and RHSE.
- 3.5 There has been considerable insight work completed to inform this work in the 'discovery phase', including both qualitative and quantitative. This has included a Health and Wellbeing survey that was offered for all Wirral schools. There have also been focus groups completed with young people, parents/carers, and professionals around support available and how best to meet needs. Quantitative work with professionals highlighted the range of their perceptions of the key risks for young people locally. As support will link strongly to emotional health and wellbeing, the key areas for development identified in the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment will also be acknowledged.
- 3.6 The commission will support delivery against outcomes included within the Public Health Outcomes Framework. Furthermore, a joint outcomes framework has been developed, which incorporates overall outcomes of the new offer, including those from a range of perspectives, for example, individual outcomes for children and young people accessing support and improvements in their wellbeing, parent/carer/trusted adults knowing how to support their children and young people, and professionals accessing training, reporting greater knowledge about risk taking behaviours and how to provide support.
- 3.7 The current contracts will continue during the commissioning 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.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The specific funding contribution for this commission from the ring-fenced Public Health Grant relates to current commissions with Barnardos, Brook Young People and Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (WCHCT). One-year contracts commenced on the 1 September 2023 and are due to end on 31st August 2024. To ensure compliance with Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules it is necessary to retender this service.

- 4.2 The existing contract values total £483,290 per annum, consisting of £85,311 for Barnardos (Substance Misuse), £227,240 for Brook (Sexual Health/Healthy Relationships and Wellbeing) and £170,739 for Wirral Community Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust (Healthy Weight/Weight Management). Additionally, there are internal recharges from the Public Health Grant for the Response Drug and Alcohol Service (£216,300) and the Health Services in Schools Youth Workers (£122,800) within the Children and Young People's Directorate. These services will be included in the offer but will not be included in the tender exercise.
- 4.3 The ringfenced Public Health grant currently funds the services highlighted. The intention is for the offer outlined in this paper to be fully funded by the grant.
- 4.4 The cost of the offer at present levels would be £483,290 per annum, totalling £3,383,030 over the potential seven-year term, from the Public Health Grant. Inflationary uplifts may be applied in line with the resource available within the future Public Health Grant allocation.
- 4.5 The offer will also link closely with projects currently funded through the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTR). Additional funding from SSMTR grant during 2022 – 2025 enables local authorities to support developments and improvements in the quality and capacity of drug and alcohol treatment. Opportunities to further develop the risk and resilience offer through SSMTR may be identified and will be subject to the existing approved grant governance structures.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The commission detailed within this report will be undertaken in accordance with the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure rules.
- 5.2 A detailed contract for the services with key performance indicators will need to be prepared to protect the Council's interests and ensure the deliverables under the contract are of satisfactory quality and standard.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE) may be applicable. The incumbent providers will provide the Council with anonymised details of staff engaged in the provision of relevant services, who may be subject to TUPE. This information will be shared with the tender documentation. It is the responsibility of tenderers to liaise with incumbent suppliers to establish whether TUPE regulations apply to the contract and to ensure that TUPE information provided by incumbent suppliers is accurate.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 It is necessary to commission the support highlighted in order to comply with the Public Contract Regulations 2015. Other options related to contract length, contract value and several smaller contracts were considered, however in order to meet the needs of children and young people more effectively, increase access, improve

outcomes, and provide value for money, this commission will join up services, providing a more holistic offer. 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. Robust contract management arrangements will be in place, to monitor performance and ensure ongoing management of any risks.

7.2 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.

7.3 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 is indicative of 1.3% for 2024/25 but is not known beyond that. This risk will be mitigated by the insertion of appropriate termination clauses in the contracts.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 There has been extensive engagement and consultation with key stakeholders in order to inform the development and design of the future offer. This has included:

- Engagement sessions with a wide range of stakeholders/professionals to understand their current strengths and challenges and gain insight into the issues that are affecting Wirral children and young people
- Engagement through focus groups parents/carers about support they have received, their challenges and how best the needs of young people could be met
- Qualitative insight work through focus groups with local children and young people to understand their needs and the ways support can be tailored to meet their needs.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity.

9.2 The Equality Impact Assessment for these decisions can be found at:
<https://www.wirral.gov.uk/communities-and-neighbourhoods/equality-impact-assessments>

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.

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

11.1 Community Wealth building is a new approach to economic development that proposes a more common-sense approach to how we create a good local economy. Emotional health and wellbeing is essential for resilient communities.

REPORT AUTHOR:

Name: Julie Graham
Senior Public Health Manager

Email: juliegraham2@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Wirral Children’s Emotional Health and Wellbeing Needs Assessment; November 22
- Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education Statutory guidance for governing bodies, proprietors, head teachers, principals, senior leadership teams, teachers; Department for Education; (2019)

TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report is being considered by the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee in accordance with Section 2.2(c) of its Terms of Reference:

All Public Health functions (in co-ordination with those functions reserved to the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee’s statutory health functions)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND HEALTH COMMITTEE (Overarching Public Health re-commissions paper)	19th November 2020
CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE Proposed Re-commissioning of Public Health Services for Children and Young People	1st December 2020