

**TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING
21 NOVEMBER 2017**

**CONTRACT AWARD FOR
0-19 PUBLIC HEALTH NURSING SERVICES - DECISION REPORT
Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the procurement of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service and recommend the award of the contract to the preferred bidder.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service contract due to commence on 1st April 2018 be awarded to Tenderer A, Option B (Proposal 4) (commercially sensitive details in confidential annex).**

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Ensuring adequate provision of health visiting and school nursing services is a mandatory responsibility of the Council. The current contracts for Health Visiting and School Nursing services expire in March 2018.
- 3.2 Following a 3 month consultation with parents and stakeholders between November 2016 and February 2017, an evaluation of options for the future provision of children's public health nursing services was carried out. The Executive accepted the recommendation to go out to tender for a 0-19 public health nursing service that would combine health visiting and school nursing functions.
- 3.3 A competitive tender process has been completed and a preferred solution has been identified.
- 3.4 The Executive Member for Adult Social Care, Health & Housing has been authorised to award the Contract as the recommended bid is within the available budget.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 To not invest in the continued provision of 0-19 public health nursing services. This would be likely to significantly undermine health outcomes in both young children and parents and represent a false economy in relation to the resulting demand on other services.
- 4.2 To integrate Health Visiting and School Nursing into existing council services rather than procure a service from an external provider. The outcomes of the consultation exercise demonstrated little support for bringing public health nursing services into the council.

5. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 5.1 Health Visiting teams deliver the Department of Health's "Healthy Child Programme" for all children aged 0–5. From ages 5-19 the Healthy Child Programme is delivered primarily by School Nurses.
- 5.2 According to recent estimates there were 30,720 children and young people aged 0–19 years living in Bracknell Forest.
- 5.3 Health Visitors and School Nurses are specialist community public health nurses who offer parents, families and young people varying levels of support according to need. The Health Visiting function includes support on child development, minor illnesses, breastfeeding, screening and immunisations. The School Nursing function includes the routine health assessment (including vision and hearing assessment) of all young children when they start school, delivery of the mandated National Child Measurement Programme for children in Yr R and Yr 6, providing targeted support to individual young people as required and providing training to school staff. Both School Nurses and Health Visitors have an important role in safeguarding.
- 5.4 A new service contract is required from 1st April 2018 to provide continuity of Health Visiting and School Nursing services.
- 5.5 The new contract is for 24 months, with three one year, optional extensions.
- 5.6 Reflecting the outcomes of the consultation exercise, the National Child Measurement Programme will change from an "opt-out" to an "opt-in" arrangement. The local target for antenatal visits has been removed in favour of a condition that visits must better reflect parental demand and preferences and the clinical judgement of Health Visitors. The school nursing team will continue to provide targeted health promotion advice to individual young people but proactive, formal health promotional activities will continue to be delivered by the council's Public Health team, in collaboration with a range of health professionals, Children's Centres, schools, parents and young people.
- 5.7 Following legal and procurement advice, an advert was placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), the South East Business Portal and Contracts Finder, seeking expressions of interest from potential tenderers. Adverts were placed in June 2017.
- 5.8 Scoring of tenders was weighted for quality (30%) and price (70%). A project team incorporating professionals from Public Health and Children's Services assessed the bids as well as subsequent tenderer presentations. A recommendation was agreed upon for the award of the contract to Tender A, Option B (proposal 4) (commercially sensitive details in confidential annex).

6. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The financial implications are contained within the confidential annex.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 An initial screening was completed at the start of the project and duly signed off by the appropriate Chief Officer. 0-19 Public Health Nursing services are accessible to parents and young people, regardless of age, ethnic background or any other protected characteristic.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 None

7. CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 The tender evaluation team was drawn from Corporate Procurement, Public Health and the Children & Young People Directorate Early Help team. Findings from previous consultation work on 0-19 Public Health Nursing Services with a wide range of stakeholders also informed the process.

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 Meetings, stakeholder focus groups, public consultation survey.

Representations Received

- 7.3 None

Background Papers

Annex A (Confidential): Contract Award for 0-19 Public Health Nursing Services (confidential annex to decision report)

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