

TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES, HEALTH & HOUSING  
28 MAY 2014

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**SEXUAL HEALTH PROCUREMENT PLAN**  
**Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek approval of the Executive Member of the requirement to competitively procure sexual health services by the Public Health Shared Team on behalf of three partner Local Authorities: Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire Borough Councils as part of the Joint Agreement. As per that agreement, the Bracknell Forest process is to be used.
- 1.2 It was agreed by the Leaders and the Chief Executives across Berkshire that a service review and procurement exercise was the most suitable way forward. The review concluded that there was no cost benefit or quality gain to proceed with the tender process for the those UAs covered by the former Berkshire East PCT but there was for the three UAs covered by the former Berkshire West PCT. The scope of the tender process has shifted to a procurement exercise for Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire Borough Councils. Formal confirmation not to proceed to procurement is still being undertaken by Bracknell Forest, Royal Borough and Slough Borough Council and if any of those wish to proceed to procurement, they will be included in this process.
- 1.3 This procurement seeks to ensure that a high quality service is provided across Western Berkshire (covering Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire Borough Councils areas) whilst ensuring that it demonstrates value for money. There remains the option that one of the other Councils will also be part of this tender and this will be confirmed in late May. The service commissioned will be in line with national standards and specifications, as well as addressing local demographic requirements based on need, appropriateness and responsiveness of provision.
- 1.4 For Western Berkshire, the main provider is Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH), with Berkshire Healthcare Trust and other non Berkshire acute hospitals also providing sexual health services along with some local GPs and Pharmacies. For children specifically, Berkshire Healthcare Trust is the provider via school nurses or the Chlamydia Screening programme.
- 1.5 The tender evaluation will be based on the following high level criteria:  
**Quality 60%** - primarily related to clinical standards set nationally and accessibility that ensures open access and single pathway for patients.  
**Cost 40%**

Quality is an essential feature of providing sexual health services with standards set nationally for clinical excellence. The provider(s) will be dealing with a specialist area of clinical assessment and treatment and has to ensure they meet, maintain and exceed the nationally set clinical standards as part of this delivery. Failure to do so will have a detrimental impact not only on patients but on public health in the community generally. Thus the evaluation team need to have the reassurance and confidence that the new provider will be able to meet these quality standards as soon as the contract commences and to demonstrate that these will be maintained and

exceed throughout the year, regardless of variable levels of activity, and is why the ratio is weighted towards quality.

## **2. RECOMMENDATION**

### **2.1 That the Executive Member to approve the Procurement Plan and tender.**

## **3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 The extensive modelling exercise demonstrated that, for the Western LAs, a competitive procurement is the best way to provide value for money whilst maintaining a high quality service for sexual health services.
- 3.2 That a block contract with incentives to decrease activity whilst increasing health protection will ensure that activity levels are kept at a reasonable level.

## **4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 4.1 The current provider (RBH) charges activity on a cost per case basis and there would be a possibility of extending this on an annual basis, but this would not result in the level of savings that a block contract would allow.

## **5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 5.1 EIA
- 5.2 Procurement Plan

## **6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS Other Council Officers**

### Reading

- 6.1 The decision was made by the Lead Councillor for Health (Cllr Hoskin) at his Lead briefing in April. Reading agrees to the process as described.

### Wokingham

- 6.2 This approach was agreed at the Public Health Advisory Board (PHAB) and the Council is supportive of the process as described.

### West Berkshire

- 6.3 This approach was agreed at the PHAB and confirmed by Nick Carter (CEO) and the Council is supportive of the process as described.

**Bracknell Forest Officers**

Director of Public Health

- 6.4 I have read the Procurement Plan and agree to this process and recommend that the plan is accepted.

Borough Solicitor

- 6.5 The Borough Solicitor's comments and advice have been incorporated in this procurement plan

Borough Treasurer

- 6.6 There are no financial implications for the Council as the proposed procurement only relates to Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire Councils at this stage.

Head of Procurement

- 6.7 The Head of Procurement's comments and advice have been incorporated in this procurement plan.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.8 The Head of Community Engagement and Equalities commented on the Equalities Screening during its production and has no further comments.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.9 A Privacy Impact Assessment will be required for this project.

Director of Corporate

- 6.10 The plan and the EIA both look very thorough.  
My only comment is that the tender evaluation percentages at 60-40 are different from the Council norm and are therefore worthy of some comment in the covering paper regarding the reasons for this

**7 CONSULTATION**

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 n/a

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 n/a

Representations Received

- 7.3 n/a

Unrestricted

Background Papers

Procurement Plan  
Initial Screening Record (EIA)

Contact for further information

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