

**Report for:** Cabinet 14 March 2017

**Item number:** 15

**Title:** Extension and variation of the school nursing service contract

**Report**

**Authorised by:** Jeanelle De Gruchy

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**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Key decision

## **1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1. The report seeks agreement for the extension of the school nursing service contract along with a variation to the service specification.
- 1.2. The school nursing contract was awarded by Cabinet to Whittington Health NHS Trust on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016 for an initial period of one year with an option to extend for a further year. The current one year contract ends 31st March 2017.

## **2. Cabinet Member introduction**

- 2.1 As of April 2013 local authorities have been responsible for commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 5-19 years. The school nursing service is part of public health's wider commissioning plan and contributes to the Corporate Plan Priority 1. The commissioned service also contributes to several cross cutting themes including: prevention and early intervention, a fair and equal borough and working together with communities.
- 2.2 Haringey is an exceptionally diverse and fast-changing borough with a relatively young population; a quarter of the population are under the age of 20. The school nursing service contributes to the improvement of children and young people's physical, mental health and emotional well-being as measured by a range of outcomes set out within the Public Health Outcomes Framework. In addition, as part of the Corporate Plan Priority 1, the public health team has started a transformation programme with the school nursing service to implement the 5 – 19 year old Healthy Child Programme (HCP). This follows on from the successful implementation of the 0 – 5 year old HCP led by the commissioned health visiting service. The extension of this contract will enable the transformation work to be completed.
- 2.3 I support the request to extend the contract for a further 1 year with the variations.

## **Recommendations**

- 3.1. To approve, in accordance with Contract Standing Order 10.02.1(b) the following variations to the school nursing service contract:
  - 3.1.1 Subject to the variation to the contract specification referred to in paragraph 3.1.2 below, the extension of the contract by 1 year, in exercise of the option to extend provided for in the original contract, for a second year value of £530,000.
  - 3.1.2 a variation to the contract specification to omit the provision of the childhood immunisations and flu programme (accounting for £233,194 of the first year contract price) as a result of the discontinuation of the co-commissioning arrangement funded by NHS England when the section 256 agreement on that expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

## **4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1. Cabinet approved in January 2016 the contract for the provision of a school nursing service. The contract length was for 1 year with the option to extend for 1 year.
- 4.2. The original contract required provision of the core school nursing service as well as of the school age vaccination and the child flu vaccination programme. The latter programme was included as a result of a co-commissioning arrangement under a section 256 agreement between the Council and NHS England which provided funding of £233,194. As this funding comes to an end with the expiry of the one-year co-commissioning agreement on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, it is proposed to omit the vaccination programme from the specification of this contract. The sole commissioning responsibility for the immunisation programme remains with NHS England, who have identified a new provider for the vaccination programme service. The core school nursing service will remain the same.
- 4.3. The extension and variation will enable the public health team to continue working with Whittington Health NHS Trust to maximise the efficiencies and progress the 5-19 year old transformation programme that is part of the Priority 1 Board activities for 2017/18. The transformation programme focuses on implementation of a universal Healthy Child Programme to reduce inequalities and achieve better outcomes for children, young people and their families.
- 4.4. Implementing the 5-19 year old HCP will enable Haringey to work towards the national agenda of wider integration across 0-19 years with alignment to the 0-5 year old universal Healthy Child Programme that is operating across the health visiting service, children's centres and children's services' early help offer.
- 4.5. The school nursing service delivers the mandated National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) which is a statutory function within the Public Health Grant.

- 4.6. Haringey Council and Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group have entered into a partnership with Islington Council and Islington Clinical Commissioning Group. One of the workstreams is children and young people, led by Whittington Health NHS Trust. The workstream focuses on reducing A & E attendance, long term conditions (particularly asthma) and planning transition to adult services. Alongside this work stream the two public health teams are collaborating on reducing child obesity. As Islington's public health team commission Whittington Health NHS Trust to deliver their school nursing service, extending Haringey's school nursing contract will enable the two public health teams to work together to deliver efficiencies and innovation with the provider.

## **5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1. Currently NHS organisations are the main provider of school nursing services across the country. The market isn't competitive and is under-developed. When the service was tendered in 2015 there was good market engagement but only 1 bid was submitted which was from Whittington Health NHS Trust.
- 5.2. Since the last procurement no new market opportunities, in terms of new providers, has arisen. Extending the contract would enable Haringey to procure again later when the market may have developed further and include the 0-5 public health services, to allow for procurement of an integrated 0-19 year old service.

## **6. Background information**

- 6.1. Children and young people under 20 years of age represent 24.4% of Haringey's population and 80.1% of school aged children are from a minority ethnic group. The level of child poverty in Haringey is worse than the England average with 24.4% of children under 16 years living in poverty. Over 1 in 3 Haringey 10-11 year olds are overweight or obese. The increasing trend in child obesity is worrying. Obese children are more likely to be ill and therefore absent from school, experience health-related limitations and require more medical care than children with normal weight. Furthermore, they are more likely to experience bullying and mental health issues including low self-esteem. Compounding factors such as poor oral health, linked to too much sugary drinks is also of increasing concern. Obese children are also at a higher risk of becoming obese adults.
- 6.2. The under 18 conception rate in Haringey continues on a downward trend mirroring the national and, London rates and that of our statistical neighbours. The 3-year rolling average under 18 conception rate in Haringey has fallen from 30.1 per 1,000 population in 2011-13 to 25.5 per 1,000 population in 2012-14.
- 6.3. Children's emotional wellbeing remains a priority in Haringey. A local school survey commissioned by the public health team in 2015 reported 70% of pupils were satisfied with their life at the moment and that 49% feel there is someone they can talk to. This was an improvement on the previous local survey. However the estimated number of Haringey children with mental health disorders is 3750. It has been nationally reported that in an average class of 30

school children 3 children will suffer from a diagnosable mental health disorder<sup>1</sup>.

- 6.4. The school nursing service is a central, accessible point for children, young people and their families, working with both health and non-health professionals to promote and support their identified physical, emotional and social needs. This service has a vital role to play in continuing the downward trend of teenage pregnancy rates and working in partnership to improve emotional health and wellbeing and personal, social and health education (PSHE).

## **7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

The school nursing service is a key partner in contributing to:

- Priority 1 in the Corporate Plan
- The Health and Wellbeing Strategy (reducing obesity and improving emotional health and wellbeing)
- Haringey and Islington Wellbeing Partnership and the
- NCL STP children and young people work stream

## **8. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications**

- 8.1 This report details the proposal to extend the school nursing service contract for a further 1 year.
- 8.2 The value of the contract will be £530,000 commencing April 2017. Funding is within the Public Health Grant. The reduced cost of this contract is part of the delivery of savings in Children's Public Health agreed as part of the three year medium term financial plan in February 2015.

## **9. Head of Procurement Comments**

- 9.1. The contract variation and extension requested and outlined in paragraph 4 above, is permitted both under the terms of the contract and CSO 10.02.
- 9.2. Key performance indicators are outlined in the contract, monitoring and reporting have been undertaken with satisfactory outcomes.
- 9.3. The variation of the contract to exclude the school vaccination programme will enable focussed collaborative working and service delivery with the Council's Partners, Islington Council and Clinical Commissioning Group by enabling the maximisation of efficiencies and encourage provider innovation.
- 9.4. The Head of Procurement, therefore supports this request.

## **10. Comments of the Assistant Director of Corporate Governance and legal implications**

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<sup>1</sup> Future in Mind, 2015

- 10.1 The report is seeking a variation of the school nursing service contract to provide for a one-year extension covered by an option to extend that was in the original contract and to omit part of the specified services relating to provision of the vaccination programme with the consequential revision to the contract price.
- 10.2 The value of the proposed variation includes an additional spend (£530,000) for the further contract year which is in excess of £500,000. Under Contract Standing Order 10.2.1(b), Cabinet may approve contract variations including extensions valued over £500,000. Given the value, the decision to approve the variation is a key decision which must be placed on the Forward Plan, which has been done.
- 10.3 The Assistant Director of Corporate Governance confirms that there are no legal reasons preventing Cabinet from approving the recommendations in paragraph 3 of the report.

## **11. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments**

- 11.1. The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
  - advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
  - foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 11.2. The contracted service will continue to be developed to address health inequalities experienced by children, young people and their families. The implementation of the 5-19 year old HCP provides a universal offer across Haringey to improve health outcomes across the life course.
- 11.3. A full Equality Impact Assessment was conducted as part of the tendering process  
<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=118&MIId=7303&Ver=4>. The provider collects data to monitor their fulfilment of equalities duties, this is reported regularly to the council we will hold the provider to account to ensure that they help tackle health inequalities.

## **12. Policy Implication**

- 12.1. This commissioned service contributes to the Corporate Plan: Building a Stronger Haringey Together 2015- 18, in particular Priority 1. Extending this contract will enable the Council to meet its public health responsibilities to give every child the best start in life and contribute to the cross-cutting themes: prevention and early intervention, a fair and equal borough, working in partnership and working together with communities.

**13. Use of Appendices**

N/A

**14. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Department of Health – Healthy Child Programme from 5 to 19 years old

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/492086/HCP\\_5\\_to\\_19.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/492086/HCP_5_to_19.pdf)