



Report of the Director of Public Health to the meeting of Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 23rd September 2021

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Subject:

£2m Contract Report: Sexual Health Services Review

Summary statement:

Local authorities are responsible for providing comprehensive, open access sexual health services. While they are able to make decisions about provision based on local need, there are also specific legal requirements ensuring the provision of certain services which are set out in the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013.

The open access Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service (ISRHS) commissioned by Bradford Council will need to be retendered for commencement in July 2022. In addition, a smaller contract for Community Based Sexual Health Outreach, Prevention and Support Services will also end and an option to retender will need to be considered.

This report provides members with an update on the timeline for procurement of services and key steps in preparation for any tender; this also supports compliance with Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) pre-procurement requirements to report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Contracts valued at £2m or above.

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Portfolio:
Healthy People and Places
Overview & Scrutiny Area:
Health and Social Care

1. SUMMARY

1.1 The open access Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service (ISRHS) commissioned by Bradford Council will need to be retendered for commencement in July 2022. In addition, a smaller contract for Community Based Sexual Health Outreach, Prevention and Support Services will also end and an option to retender will need to be considered.

1.2 This report provides members with an update on the timeline for procurement of services and key steps in preparation for any tender; this also supports compliance with Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) pre-procurement requirements to report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Contracts valued at £2m or above.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Local Authorities are responsible for providing comprehensive, open access sexual health services. While they are able to make decisions about provision based on local need, there are also specific legal requirements ensuring the provision of certain services which are set out in the Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) Regulations 2013.

2.2 This report is concerned with services in scope for commissioning and procurement by Bradford Council under the 2012 Health and Social Care Act 2012 whereby Local Authorities became responsible commissioner of the following open access mandated sexual health services:

- Sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, chlamydia screening as part of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme and HIV testing;
- contraception, including implants and intra-uterine contraception and all prescribing costs, but excluding contraception provided as an additional service under the NHS GP contract;
- sexual health aspects of psychosexual counselling; and;
- any sexual health specialist services, including young people's sexual health and teenage pregnancy services, outreach, HIV prevention and sexual health promotion, services in schools, colleges and pharmacies.

This means that services commissioned by the NHS are out of scope which includes:

- Most abortion services
- Sterilisation and Vasectomy
- Non-sexual health elements of psychosexual health services
- Gynaecology, including any use of contraception for non-contraception purposes
- Contraception provided as an additional service under the GP contract
- HIV treatment and care (including drug costs for post-exposure prophylaxis after sexual exposure)
- Promotion of opportunistic testing and treatment for STSs, and patient-requested testing by GPs

- Sexual health elements of prison health services
- Sexual Assault Referral Centres
- Cervical Screening
- Specialist foetal medicine services

The 2012 legislation also set out the responsibilities of what were then NHS clinical commissioning groups and also NHS England related to provision of GP and pharmacy services, the provision of abortion services and HIV treatment and care. These arrangements are undergoing changes that will be incorporated into the 2021 Health and Care Bill proceeding through parliament.

- 2.2 Open access services meeting this mandatory responsibility are provided currently by Local Community Partnerships Community Interest Company. This main contract for Bradford Council ISRHS was tendered in 2014 with a five-year contract awarded with an option of extension for a further 2 years, which has been fully utilised; this means that current services need to be tendered and a contract awarded by July 2022 to ensure service continuity of mandatory services.

During the course of the Contract, additional services were added:

- Provision of pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) which is medicine that people at risk for HIV take to prevent getting HIV from sex or injecting drug use;
- additional emergency hormonal contraceptive services (EHC) and;
- Development of a sub dermal implant removal service, removal of contraceptive devices located in the skin.

- 2.3 The current contract value for the Public Health sexual and reproductive health service for 2021-22 is £4,037,780 per annum.
- 2.4 Community Based Sexual Health Outreach, Prevention and Support Services are provided through a contract tendered in 2017 with the contract being awarded to MESMAC. This is a service for those who are at high risk of STIs and those living with HIV, with the provision of point of care testing for HIV and counselling and peer support groups for those living with HIV.
- 2.5 The value of this contract in 2021-22 is £219,996.
- 2.6 The combined current value of directly commissioned sexual health services, mandated and non-mandated, from the Public Health Ring-Fenced Grant in 2021/22 is £4,257,776.

3 REPORT ISSUES

- 3.1 Additional detail on current services and an update on progress against key sexual health measures that indicate sexual health and wellbeing for Bradford council is detailed in a separate report for overview and scrutiny members but key points from

that report include:

- The Covid pandemic has accelerated the implementation of online services that provide for postal testing of sexually transmitted infections, the provision of emergency hormonal contraception and the increased use of electronic means of communication for remote sexual health consultations;
- rates of testing for sexually transmitted infections (STI's) has increased as have diagnostic rates for STI's which indicates that there is an increasing prevalence of disease in the population with implications for future service capacity and focus;
- key indicators related to abortions and provision of long acting reversible contraceptives (LARC) indicate that a system focus across local authority commissioned and health commissioned services will be required to improve performance;
- There are national policy changes that impact on any procurement and the associated resource allocation to sexual health services commissioned by the council which includes:
 - Changes to the National Chlamydia Screening programme focus and priorities;
 - PHE Women's reproductive health programme which will change some of the national measures that provide local indicators on Bradford's sexual health and sets revised ambitions for securing good reproductive health;
 - HIV in the UK: towards zero HIV transmissions by 2030 which sets the direction for reducing inequalities between groups who have benefitted from progress in reducing transmission of HIV;
 - E-sexual and reproductive healthcare telemedicine which anticipates the consolidation of changes in modes of accessing sexual health services.

3.2 The national policy framework will need to be considered alongside key local policy matters and the financial circumstances of the Council.

- Bradford's Health and well-being strategy: Connecting people and place for better health and wellbeing 2018-2023

This strategy sets out four main outcomes and sexual health and well-being makes a contribution to two of these; children have a great start in life and people in all parts of the District living well and ageing well.

- Interim Children and Young People's Plan 2021-2022

This interim plan has key themes that sexual health services impact on which includes ensuring young people have better health and better lives by providing key services as young people become young adults. Furthermore, SHS have a role in ensuring young people are safeguarded and in particular being alert to sexual exploitation.

- West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership: Better health and wellbeing for everyone

- Improving population health
 - Reduce maternity morbidity
 - Maximising self-care and digital
 - Partnership commissioning.
- 3.3 The forecast timeline for procurement is phased into pre- procurement activity and the procurement phase including contract award and mobilisation is summarised in table 1.
- 3.4 The pre-procurement phase includes work currently being undertaken to review sexual health services and to assess data based on Bradford's key sexual health performance indicator measures (KPI's) and trends over time, to provide insight into current and future sexual health needs and service demands. The service review will also reconcile changes in national sexual health service policy priorities and assess service delivery that has been impacted by COVID to provide the basis for recommendations on future model of sexual health service provision.
- 3.5 A survey of Bradford residents has commenced which will provide insight into resident's views on services received and services required. Additional engagement is planned with key target populations through focus groups and with organisations who are concerned with sexual health services through a virtual stakeholder event which will provide more detailed insights into the operation of the current service model and inform any revisions to the service model going forward to tender. In addition, there will be some mystery shopping activity to provide insights into the experience of online access to sexual health advice, information and services.

Table 1 Recommissioning of Sexual Health Services timeline.

Pre Procurement Phase	
Service Review	20/09/2021
Sexual Health Needs Assessment	20/09/2021
Bradford residents engagement survey	23/8/21 - 17/9/21
Mystery shopper exercise	01/09/2021
Focused engagement with key populations (such as one to one interviews and small groups)	20/09/21 - 01/10/21
Engagement with stakeholders (virtual event) Follow up survey	14/09/2021 20/09/21- 26/09/21
OSC report and presentation	23/09/2021
Health Protection Committee	27/09/2021
Business case	03/11/2021
Consultation with strategic boards and stakeholders	17/11/2021
Service Specification Development and consultation with stakeholders	15/12/2021
Service Specification sign off	21/01/2022
Procurement Phase	
Preparation of ITT documents	28/01/2022
Issue of ITT to Bidders	02/02/2022
Deadline for ITT clarification questions	10/03/2022

Return of submissions	14/03/2022
Evaluation of submissions.	16/03 to 13/04/2022
Standstill	18-28/04/2022
Contract Award	02/05/2022
Contract commences	31/07/2022

- 3.6 The data on sexual health and wellbeing addressed in the accompanying report and the policy and resource choices that need to be considered as a result of this alongside the options represented by new national policy, the imperatives of local policy and step changes in how services are accessed and delivered through digital services leads to some clear and challenging tasks in building a revised future operating model for sexual health services. This will need to be based on Council determinations to achieve changes in key population sexual health measures.
- 3.7 Procuring the future operating model will require a revised services specification and associated contract issues of service activity, quality, performance management and financial remuneration framework for tender and procurement.
- 3.8 Key tasks in developing this procurement strategy will include assessment of costs of delivery methods including the cost benefits of increasing digital access and the impact this has on current service configuration including; staffing in core services and the needs for both a central clinical setting and additional delivery settings. Furthermore, the procurement route for current sub contracted services including digital accessed STI testing and EHC and contraceptive activity currently undertaken in primary care will also need to be assessed.

4 FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

- 4.1 There are no current plans to alter the total Public Health financial envelope for sexual health services in Bradford. Any planned procurement must therefore operate within this value which will be fully funded by the Public Health Ring-Fenced Grant.
- 4.2 Full assessment of cost will be part of business case development and will include consideration of priority status/need, required improvements and delivery model changes.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

A Sexual Health Review - Commissioning Oversight Group including partners from across the Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is in place to oversee the service review and development of service specifications with a view to having the new service in place by August 2022.

A risk log has been developed and actioned as part of the procurement process. This will be monitored and reviewed. All procurement activity will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Constitution and all relevant legislation.

The necessary governance procedures will be followed in procuring the services and managing timescales, with progress reported to the Oversight Group.

6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

The Council's Contracts Standing Orders provide that details of contracts with an estimated value in excess of £2m are to be reported to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The commissioning of Sexual and Reproductive Health Services as described in this report will be conducted in accordance with the Council's Contract Standing Orders, and all applicable procurement legislation. Public Health is working with the Council's Procurement Team to agree an appropriate sourcing option and to put in place the relevant project governance.

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

The Local Authority must not discriminate directly or indirectly against any group or individual and is required to foster good relations.

An Equality impact assessment will be completed on the new service specification for sexual and reproductive health services.

7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report at present

7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS

The proposal will not impact on gas emissions.

7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct community safety implications arising from this report at present

7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

There are no direct Human Rights implications arising from this report at present.

7.6 TRADE UNION

There are no direct Trade Union implications arising from this report at present

7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS

The provision will be accessible across the district

**7.8 AREA COMMITTEE ACTION PLAN IMPLICATIONS
(for reports to Area Committees only)**

Not applicable for this report

7.9 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING

Sexual Health Services have a role in ensuring young people are safeguarded and in particular being alert to sexual exploitation.

7.10 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

Not applicable for this report.

8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS

None

9. OPTIONS

None applicable

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to consider detail presented and raise any queries or provide feedback regarding the work outlined.

11. APPENDICES

N/A

12. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

N/A