

TO: EXECUTIVE
16 DECEMBER 2014

**SEXUAL SERVICES TENDER FOR READING, WOKINGHAM, WEST BERKSHIRE AND
ROYAL BOROUGH OF WINDSOR AND MAIDENHEAD LOCAL AUTHORITIES**
Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for The Executive to agree to the recommendation contained within this report in respect for Sexual Health Services for Reading, Wokingham, and West Berkshire Local Authorities all working under the umbrella of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing. This recommendation follows a robust evaluation of tenders submitted from shortlisted candidates.
- 1.2 The Procurement has been carried out on behalf of Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham by agreement with those authorities in accordance with Bracknell procedures and standing orders, and the contracts that will be let will be in the name of those authorities.

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the Sexual Health contract commencing 1st April 2016 is awarded Tenderer 1 by Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire Local Authorities.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure that residents of Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire Local Authorities can access appropriate Sexual Health services subject to individual need that are focussed on achieving national outcomes, the reduction of need and value for money.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

Strategic Development:

- 5.1 In April 2013, Local Authorities took over responsibility for Public Health (PH) commissioning. In Berkshire, a Joint Agreement between the six Local Authorities allows for a common management of shared contracts which cover several Authorities whilst maintaining some local autonomy and control. In its capacity as the host for the PH shared team for Berkshire, Bracknell Forest Borough Council (BFBC) facilitated the process of procurement on behalf of The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead, Reading, Wokingham and West Berkshire Borough Councils

Unrestricted

Services subject to tender

- 5.2 The overall aim of this procurement was to ensure that there is a high quality service that will cover the levels of service identified in the national services specification which are:
- Treatment and care for sexual health (excluding HIV)
 - Contraceptive services (additional to core primary care work)
 - Sexual health promotion
- 5.3 It **excludes** the National Chlamydia Screening Programme and Sexual Health services delivered by school nurses, but **includes** two specialist nurses, one dedicated to vulnerable young people and the other to vulnerable people including women whose children taken in to care, commercial sex workers, drug misuses and others (in authorities in the west of Berkshire)
- 5.4 The successful provider will be providing the following:
- Delivery of high quality open access sexual health services in line with NICE (National Institute for Health and Care Excellence) guidance/best practice guidance. This will include all aspects of a sexual health service including testing, treating and education programmes
 - Interventions via a central clinic and outreach provision to meet the needs of specific sections of the community, with clinics to be provided within the Local Boroughs as agreed, in accordance with the Level 1, 2 & 3 service model. There will be an option for the LAs to increase or change their service provision requirements which will be done in agreement with the provider.
- 5.5 The successful provider will also provide access to self-managed care provision (including online provision), including health information, primary prevention initiatives, condoms & lubricants, Chlamydia home sampling kits for under 25 year olds & pregnancy kits. The successful provider will use the commissioners IT platform (currently being procured) to provide and promote a number of services, such as the Chlamydia Screening programme, c-card system & link to JuicePoints (a nurse led drop in clinic) & Health information to support groups or third sector provision.

Tender arrangements

- 5.6 The Chief executives of the six LA's in Berkshire agreed in 2012 to tender out Public Health contracts, hosted under the shared agreement, within the first two years of taking responsibility for Public Health functions. Subsequently, in June 2013, the sexual health procurement began, however, with only four local authorities taking part (Reading, West Berkshire, RBWM and Wokingham.) The two remaining Boroughs preferred to remain with the existing provider of their services as this gave the best value for money.
- 5.7 Two Providers submitted tenders, both having passed the PQQ (pre-qualifying questionnaire) stage. The bids were assessed by representatives of the four Authorities. Prior to the final decision, one of the Local Authorities decided to review its involvement with the Tender. This resulted in the two providers being asked to provide a second Tender bid involving only the three remaining Authorities.

Unrestricted

- 5.8 Tenders were received by the due date and were evaluated by the Project Team, details of which are set out in the confidential annexe. The evaluation criteria had been agreed by the panel prior to the tender invitations.
- 5.9 Tenderers were invited to attend to give a presentation and answer questions in respect of the implementation of the services they had tendered for. These presentations were held and following this the evaluation panel finalised the tender evaluation.
- 5.10 To avoid further disruption to the timescales, both tenders were assessed so that a decision could be made based on the decision of either all four Local Authorities or the three Local Authorities.
- 5.11 Post evaluation one of the UAs withdrew from the process, so the final decision that requires approval is now based on the bid for the three West UAs.

6 **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The procurement has been conducted in accordance with the Council's contract standing orders by agreement with the other unitary authorities involved. The required services are categorised as Part B services for the purposes of the Public Contracts Regulations and full compliance with the competition and advertisement requirements of those Regulations is not required.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications within this report for Bracknell Forest Council.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 Attached as Background paper, having been completed in March 2014 prior and for the tender.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 All risks are listed on the Public Health Services. The main risk is:

Risk: Changes to Sexual Health retender process could lead to a delayed start. This will not impact on the service delivery, but will increase costs for the period of time that services are provided outside of contract. This could be a significant cost pressure for some LAs.

Actions to mitigate risk: Minimise the amount of time the service is operating outside of the contract by keeping the tender process going for the 2 different scenarios.

Other Officers

- 6.5 Officers of Public Health advisory Board,

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Meeting(s) with interested parties including individual Local Authority Stakeholder events, One to one meetings and discussions have also been held with groups in the community (black and minority ethnic, gay and lesbian, people with disabilities) and an EIA screening was undertaken for all Authorities in Berkshire.
- 7.2 All key stakeholders, including Local Authorities, Public Health colleagues, the Voluntary and Community services, Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs), Health watch, Elected Members, current and interested providers and the Public.

Background Papers (attached).

Summary Quality scoring for Report (Please note full detailed papers are available on request) Restricted.

Summary Finance for Report. (Please note full detailed papers are available on request) Restricted

Initial Equalities Screening Record Form. Restricted

Contact for further information

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