

Tier 3 Weight Management Services Procurement

To: Adults and Health Committee

Meeting Date: 14 July 2022

From: Jyoti Atri, Director of Public Health

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: Yes

Forward Plan ref: 2022/088

Outcome: The procurement of additional Tier 3 Weight Management Services to meet the increased demand.

Recommendation: Adults and Health Committee is asked to agree the following:

- a) A competitive procurement for additional Tier 3 Weight Management Service capacity.
- b) Authorisation of the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Adults and Health Committee to award a contract up to the value of £1.465m to the successful provider subject always to compliance with all required legal processes.
- c) Authorisation of Pathfinder Legal Services Ltd. to draft and complete the necessary contract documentation.

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1. Background

- 1.1 The Adults and Health Committee has previously approved the use of Public Health Ring Fenced Grant reserve funding for additional Tier 3 Adult Weight Management (AWM) service capacity.
- 1.2 Adult obesity rates in Cambridgeshire were high prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2019/20 it was estimated that 61% of the adult population was either obese or overweight. It is likely that the pandemic has exacerbated these figures and further evidence is being identified to substantiate this. In addition, children's weight which is systematically annually measured through the National Child Weight Measurement Programme is clearly showing a substantial increase in rates of obesity in children.
- 1.3 Weight Management services are a key part of efforts to address obesity. They provide structured interventions for individuals and groups. The additional funding is to address the increased demand for AWM services arising from the pandemic impact which includes a backlog of demand that accumulated during the period when services could not be accessed.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Tier 3 AWM services are specialised and are for those with complex obesity, often with health co-morbidities. Currently we commission Tier 3 AWM services from our Health Behaviours provider, Everyone Health. Everyone Health offers three options that clients can access; a face-to-face service and through sub-contracts, with OVIVA for virtual service provision and with Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust for patients who are especially clinically challenging.
- 2.2 The procurement and contractual options for the additional funding of £1.465m over three years have been reviewed. Procurement advice was sought regarding the option of varying the current contract with Everyone Health. Under current legislation this option would be acceptable.
However, there is evidence supported by the COVID-19 pandemic experience that service users have diverse needs and having a menu of service delivery options produces better outcomes and can impact on health inequalities.
- 2.4 The current service offers the following choices for users.
 - Face to face, often with some virtual support.
 - Only virtual which is traditional support using nutritionists and behaviour change skills.
 - Face to face with some virtual support with a higher level of clinical input due to health complexities.
- 2.5 However emerging evidence and new innovative approaches provide the opportunity for increasing the options available for service users. For example, mixed digital/virtual offers have been developed which include a mixture of self-help techniques as well professional support. Currently the NHS offers a digital AWM programme but there are other examples emerging in the market for weight management programmes.

2.6 Consequently we propose to undertake a competitive procurement to increase service user choice and innovation. It will include a community-based face to face service offer and an innovative digital/virtual offer based on behavioural science. The new provider will be required to work with existing services to ensure that pathways are integrated across the different providers and partner organisations. A single point of contact is being developed to manage pathways and referrals.

2.7 The planned timeline is for a contract award on October 1, 2022.

3. Alignment with corporate priorities

3.1 Environment and Sustainability

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Technology innovations lead to more virtual service delivery and less travel to services for face-to-face consultations.

3.2 Health and Care

- The report above sets out the implications for this priority in 1.3 and 2.4

3.3 Places and Communities

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- Any AWM service commissioned must be accessible to local communities and easy to access especially where there are socio-economic barriers to access them.
- Having different service delivery options increases access.

3.4 Children and Young People

The following bullet points set out details of implications identified by officers:

- This is a service for adults with treatment that is aimed at improving health related behaviours which will have an impact on children who are adults service users

3.5 Transport

- Technology innovations lead to more virtual service delivery and less travel to services for face-to-face consultations.

4. Significant Implications

4.1 Resource Implications

- The report above sets out details of significant implications in 2.2

4.2 Procurement/Contractual/Council Contract Procedure Rules Implications

- The procurement will be undertaken with the support and approval of the Procurement team conform to Contract Procedure Rules

4.3 Statutory, Legal and Risk Implications

- Any implications for procurement/contractual/Council contract procedure rules will be considered with the appropriate officers from these Departments and where necessary presented to the Adult and Health Committee before proceeding.

4.4 Equality and Diversity Implications

The following bullet point sets out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- The AWM services are designed and will be commissioned to enable all members of community to access them. They are especially aware of diversity and staff are trained to understand the barriers that some diverse groups face.

4.5 Engagement and Communications Implications

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- Any equality and diversity implications will be identified before any service developments are implemented and promoted.

4.6 Localism and Local Member Involvement

The following bullet point set out details of significant implications identified by officers:

- We will work with local members to champion and promote the service at a local level and to identify any barriers to access and uptake.

4.7 Public Health Implications

See wording under 4.1 and guidance in Appendix 2.

4.8 Environment and Climate Change Implications on Priority Areas

4.8.1 Implication 1: Energy efficient, low carbon buildings.

Neutral

Explanation: Not influenced by the Service

4.8.2 Implication 2: Low carbon transport.

Positive

Explanation: More virtual services decrease travel to services.

4.8.3 Implication 3: Green spaces, peatland, afforestation, habitats, and land management.

Neutral

Explanation: Not influenced by the Service

4.8.4 Implication 4: Waste Management and Tackling Plastic Pollution.

Neutral

Explanation: Not influenced by the Service

4.8.5 Implication 5: Water use, availability, and management:

Neutral

Explanation: Not influenced by the Service

4.8.6 Implication 6: Air Pollution.

Positive

Explanation: More virtual services decrease travel to services.

4.8.7 Implication 7: Resilience of our services and infrastructure and supporting vulnerable people to cope with climate change.

Positive

Explanation: Increased use of virtual services mitigates the impact of climate change effects on service delivery.

Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance? Yes

Name of Financial Officer: Justine Hartley

Have the procurement/contractual/ Council Contract Procedure Rules implications been cleared by the Head of Procurement? Yes

Name of Officer: Claire Ellis

Has the impact on statutory, legal and risk implications been cleared by the Council's Monitoring Officer or LGSS Law? Yes

Name of Legal Officer: Fiona McMillan

Have the equality and diversity implications been cleared by your Service Contact?

Yes

Name of Officer: Jyoti Atri

Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?

Yes

Name of Officer: Matthew Hall

Have any localism and Local Member involvement issues been cleared by your Service Contact? Yes

Name of Officer: Jyoti Atri

Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health?

Yes

Name of Officer: Jyoti Atri

If a Key decision, have any Environment and Climate Change implications been cleared by the Climate Change Officer?

Yes

Name of Officer: Emily Bolton

5. Source documents guidance

5.1 Source documents

Evidence based tools for weight loss maintenance Stubbs et al .2021

[Evidence-Based Digital Tools for Weight Loss Maintenance: The NoHoW Project - FullText - Obesity Facts 2021, Vol. 14, No. 3 - Karger Publishers](#)

Ilen, J. K., Stephens, J., & Patel, A. (2014). Technology-assisted weight management interventions: systematic review of clinical trials. Telemedicine journal and e-health : the official journal of the American Telemedicine Association, 20(12), 1103-1120.
doi:10.1089/tmj.2014.0030

NHS Digital Weight Management Programme

[NHS England » The NHS Digital Weight Management Programme](#)