

**TO: EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ADULT SERVICES, HEALTH & HOUSING
8 MARCH 2016**

**COMMISSIONING OF HEALTH VISITOR SERVICES
Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on the current status of the Health Visitor Services contract and propose and extension of the contract in order to allow service continuity and reduce risks to clinical governance during the upcoming re-commissioning programme.

2 RECOMMENDATION

That the EXECUTIVE MEMBER

- 2.1 AGREE to a 3-month extension of the current Health Visitor Service contract for Bracknell Forest from 1 October – 31 December 2016. The extension will be for the amount of £357,469 (pro rata to the £1,429,875 cost per annum.)**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Health Visiting is a cost-effective programme that supports the health of young children and their parents. Recent data and feedback suggests a good standard of service is being provided in Bracknell Forest. The provider is Berkshire Healthcare Foundation NHS Trust.
- 3.2 The Health Visiting contract was transferred from NHS England to the Shared Public Health team in October 2015 and has recently been passed over to the local team for ongoing management.
- 3.3 The current contract ends in September 2016. Therefore the commissioning of a new service 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.
- 3.4 In setting out a timetable for the re-procurement of the Health Visiting service, Human Resources have advised that a period of 3 months is required after the decision to award the contract is undertaken for a Transfer of Undertakings (TUPE) process. This process will be used in the event that a provider other than the current incumbent is awarded the contract, and allows for the transfer of existing staff from the current provider to the new, successful provider. Allowing three months for this process ensures no risk to service continuity and clinical governance.
- 3.5 The current procurement timetable does not allow for a three month TUPE process. A 3-month extension to the existing contract is therefore requested so to ensure sufficient time for a TUPE process to take place, should it be required. This will mean that the new contract will begin in January 2017 rather than October 2016.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

4.1 None.

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

5.1 A report to the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health & Housing for decision on 25th February has been prepared. That report recommends that a new health visiting service be commissioned on the basis of an 18 month contract (with provision for a 6 month extension). The background information provided in that report is not duplicated here.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The anticipated value of the requested extension is below the 'light touch' services threshold under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and the Executive Member is authorised to agree a contract extension where previous extensions have been implemented under Contract Standing Orders.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied no budgetary pressures come out of this decision to extend the contract as the new contract cost will be, at a maximum, the same as the current one.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 A full Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out in relation to the current service and will also form part of the new commissioning programme.

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 The contract extension requested mitigates against the risks to clinical governance that would arise if a new provider is appointed to run the health visiting service and insufficient time is available for the transfer of staff.

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 Council Officers. A full consultation exercise was undertaken in respect of the Health Visiting Service re-commissioning.

Method of Consultation

7.2 Meetings

Representations Received

7.3 None

Background Papers

None

Contact for further information

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