

Report Title:	Commissioning of Sexual Health Services from March 2019
Contains Confidential or Exempt Information?	NO - Part 1
Member reporting:	Councillor Carroll, Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health
Meeting and Date:	Cabinet, 24 May 2018
Responsible Officer(s):	Alison Alexander, Managing Director and Hilary Hall, Deputy Director Strategy & Commissioning
Wards affected:	All

REPORT SUMMARY

1. Local authorities are required to arrange the provision of open access sexual health services, including sexually transmitted disease testing and treatment and free contraception. The provision of effective sexual health services supports the Council Plan and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, in particular preventing the need for more intensive and costly interventions from health and social care.
2. The current contract for sexual and reproductive health services is commissioned from Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT) at a cost of £529,000. This contract ends on 31 March 2019 with no option to extend. Approval is sought to go out to tender for a new contract and in order to secure economies of scale, it is proposed that the new service is commissioned in partnership with Bracknell Forest Borough Council and Slough Borough Council.
3. As this is a specialist market with few providers, approval is also sought for a temporary extension to the current contract of up to three months to allow for any extended negotiations if required.

1 DETAILS OF RECOMMENDATION(S)

RECOMMENDATION: That Cabinet notes the report and:

- i) Gives approval to the Managing Director, with the Lead Member Adult Social Care and Public Health, to commence procurement of a new sexual health services contract in partnership with Bracknell Forest Borough Council and Slough Borough Council.
- ii) Approves a temporary extension to the current contract, of up to three months, to accommodate any extended negotiations.

2 REASON(S) FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) AND OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Sexual health services are mandated within The Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2012.

- 2.2 The Royal Borough currently commissions a sexual health service through Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (BHFT). The current service contract expires on 31 March 2019, however a three month extension is sought to accommodate extended negotiations. Approval is sought to go out to tender for a new contract and in order to secure economies of scale, it is proposed that the new service is commissioned in partnership with Bracknell Forest Borough Council and Slough Borough Council.
- 2.3 Royal Borough residents have around 6,700 attendance episodes at sexual health services in a year and in 2017-2018, there were 4,659 attendances at the three clinics run by BHFT. The difference between the two figures is where residents have chosen to use on-line services or accessed services outside of East Berkshire. Key elements of the service to be commissioned are:
- An integrated service which will include a range of specialist (level 3) clinics offering fully comprehensive sexual and complex reproductive health services and clinics providing less complex care, in accordance with local need.
 - Core and non-specialist reproductive and sexual health services provided through a Royal Borough community-based outreach nurse.
 - Online HIV and sexually transmitted infection testing.
 - East Berkshire wide support – local residents will have access to services at the Specialist Level 3 Centre in Slough (at least 29.5 hours per week) and non-specialist service in Bracknell (at least 14 hours a week) on an open access basis, in addition to the clinic offered at St Marks Hospital.
- 2.8 The service will be open access to all in line with statutory requirements and the national specification issued by the Department of Health. However, there is a clear expectation that the service will be responsive to the needs of key priority groups as defined in the Berkshire Sexual Health Needs Assessment.
- 2.9 As a result of the services provided, the Royal Borough is significantly below the national average in a number of key areas, including:
- HIV prevalence – groups predominantly affected are gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men, and heterosexual men and women from African communities, with the former accounting for the greater part of diagnosed infections in RBWM.
 - Abortion rates.
 - All new sexually transmitted infection diagnosis rates.
 - Under 18 conception rates.

Table 1: Options

Option	Comments
Allow the current contract to expire.	Local authorities are mandated to commission sexual health services. It is therefore not recommended to let the current contract expire without adequate service provision in place.
Tender for various contracts and break down the commissioning of genito-urinary medicine	This would fragment current provision and potentially lead to gaps in service provision. National guidance recommends that these services are integrated for maximum effect.

Option	Comments
and reproductive sexual health services between different providers.	
Re-tender the mandatory sexual health services in partnership with Bracknell Forest Borough Council and Slough Borough Council. The recommended option	This recommendation makes economic sense and allows Royal Borough clients access to services across East Berkshire at no extra cost. The new service model addresses health inequities as it enables the council to reach difficult to engage communities.

3 KEY IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The key implications are at table 2.

Table 2: Key implications

Outcome	Unmet	Met	Exceeded	Significantly Exceeded	Date of delivery
Recommissioned sexual health services for the Royal Borough in place	After 1 June 2019	1 April 2019	1 March 2019	Not applicable	1 April 2019

4 FINANCIAL DETAILS / VALUE FOR MONEY

- 4.1 The funding for sexual health services is included as part of the Public Health Grant.
- 4.2 There are no additional financial implications above the existing budget spend on sexual health services of £529,000. This equates to around £89 per activity as the price is based on a single block price pan East Berkshire, with each authority paying on their activity base. This compares favourably with the West of Berkshire authorities who are paying £109 per activity with the national average per activity being £137.

5 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council has the power to commission services for the needs of its residents. Sexual health services are mandated within The Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

6.1 The risks and mitigations are outlined in table 3.

Table 3: Impact of risk and mitigation

Risks	Uncontrolled Risk	Controls	Controlled Risk
Limited number of providers in the market due the specialist nature of health premises.	MEDIUM	New service model includes outreach provision not dependent upon premises.	LOW
Out of area costs may continue to rise until awareness is raised about the 24 hour local online service.	LOW	Regular contract monitoring of price and activity. Communications and promotion strategy to be implemented.	LOW
Costs may increase initially due to the novelty value of providing accessible online testing services.	MEDIUM	The 2018/19 budget has contingency to cover these costs should they arise.	LOW

7 POTENTIAL IMPACTS

- 7.1 Historically, this service has always been commissioned from Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust. As the Trust is affiliated to the NHS, it has been able to source buildings fully equipped to provide health services such as St Marks Hospital. This can impact negatively upon providers operating outside of the NHS and so reduce competition. The requirement for an outreach service within the specification seeks to mitigate this risk.
- 7.2 If a different provider is successful in the tender process, TUPE transfer may apply to existing staff. This information has already been gathered from Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust.
- 7.3 An Equality Impact Assessment and a Privacy Impact Assessment have been carried out and are available on the website through this link.

8 CONSULTATION

- 8.1 The report will be considered by Adult Services and Health Overview and Scrutiny Panel on 17 May 2018, and comments will be reported to Cabinet.
- 8.2 The views of young people have informed the delivery of sexual health services during the current contract, in particular the development of the website, and their input will be sought as part of the procurement process.

9 TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION

9.1 The implementation timetable is at table 4.

Table 4: Implementation timetable

Date	Details
24 th May 2018	Cabinet approval to go out to tender
14 th June 2018	Final specification approved
21 st June 2018	Tender documents issued
29 th August 2018	Interviews with potential providers
1 st October 2018	Contract awarded
1 st April 2019	Service commences

9.2 Implementation date if not called in; Immediately.

10 APPENDICES

- None

11 BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- None

12 CONSULTATION (MANDATORY)

Name of consultee	Post held	Date issued for comment	Date returned with comments
Stuart Carroll	Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health	27/4/18	30/4/18
Alison Alexander	Managing Director	27/4/18	
Russell O'Keefe	Executive Director	27/4/18	
Andy Jeffs	Executive Director	27/4/18	
Rob Stubbs	Section 151 Officer	27/4/18	
Nikki Craig	Head of HR and Corporate Projects	27/4/18	30/4/18
Louisa Dean	Communications	27/4/18	
Elaine Browne	Head of Law and Governance	27/4/18	30/4/18

REPORT HISTORY

Decision type: Key decision 26 April 2018	Urgency item? No	To Follow item? N/A
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