

**TO: EXECUTIVE
18 JULY 2016**

**CONTRACT AWARD FOR HEALTH VISITING SERVICES
Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing**

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the procurement of Health Visiting Services and recommend the award of the contract to the preferred bidder.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 **That the Health Visiting Service contract due to commence on 1st January 2017 be awarded to Tenderer A, Option A (commercially sensitive details in confidential annexes).**

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Responsibility for commissioning Health Visitor Service passed to local authorities in October 2015 and the current contract expires in December 2016.
- 3.2 A new service contract is required to provide continuity of care and the opportunity to evaluate options for the future provision of Children's Public Health programmes as a whole. An initial 15 month contract (with a 9 month extension) is proposed so as to coincide with the period of currently guaranteed Public Health Grant funding.
- 3.3 A competitive tendering process has been completed and a preferred solution has been identified.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 To not invest in the continued provision of Health Visiting 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 into existing council services rather than procure a service from an external provider. While this is an option for the future, the responsibility for Health Visiting Services only transferred to local authorities in October 2015. Given the potential complexity inherent in integrating services more time is required to properly evaluate all options and implement any agreed solution.

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.

Unrestricted

- 5.2 According to recent estimates there were 9,899 children aged 0–5 years living in Bracknell Forest.
- 5.3 Health Visitors offer parents varying levels of support according to need. The service includes support on child development, minor illnesses, breastfeeding, screening and immunisations. Health Visitors also play an important role in safeguarding.
- 5.4 A new service contract is required from 1st January 2017 to provide continuity of Health Visiting services as well as enable the evaluation of options for the future provision of Children’s Public Health programmes as a whole (including potential integration with other services).
- 5.5 An initial 15 month contract coincides with the period of currently guaranteed Public Health Grant funding. A nine month extension is then available depending on needs.
- 5.6 Health Visiting Services may include a Family Nurse Partnership (FNP) element which provides high intensity support for young mothers. However, recent research indicated that this service is not cost effective and does not add significant benefits to the main Health Visitor programme. Therefore, a separate FNP service did not form part of the procurement process. Work is under way to ensure continuity of support for women on the FNP programme within the main Health Visiting Service.
- 5.7 Following legal and procurement advice, a Prior Information Notice (PIN) was published in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU), the South East Business Portal and Contracts Finder, seeking expressions of interest from potential tenderers. The PIN was published in February 2016.
- 5.8 Scoring of tenders was weighted equally between quality (50%) and price (50%). 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 A (commercially sensitive details in confidential annexes).

6. ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 No significant legal issues arise from the matters discussed in this report. The procurement has been carried out in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations and the Council’s Contract Standing Orders.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 The costs of the service will be met from existing resources. The contract has been awarded after a tender exercise, and the winning tender represents the best value for money of the 2 tenders submitted.

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. Health Visiting services are accessible to parents 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 the full spectrum of Children's Public Health services with a wide range of stakeholders also informed the process.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Meetings, stakeholder events, consultation surveys.

Representations Received

7.3 None

Background Papers

Annex A (Confidential): Procurement Process Details

Annex B (Confidential): Tender scoring spreadsheet

Contact for further information

Gill Vickers, Adult Social Care, Health & Housing - 01344 351458

Gill.Vickers@bracknell-forest.gov.uk

Lisa McNally, Adult Social Care, Health & Housing - 0788 619 3505

Lisa.mcnally@bracknell-forest.gov.uk