

NHS HEALTH CHECK POINT OF CARE TESTING : AWARD OF CONTRACT

To: Health Committee

Meeting Date: 1st October 2015

From: Director of Public Health

Electoral division(s): All

Forward Plan ref: 2015/062 *Key decision:* Yes

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to ensure arrangements are in place to award the contract for the provision of NHS Health Check Point of Care Testing (POCT).

Recommendation: The Committee is asked to:

- 1) 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.
- 2) Authorise the Director of Law, Property & Governance to approve and complete the necessary contract documentation.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Local Authority has a mandatory requirement to commission the NHS Health Checks Programme. The NHS Health Checks programme is a Cardio-Vascular Disease (CVD) risk assessment programme that targets 40-74 year olds to identify those at risk or suffering from the disease or any related condition. It excludes those who have a pre-existing condition already diagnosed. The Check includes the provision of advice and referral where appropriate to lifestyle services. In Cambridgeshire the Service is primarily commissioned from GP practices with the Integrated Lifestyles Service being commissioned to provide outreach NHS Health Checks for hard to reach high risk groups.
- 1.2 There has been an ongoing problem in meeting the targets for the Programme in Cambridgeshire. Consequently a number of improvements are being introduced that are designed to improve the delivery and quality of the Service with the objective of increasing the uptake of the Health Checks amongst the target group.
- 1.3 A key element of the improvement programme is the introduction of Point of Care Testing (POCT) for the two blood tests which are part of the Programme. Currently patients have to make two visits to the practice; the first for the blood test, then a second visit for the rest of the Check, when the blood test results are available. With POCT the patients only have to attend the practice once for their Health Check as the results of the blood test are available immediately. This is beneficial for the patient, more resource efficient for the practice and associated with better outcomes. It is particularly useful for the Outreach Service in terms of logistics and enabling it to more easily engage service users and complete the Health Check at different community locations. POCT is supported by the National Guidance for the delivery of NHS Health Checks.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The introduction of POCT does not result in any change to the budget allocation to the Programme indicated in the Business Plan. However because of its value a procurement exercise has been undertaken which was supported by the LGSS Procurement Team, although an NHS Framework Agreement was utilized as POCT is a clinical service.

A steering group oversaw the procurement. This includes Cambridgeshire County Council officers as well as representatives from the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group. It has been discussed with individual practices and the Local Medical Committee (LMC) which fully supports the introduction of POCT.

- 2.2 A successful bidder has been identified and the contract is ready to be awarded. The contract is valued at £690,000 over three years. Implementation will start immediately with the aim of all practices and the Outreach Team using POCT by the end of March 2016.

- 2.3 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 Chairman and Vice-Chairman 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

Cardio Vascular Disease results in a significant loss of productivity due to sick days and loss to the workforce.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

This procurement will improve the uptake of the NHS Health Checks Programme and support provision of timely and appropriate advice and referral to services that will enable people to make healthy lifestyle choices to improve their health and well being.

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

NHS Health Checks aims to identify those at risk of CVD. The Programme sets higher targets for areas where the population has an increased risk of CVD and is known to have poorer lifestyles. The Outreach Team for NHS Health Checks has a particular focus on those groups and communities with a high risk and poor uptake of the Checks.

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

All costs of the contract are covered within the existing NHS Health Checks 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.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

The change in Service Delivery was consulted on with individual GP practices, the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group and the Local Medical Committee.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The POCT Service will be embedded into service delivery across the County and it will increase uptake of the NHS Health Checks Programme and support individuals in taking responsibility for their choice of lifestyle

4.6 Public Health Implications

POCT is key element of the delivery of the NHS Health Checks Programme. This Programme contributes to the prevention of unhealthy lifestyles that increases the risk of poor health outcomes and the management of a number of health conditions.

It is supported by the following Joint Strategic Needs Assessments

2011- Prevention of ill-health in adults of working age

2013 - Prevention of ill health in older people

2014 – Primary prevention of ill health in older people

2015 – Long term conditions across the life course

Source Documents	Location
Point of Care Testing Service Specification	Public Health Directorate, Shire Hall, Castle Hill, Cambridge CB3 0AP
NHS Health Check best practice guidance - Feb 2015	http://www.healthcheck.nhs.uk/commissioners_and_healthcare_professionals/national_guidance/
Cambridgeshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	http://www.cambridgeshireinsight.org.uk/jsna