

SEXUAL HEALTH SERVICES CONTRACT

To: Health Committee

Meeting Date: 29TH May 2014

From: Director of Public Health

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: **Key decision:** No

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to ensure arrangements are in place to award the contract for Sexual Health Services In Cambridgeshire, which is reaching the final stages of a competitive procurement process.

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to:

- 1) Note and endorse the progress made to date in undertaking the procurement of Sexual Health Services in Cambridgeshire.
- 2) Authorise the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Health Committee, to formally award the contract subject to compliance with all required legal processes.
- 3) Authorise the Director of Law, Property & Governance to approve and complete the necessary contract documentation.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The decision to go out to procurement for an integrated sexual health service in Cambridgeshire was taken by Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) in March 2012. The purpose of the procurement was to improve accessibility of integrated services to users, improve equity of services around the county and reduce health inequalities, within available resources. The services included in the procurement are sexual health clinic services provided by Cambridge University Hospital Foundation Trust (CUHFT) and by Cambridgeshire Community Services (CCS), together with chlamydia screening services currently provided by CCS. The new service model improves access to services by moving sexual health clinics out of hospital into the community, and improves provision in East Cambridgeshire and Fenland, which has been historically underserved.
- 1.2 A procurement steering group was set up which included Cambridgeshire County Council officers as well as PCT representatives, due to the planned transfer of public health functions from the PCT to the County Council in April 2013. A consultation on the service model was carried out by Cambridgeshire PCT in summer 2012.
- 1.3 Since then, there have been a number of delays in the procurement process, including ensuring that sufficient funding would be transferred from the NHS in April 2013 to cover the full costs of services included in the procurement. There has been some further consultation with service users, and additional work to develop joint commissioning arrangements with NHS England for community HIV services currently delivered by CCS, which are closely integrated with the wider community sexual health services.

MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The final stages of the procurement have now been reached following a competitive process, with full support from LGSS procurement, legal and finance teams. The County Council should be in a position to award the sexual health services contract in early June. This will be followed by an implementation period, with the intention that the new model is in operation by October 2014.
- 2.2 In order to comply with appropriate governance under the new Committee structure, the Health Committee is asked to authorise the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee, to formally award the contract, subject to compliance with all required legal processes, and to authorise the Director of Law, Property and Governance to approve and complete the necessary contract documentation.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

There are no significant implications

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

The new service model will improve accessibility of integrated sexual health services to users, and improve equity of service throughout the county.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

Joint commissioning with NHS England of HIV services currently provided by CCS, will ensure that services for this patient group remain integrated.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

All costs of the contract are covered within the existing sexual health service budget. No additional resources will be required.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

A competitive procurement process has been followed, with advice from LGSS legal, finance and procurement teams.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

The new model of service will increase accessibility of services and equity throughout the county. An equality impact assessment and community impact assessment have been completed.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

The new service model was consulted on at the start of the procurement process in summer 2012, with further consultation during 2013.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The service will be delivered across the County.

4.6 Public Health Implications

There is evidence that good access to sexual health clinic services and effective treatment of sexually transmitted infections results in reduced spread of infection in the community and improved public health.

Source Documents	Location
Integrated Sexual Health Service Contract and Service Specification	Public Health Directorate, 3B Castle Court, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge CB3 0AP
Consultation Documents 2012 and 13	
Community Impact Assessment	