

Report for: Cabinet Member Signing – 28 July 2022

Title: Approval to extend the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) to access the Pan-London Online Sexual Health Service with Preventx Limited

Report authorised by: Dr Will Maimaris – Director of Public Health

Lead Officer: Akeem Ogunyemi – Public Health Commissioner
Tel: 020 8489 2961 email: akeem.ogunyemi@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1. This report recommends that the Cabinet member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing extend the Inter Authority Agreement (IAA) to access the pan-London online sexual health service contract procured by the City of London as part of the London Sexual Health Transformation Programme (LSHTP). The pan-London online sexual health service is an integral part of the LSHTP's development of a comprehensive sexual health service for Haringey and London-wide.
- 1.2. The contract for the pan-London Online service was procured through an EU tender by the City of London. The Council was included in the OJEU notice advertising the tender for the online service along with City of London and 30 other London councils (Related Authorities) that have been accessing the online service since it was procured in 2017.
- 1.3. Following the conclusion of the tender process the City of London, as the lead authority approved the award of the contract for the online service to **Preventx Limited**. The inter authority agreement to access the contract with Preventx via the City of London was approved for an initial 5 year term commencing from 1st June 2017 till 31st May 2022 with an option to extend for 4 further one year periods. This report requests approval from the Cabinet member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing to extend the contract for the additional 4-year extension period (to run concurrently), commencing from 1st June 2022 till 31st May 2026.
- 1.4. Forecasted Council's spend over the proposed 4 year extension period is estimated at £1,527,888 (depending on uptake of the service) with a total estimated spend of £2,984,281 over the maximum 9-year lifetime of the contract (depending on uptake of the service).

2. Cabinet Member introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Cabinet member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing agrees to the Council extending the Inter-Authority Agreement (IAA) with the City of London and other London authorities to continue to access the pan-London online sexual health service under a contract awarded by the City of London to Preventx Limited as permitted under Contract Standing Orders 10.02.1.b and 16.02
- 3.2 That the Council commits, in accordance with the terms of the IAA, to accessing the online service under the City of London-Preventx Ltd contract, post the initial 5-year term (ending 31st May 2022) and extend for the additional 4 years (as set out in the original award report but to run concurrently) at an estimated service cost of £1,527,888 resulting in a maximum estimated spend of £2,984,281 over the maximum 9-year contract duration for LB Haringey.
- 3.3 Additionally, subject to paragraph 6.7 below, the Council commits, in accordance with the terms of the IAA to making a financial contribution to the City of London for its contract management role at an estimated maximum amount of £122,412 over the maximum 9-year contract duration.

4 Reasons for decision

- 4.1. In December 2016, Cabinet agreed to the Council's participation in a London wide procurement for an expansive sexual health service that would be a web-based system to include a 'front-end' portal joined up partner notification and home/self-sampling. It was also agreed that the procurement would be led by one council on behalf of the councils in the London Sexual Health Transformation Programme (LSHTP).
- 4.2. This led to City of London awarding a contract for the online service to Preventx LTD. To access the online service under the contract, Haringey was required to enter into an IAA with City of London and the other participating LSHTP authorities governing the access arrangements. To continue with this agreement, which will ensure Haringey residents are able to access the online service, approval is needed from the Cabinet member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing to extend the IAA to continue to access the online service from the provider that was procured by City of London (Preventx LTD).

5 Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Public Health team could have acted outside of the LSHTP and procured as a single local authority. However, it chose to be part of the LSHTP, which is a partnership between 30 London boroughs, with the purpose of creating a collaborative approach to commissioning sexual health services. The LSHTP business case for change demonstrated that the level of improvement in quality and cost reduction that all London clinics needed

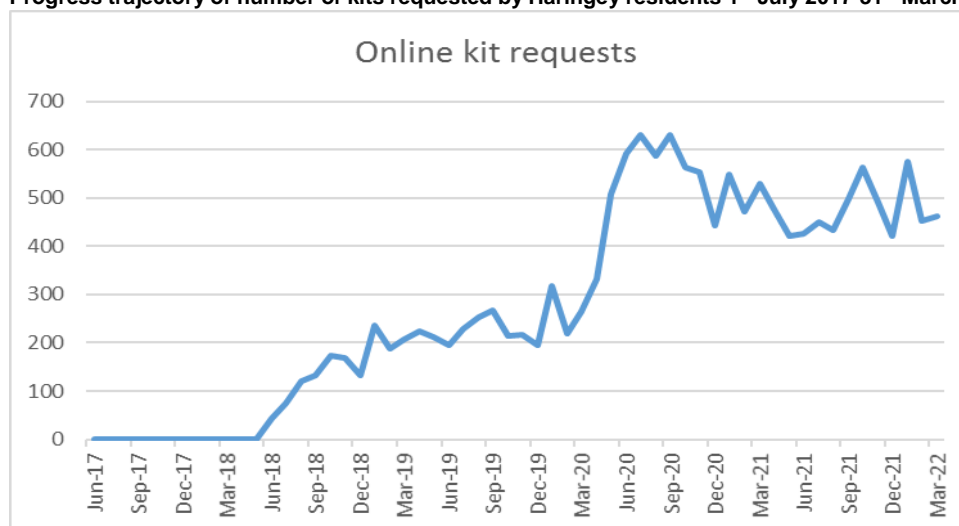
could only be obtained by commissioning at scale. For this reason, Haringey gained agreement from Cabinet in December 2015 to become a participating member of the pan-London online sexual health service and to procure clinic-based services as part of the North Central London (NCL) sub regional partnership.

- 5.2 Continued participation within the pan-London online sexual health service offers the benefits of savings via economies of scale and greater choice of access to online services across London for local residents

6. Background information

- 6.1 The pan-London online sexual health service forms part of the transformation of sexual health services across London. As mentioned above, this transformation has focussed on service redesign and innovation, improving sexual health outcomes whilst driving efficiency to deal with increased demand for services amidst the backdrop of reduced funding. New technologies, including access to online services, alongside GUM services, offer different, more efficient, options for sexual health service delivery. The service provides high quality advice and information in respect of sexual health services and online access to order self-sampling/self-testing kits for Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and HIV for people who are asymptomatic which is accompanied by professional health advice.
- 6.2 Access to self-sampling kits offer the opportunity to move a proportion of attendances out of clinics to convenient online alternatives. The online service also offers the option of remote / postal treatment for uncomplicated genital Chlamydia infection to service users aged 16 and older and includes partner notification, STI home sampling kit delivery and supply of appropriate antibiotics as necessary. This has been particularly pertinent considering the covid pandemic which significantly disrupted clinic operations and patient access through closures and staff capacity (staff re-deployed to manage the pandemic). The sexual health online service offered an effective alternative that ensured residents were able to continue to have access to routine non-complex sexual health screening, treatment, and contraception provision, which without this service, would have contributed to increased numbers of residents experiencing sexual ill health and contraceptive barriers without appropriate diagnosis, treatment and intervention.

Progress trajectory of number of kits requested by Haringey residents 1st July 2017-31st March 2022



Total number of kits ordered (all sti screens)	52,359
Total diagnosed test (all sti's)	4,463
Positivity rate (average across all sti's)	9.94%
Total number of screens ordered by gender	Male: 23548 Female: 28811

- 6.3 In addition to good uptake in kit orders, sample returns and importantly diagnosis of STIs, the online service has also proven to be a viable and effective channel for encouraging people from BaME communities to access sexual health testing. Between July 2017-March 2022, people from BaME groups accounted for a combined total of 11,631 tests, people of mix heritage accounted for 4,416 with 8922 identifying as White other and 17,954 identifying as White British.
- 6.4 New technologies, including access to online services alongside integrated sexual health services (ISHS), Healthy Living Pharmacies (HLP's), Sexual Health in Practice (SHIP)-trained General Practices (GP's) and a proactive targeted community outreach service have and continue to offer different, more efficient and convenient options for sexual health service delivery in Haringey. The online service works effectively with our local dedicated young people sexual health and women's contraception clinic in Haringey (awarded to Central North London NHS Trust (CNWL) in April 2017, the NCL sub-regional integrated sexual health service (awarded to CNWL in May 2017) and across other London sexual health clinics in order to deliver optimal, end to end, sexual health services.

Strategic procurement of service.

- 6.5 In settling the strategy for the procurement of the online sexual health service, it was agreed by the pan-London authorities participating in the LSHTP that the on-line services should be procured as a London-wide service for which the City of London should be the sole authority contracting with the provider of the

online service. All other participating London authorities would access the online service, available through the contract placed with Preventx Ltd by City of London, via an IAA between the City of London and the other participating authorities. As part of this collaborative procurement effort, the procurement services were undertaken by Camden Council on behalf of the City of London.

- 6.6 The IAA provides the means for councils to access the pan-London online sexual health service under the contract between the City of London and Preventx. The IAA sets out the governance and contract management arrangements between the City of London and the participating councils that define how the online service will be delivered within a wider governance arrangement for sexual health services in London. This includes an online services management board, which will bring together the online service provider (Preventx), the online services contract management team and sub-regional clinic-based services and commissioner representatives to monitor and guide the service.
- 6.7 Under the IAA, a financial contribution is to be made by each of the other participating authorities to City of London's sexual health programme team, which will support governance and provide contract management for the online sexual health service. For Haringey, this contribution is expected to be a maximum over 9 years of £122,412. However, the value may be considerably less as administration costs decrease as the service embeds. The level of each participating authority's contribution is based on projected levels of use of the online sexual health service. The request for approval to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), which will enable payment of LB Haringey's management contribution has been delegated to the Director of Public health.

7 Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1 This service is linked to the Borough Plan, in particular under 'People';

Outcome 7: 'All adults are able to live healthy and fulfilling lives, with dignity, staying active and connected in their communities;

- *Objective (A) 'Healthy life expectancy will increase across the borough, improving outcomes for all communities'.*
- *Objective (c) Adults will feel physically and mentally healthy and well.*

8 Statutory Officers comments

8.1 Finance

- 8.1.1 The proposed contract extension will result in costs of £395,573. Funds have been allocated in 2022-23 to cover these costs.

		Expected Annual cost 22-23
Contract Mgmt Fee over 9 years	122,412	13,601
Spend over 4year contract extension	1,527,888	381,972
		395,573
Budget - D00323 - D00325		399,600
Potential Underspend		-4,027

8.2 Procurement

- 8.2.1 The services referred to above are within remit of Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulation 2015 and as such was duly advertised in Ojeu. The procurement was led by the Corporation of London for itself and 30 other London Boroughs.
- 8.2.2 The provision for extension was included in the original tender albeit as 4 consecutive annual extensions, rather than a concurrent period as requested above. However, given the review clause was included at tender a further tender is not required to extend the contract in line with Regulations 72 (1) and is permitted under Contract Standing Orders 10.02.1.b and 16.02.
- 8.2.3 The online provision has proved to be invaluable in combatting health inequalities, uptake and accessibility of provision particularly during the disruptive Covid pandemic and notably for BAME communities as outlined by 6.2 and 6.3 above.

8.3 Legal

- 8.3.1 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in the preparation of the report.
- 8.3.2 Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 10.02.1.b and Contract Standing Order 16.02 the Cabinet Member having the relevant portfolio responsibilities has authority to approve the recommendations in the report.
- 8.3.2 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing the Cabinet member for Health, Social Care and Wellbeing from approving the recommendations in the report.

8.4. Equality

- 8.4.1 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.

8.4.2 In recognition of its public sector equality duty, the Council is committed to using commissioning as a strategic tool to help promote equality of opportunity.

8.4.3 It seeks to do this in two ways: firstly, by ensuring that chosen providers deliver for all sections of Haringey community, especially those who are most vulnerable and in most need of the services.

8.4.5 Secondly, by ensuring that commissioning is transparent, and that relevant equalities issues are identified and considered at key stages in the whole process. In respect of both service provision and the selection process used, this commissioning exercise supports the Council's performance on its public sector equality duty.

8.4.6 The contract specifications clearly set out the supplier's responsibilities under equalities legislation, including a requirement to have in place up to date equalities policies and to ensure that the service is accessible to young people, young adults, people with protected characteristics, women and BaME groups from all sections of the community.

8.4.7 These contracts have been developed to address health inequalities as identified through the Council's sexual health Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and sexual health strategy.

9. Use of Appendices
N/A

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
N/A