

<b>12 July 2017</b>		<b>ITEM: 14</b> (Decision 01104435)
<b>Cabinet</b>		
<b>The Procurement of an Integrated Sexual Health Service for 2018-2023</b>		
<b>Wards and communities affected:</b> All	<b>Key Decision:</b> Key Decision	
<b>Report of:</b> Councillor James Halden, Portfolio Holder for Education and Health		
<b>Accountable Head of Service:</b> Ian Wake, Director of Public Health		
<b>Accountable Director:</b> Ian Wake, Director of Public Health		
<b>This report is</b> Public		

## **Executive Summary**

The Health and Social Care Act (2012) mandates Local Authorities to commission Sexual Health Services for the populations they serve. Currently in Thurrock, the majority of sexual health services are commissioned from the North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT) with some small additional contracts with GPs/Pharmacies and other providers.

In March 2017, Cabinet agreed a one year extension for the NELFT contract which is due to end on 31 March 2018.

### **1. Recommendation(s)**

**Cabinet is recommended to:**

- 1.1 Agree to proceed to tender as set out in this report for the delivery of Integrated Sexual Health Services starting on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.**
- 1.2 Agree delegated authority for award of contract to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Education and Health.**

### **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 Sexual Health Services are currently delivered primarily by North East London Foundation Trust, supported by smaller elements from GPs, pharmacies and other providers. The service has been developed over the last two years to provide a more integrated offer, allowing patients to receive a seamless

service for both prevention and treatment. The final elements to fully integrate the service are planned to come together to start in April 2018.

- 2.2 The current contract with NELFT ends on 31 March 2018. As this service has not previously been market tested, this provides an opportunity to identify if further savings can be made through competitive procurement.
- 2.3 This report therefore requests that Cabinet approves the request proceed to tender to procure a fully Integrated Sexual Health Service to start from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018.

**Table 1. Sexual Health Contract Values**

	<b>Current Provider</b>	<b>2017-18 Budget</b>
Sexual Health Service (including GUM Cross Charging and Chlamydia Screening Office)	NELFT	£1,530,000
Primary Care Services (GPs and Pharmacies)	Various providers Demand led – current budget	£60,000
Lab Testing	BTUH	£28,689
Chlamydia Online Screening	Preventx	£16,000
<b>Total Spend</b>		<b>£1,634,689</b>

### **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

#### ***The Integrated Sexual Health Service***

- 3.1 In line with national recommendations Thurrock Council commissions an open access service where all sexual health needs can be met at one location acting as a “one stop shop”. Public Health has worked with the current provider (NELFT) to begin to start gradually integrating the Sexual Health Service. The cost of this and the other contracts can be seen in Table 1 above.
- 3.2 The past few years have seen significant integration of Sexual Health Services by combining multiple services in to one main contract. In 2016-17 a c. £200k budget saving was made with minimal impact on service delivery as a result of a carefully staged process of integration. The contract was amended for 2017-18 and saw further integration of the Sexual Health Service by incorporating smaller elements such as the Chlamydia Screening Office. Crucially, this contract also included the Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) Cross Charging<sup>1</sup> which is an area of considerable financial and legal risk, as

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<sup>1</sup> GUM Cross Charging: where Thurrock residents choose to receive their sexual health treatment services (GUM) outside of the borough boundaries, the delivery organisation is entitled to charge “Cross Charge” Thurrock Council for the provision.

well as administrative workload, for the Council. Thurrock was the first Council in the region to negotiate a risk sharing agreement which saw the provider take on responsibility for administering all new cross charging claims. This facilitated a saving of £77K over the 2017/18 budget.

3.3 Subject to agreement by Cabinet, during 2017/18 a full procurement exercise will be undertaken for a new contract to start in April 2018. We are looking for a single provider to deliver all the services below which may include some subcontracted elements:

- Level 1, 2 and 3 Sexual Health Services (e.g. contraception, family planning, Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) screening and GUM services)
- STI and HIV Home testing kits which can be ordered online
- Chlamydia Screening Office
- GUM Cross Charging
- Lab Testing
- Primary Care and Pharmacy Service Level Agreements: Chlamydia screening and treatment, Long Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), Condom Distribution Scheme, and Emergency Contraception (commonly known as the 'morning after pill')
- Programmes to prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases and improve sexual health (e.g. Risky Behaviours Training for young people, community outreach programmes and face-to-face delivery)

3.4 Providers will be asked to submit their cost for delivering the services above to a maximum figure aligned to the three year future Public Health financial plan.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

4.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet for approval to go out to tender and award with a whole life cost valued each above £750K. The total estimated value for this contract is a maximum of c. £8.5 million.

#### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 As part of the development of the service specification we will consult with service users, stakeholders and other relevant professionals.

5.2 This report was discussed at Health Scrutiny on 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2017.

#### **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 The services aim to meet corporate priorities through the delivery of high quality services in all elements.

#### **7. Implications**

## 7.1 Financial

Implications verified by: **Jo Freeman**  
**Management Accountant**

The procurement aims to secure a contract with additional integrated services within or below the current annual price. The contract will be flexible to enable it to adjust to priorities and changes in funding availability during the maximum 5 year term with the removal of the ring-fence for the Public Health Grant in 2018/19.

## 7.2 Legal

Implications verified by: **Paul O'Reilly,**  
**Projects Lawyer**

7.2.1 This report is seeking approval from Cabinet to tender the contract noted in the report. The proposed procurement is estimated well above the EU threshold for services (£625K) within the new Light Touch Regime of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, Section 7. This means that there is a legal requirement to competitively tender the contract via the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

7.2.2 Taking the above into account, on the basis of the information in this report, the proposed procurement strategy should comply with the Regulations and the Council's Contract Rules.

7.2.3 The report author and responsible directorate are advised to keep Legal Services fully informed at every stage of the proposed tender exercise. Legal Services will be involved to advise on any legal and related issues that may arise in particular in drafting the final contract with the selected provider.

## 7.3 Diversity and Equality

Implications verified by: **Rebecca Price**  
**Community Development Officer**

7.3.1 The Service will be available across the whole community, responsive to gender and or culturally specific need including specialist advice for young people. The Provider must demonstrate they are an equal opportunities employer and will be expected to consider and demonstrate how they will provide additional social value through contract delivery. This will be tested as part of the tender process.

7.4 **Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

- 8. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

None

- 9. Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - Procurement Stage 1 Form: Integrated Sexual Health Services

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