

<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Re-commissioning of the Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service for Berkshire West</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	The Executive on 28 March 2019
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific;
<b>LEAD OFFICER</b>	Graham Ebers – Deputy Chief Executive
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Parry Batth – Executive Member for Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care

## **PURPOSE OF REPORT (INC STRATEGIC OUTCOMES)**

The purpose of this report is:

- To update the Executive on the commissioning of the Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Service for the West of Berkshire jointly commissioned by Wokingham, West Berkshire and Reading Borough Councils. This procurement is being led by the Berkshire Public Health Shared Service.
- To request delegated authority to award contracts for this service on completion of the tender.

This report is presented in two parts, with Part 2 attached as a restricted document due to the inclusion of commercially sensitive information

## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive is recommended to:

- 1) agree the proposed plan for re-commissioning the mandatory sexual and reproductive health service;
- 2) agree for authority to award the Integrated Sexual and Reproductive Health Services to be delegated to the Director of Corporate Services in consultation with the Lead Member for Health and Wellbeing and Adult Social Care.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

- The current integrated sexual health service provides cost-effective, high quality provision to improve sexual health for Wokingham, Reading and West Berkshire Borough Councils.
- It is a 'one stop shop', providing sexual and contraceptive health, and Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) services at the same site usually within a single attendance.
- The service has extended opening hours and accessible locations, operating on a 'hub and spoke' model with a central specialist service for more complex care and smaller satellite clinics providing more routine services around the borough.

- The proposal in re-commissioning this service is to:
  1. Continue commissioning this service jointly with West Berkshire and Reading Borough Councils
  2. Use the existing service delivery model as a basis, but to integrate supplementary services that are currently commissioned as separate contracts e.g. online STI testing into the core integrated service offer.
  
- The benefits to Wokingham residents of this proposal include:
  - Ensuring a stable and secure service by commissioning across the larger footprint of Berkshire West
  - Providing value for money for the local authorities in a time of reducing public health grant allocations
  - Realising budget efficiencies by incorporating supplementary contracted services (e.g. online STI testing)

## BACKGROUND

Good sexual and reproductive health and wellbeing is an important contributor to our overall wellbeing. It is central to the development of some of the most important relationships in our lives.

Under the 2012 Health and Social Care Act, **local authorities are mandated to commission comprehensive open access sexual health services**, including free STI testing and treatment, notification of sexual partners of infected persons and free provision of a broad range of contraception and family planning advice

The aims of these services are to support good sexual and reproductive health, increase the proportion of pregnancies that are planned and reduce unplanned pregnancy, prevent the onward transmission of STIs and BBVs, reduce late diagnosis of HIV, improve the diagnosis of HIV and the sexual health of those with HIV.

The current service, provided by Royal Berkshire Hospitals (RBH) NHS Trust is performing well against Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), consistently receives positive service user feedback and delivers very good value for money compared with other services across England.

The present contract shared between Wokingham, West Berkshire and Reading Borough Councils has a total maximum value of £2,490,521 per annum. This is due to expire in April 2020.

## BUSINESS CASE (Including Options and Evidence of Need)

An analysis of the options for tender are presented below, with supporting financial details presented in the enclosed document, Part B due to commercially sensitive information contained.

**Option A** – To continue co-commissioning the integrated sexual health service across the West of Berkshire, with the Berkshire Public Health Shared Team leading procurement.

### Advantages

- A larger contract value will increase the attractiveness of the tender; as a specialist clinical service requiring suitable clinical facilities and specialist staff the market is limited and therefore smaller contracts may not be financially viable
- The current delivery model is achieving good outcomes for the population; continuing to co-commission under the same service model will offer stability to service users.
- Sexual health staff shortages are a growing concern. National training programmes for specialist sexual health nurses have been cancelled due to a lack of demand; sharing of staff resources ensures business continuity and stability of service for residents.

### Risks

- Agreement to continue to co-commission must be reached by all three local authorities.

**Option B** – To commission a separate sexual health service for Wokingham Borough Council.

Advantages

- There are no advantages to taking this approach.

Risks

- It's highly likely that no providers would bid for a single contract of this size.
- Economies of scale would not be achieved and WBC would be paying more for less service activity.
- Staffing resource to support the procurement, currently provided by the Berkshire Public Health Shared Service, would be lost and WBC would need to provide this staffing resource.

Open access comprehensive sexual health services are a mandated function funded via the ring-fenced Public Health Grant. The current co-commissioned service is achieving good value for money and delivering positive outcomes for the population of Wokingham.

It is, therefore, recommended that **Option A** is the course of action taken of a co-commission integrated sexual health service across the West of Berkshire.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS OF THE RECOMMENDATION**

*The Council faces severe financial challenges over the coming years as a result of the austerity measures implemented by the Government and subsequent reductions to public sector funding. It is estimated that Wokingham Borough Council will be required to make budget reductions in excess of £20m over the next three years and all Executive decisions should be made in this context.*

	How much will it Cost/ (Save)	Is there sufficient funding – if not quantify the Shortfall	Revenue or Capital?
Current Financial Year (Year 1)	Please refer to Part 2 document		
Next Financial Year (Year 2)			
Following Financial Year (Year 3)			

<b>Other Financial Information</b>
Please refer to Part 2 document

<b>Stakeholder Considerations and Consultation</b>
Informal stakeholder consultation is ongoing and will and will continue through March 2019.

<b>Resourcing and Timeline for Next Steps</b>
The procurement of this service is to be led by the Berkshire Public Health Shared Team based at Bracknell Forest Council.

WBC staff resource will be required for continued stakeholder engagement. Officer time will also be required in July and August in evaluating the short listed tenders.

1<sup>st</sup> March 2019 – service specification, PQQ and ITT documentation complete

1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 – advert to tender

15<sup>th</sup> July 2019 – communication to applicants and evaluation of short listed tenders

1<sup>st</sup> September 2019 – Preferred bidder identified

1<sup>st</sup> January 2020 – Contract award notice published on OJEU

1<sup>st</sup> April 2020 – service begins

#### **Timeline for Review and Evaluation**

The process for review and evaluation of the service will be outlined in the final service specification and contract documents.

#### **Reasons for considering the report in Part 2**

Commercially sensitive information contained within.

#### **List of Background Papers**

Part 2 Report (attached)

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