

Central Bedfordshire Council

EXECUTIVE

1 August 2017

Healthy Child Programme Contract and wider Community Health Services: Authorisation to award contract

Report of Councillor Brain Spurr, Executive Member for Health
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This report relates to a Key Decision

Purpose of this report

1. This report proposes the Executive approve the provision of delegated authority to the Director of Public health, in consultation with the Executive Member for Health, to award the contract for Community Health Services for children and young people which includes the Healthy Child Programme following the completion of the procurement process.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive is asked to:

1. **grant delegated authority to the Director of Public health, in consultation with the Executive Member for Health, to award a contract for Community Health Services for children and young people which includes the Healthy Child Programme and enter the appropriate legal agreements in order to meet the required timescales allowing the contract to be operational by April 2018.**

Overview and Scrutiny Comments/Recommendations

2. This item has not been to Social Care Health and Housing Overview and Scrutiny as it represents a decision to award contracts to provide services which are already carried out within Central Bedfordshire.

Background Information

3. A paper was presented to Executive on the 5th July 2015 outlining the commissioning arrangements for the 0-5 Healthy Child programme. The continuation of the service jointly with Bedford Borough Council (BBC) was approved, with Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) as lead commissioner. The Executive also authorised the Director of Public health, in consultation with the Executive Member for health, to arrange for the procurement and commissioning arrangements from 1 April 2016.
4. A paper was presented to Executive on the 2nd August 2016 outlining the service and the proposed commissioning arrangements whereby CBC, Bedford Borough Council and BCCG, would enter a partnership arrangement for the procurement of Community Health Services for children and young people. The arrangements were outlined in Memorandum of Understanding which was agreed and signed off by Executive.
5. There are two separate elements of Community Health Services for children and young people, the contract for which expires in March 2018. One element includes the Healthy Child Programme currently delivered as part of an integrated 0-19 years' service led by Health Visitors and School Nurses, the drug and alcohol service for children and young people, as well oral health promotion. These are currently commissioned by CBC on behalf of both CBC and Bedford Borough Council.
6. The second element is a range of specialist community services including community paediatricians, Looked After Children's' Health Team, Special Schools School Nursing Service and Allied Health Professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists. This is currently commissioned by Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (BCCG)
7. Education and Children's Social Care are not in the scope.

Procurement Process

8. The procurement process has been led by Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group in partnership with CBC and Bedford Borough Council, under a partnership arrangement. The procurement has been run in accordance with the key principles of the EU procurement directives and procurement, patient choice and competition regulations.
9. The Invitation to Participate in Dialogue (ITPD) phase has been completed and four providers have been Invited to Continue Dialogue (ITCD) phase.

10. The providers will be submitting their bids in early September and it is anticipated that the preferred provider will be identified in mid-October. Permission to proceed to advise the successful bidder is required by early November to commence mobilisation of the contract due to start on 1st April 2018

Reason for Decision

11. Due to the timing of Executive meetings the Council needs to delegate authority to avoid any delay of contract award or start. Any delay in award of contract would have financial implications and impact upon the implementation of the new model of service.

Council Priorities

12. The recommendations in this report support Central Bedfordshire in delivering the following priorities:
 - improved educational attainment – procuring the service will help ensure that more children arrive at school ready to learn and that children with complex needs including vulnerability, receive early intervention to support them to learn
 - promote health and well being and protect the vulnerable – the Healthy Children Programme provides a universal service to all children, young people and families to improve a range of outcomes. It also provides targeted support to those who are more vulnerable.

Corporate Implications

Financial and Risk Management

13. The Council is facing significant financial pressures in the coming years and considering this it is essential that value for money is a key deliverable of the procurement process.
14. As ongoing statutory services, adequate financial provision is made in base budgets for these services. It is anticipated that the proposal will secure services in line with the cost identified within the current MTFP.

Staffing

15. There will be no impact on staffing as a result of this recommendation.

Equalities Implications

16. Central Bedfordshire Council has a statutory duty to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees. The Council is required to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. As part of the procurement process, organisations submitting bids have been asked to provide information demonstrating an understanding of equality legislation as it relates to residents and employees.

Procurement

17. The internal procurement team has been fully engaged throughout the process being led by BCCG and will remain fully engaged until contract award.

Conclusion and next steps

18. Should the recommendations in this report be agreed, once the procurement processes have been completed the Council will award the contract and Executive will be notified of the outcome on the 5th December 2017.

Appendices – None

Background Papers - None