

Report to: Interim Director of Public Health

January 2021

Extension of the Contract for the Provision of Healthy Child Programme (HCP)

Report by: Public Health Strategic Commissioning Lead

Electoral division(s): All

Summary

Public Health currently commissions the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) from Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT). This is a national programme delivering pre-school and school age services by Health visitors and School nurses to deliver Public Health outcomes (0-19 years of age, 25 years of age for children with special educational needs).

The current contract was awarded to SCFT in March 2017 following an open procurement process. The contract expires in March 2022. The contract is 5 years plus an option to extend for a further period of up to 2 years. This report recommends the exercise of the extension for one year. The funding for this contract is a ringfenced Public Health Grant for the HCP.

Recommendation

The Interim Director Public Health is asked to approve the extension of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) contract with Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) for an initial period of one year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The Council has a contract with SCFT to provide the HCP.
- 1.2 Provision of HCP is a mandated part of the ring-fenced Public Health Grant.
- 1.3 The contract is 5 years plus an option to extend for a further period of up to 2 years (5-year contract expires March 2022). The original OJEU Notice and contract contained the optional extension period which the Council now wishes to exercise.
- 1.4 The initial one-year extension is requested on the grounds that:

Performance

Performance is closely monitored against national Public Health Outcome Framework (PHOF) and locally agreed targets.

- Contract performance is monitored on a quarterly basis.
- Throughout the COVID pandemic the HCP has continued to prioritise the most vulnerable families and children in West Sussex in line with national guidance.
- A service restoration plan was put in place August 2020 and this is discussed on a monthly basis with the provider.
- Delivery models have been responsive to COVID guidance and restrictions and has been delivered through a blended delivery model of face to face and virtual points of contact.
- School- age offer KPIs have been re-negotiated to reflect the agreed School-age service.
- In September 2020 the provider achieved Unicef Baby Friendly Gold accreditation.

Demand

National Child Measurement Programme (Year R and Year 6). This is a corporate target for Public Health.

Public Health England data for West Sussex.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/health-visitor-service-delivery-metrics-2019-to-2020>

		NCMP coverage		
		Number of eligible pupils	Number measured	Percentage measured
2017/18	Year R	9277	8764	94.5%
	Year 6	8738	8134	93.1%
2018/19	Year R	9012	8481	94.1%
	Year 6	9228	8344	90.4%
2019/20	Year R	9094	4722	51.9%
	Year 6	9170	8485	92.5%

Priorities for the HCP service in West Sussex

- help parents develop and sustain a strong bond with children
- support parents in keeping children healthy and safe and reaching their full potential
- protect children from serious disease, through screening and immunisation
- reduce childhood obesity by promoting healthy eating and physical activity

- identify health and wellbeing issues early, so support and early interventions can be provided in a timely manner
- focus on the health needs of children and young people ensuring they are school- ready (SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 years, 2017)
- make sure children are prepared for and supported in all childcare, early years and education settings and especially are supported to be 'ready for to learn at two and ready for school by five'

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 To approve the extension of the Healthy Child Programme contract with SCFT for one year from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 WSCC Procurement advice in July 2020 is that a robust open procurement in 2022 is not possible within the timeframe as there is insufficient time for the redesign to be completed.
- 3.2 Expected re-configuration of Early Help in 2021 may require adjustment to HCP to ensure integration is aligned, maintained and further improved.
- 3.3 The development of the new Children's Trust as an arms-length organisation from the Council may require adjustment to the HCP model to ensure collaborative working is maintained and improved.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

- 4.1 The HCP contract extension will be delivered within the current contractual terms. Full consultation and stakeholder engagement will commence as part of planning for re-procurement of HCP in West Sussex. The current contract with extensions expires March 2024. Open procurement will have been completed at this point and a new contract awarded.

5 Finance

- 5.1 Revenue consequences of proposal. The extension is fully costed at the 2017-22 contract pricing schedule with no indexation.

Extension year 1 £10,728,094

(a) How the cost represents good value

The proposed one-year extension will hold the contract price at current value which is non index linked.

(b) Future savings/efficiencies being delivered

As part of the extension, further service delivery and financial efficiencies will be considered as part of the negotiation with SCFT.

(c) Human Resources, IT and Assets Impact

No implications are anticipated. The proposed one-year extension is covered by the terms of the current contract.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
A slowing down or a pause in KPI improvements, i.e. trajectories are not maintained	Mitigated by existing performance management arrangements and oversight. Commissioner/provider relationship is positive. Performance measures and improvement are tracked. Contract terms will allow leverage through Improvement Plans if required. Due to the COVID pandemic commissioning leads currently meet with the provider on a monthly basis to ensure the restoration of services remains on track and risks can be mitigated where possible.
Limited financial savings	The proposal is that the initial extension (year 6) is held at year 5 contract price. Thus, there is limited financial savings although efficiencies will be sought: no proposed indexation.
Contractual performance	The option to extend was clearly stated in the original Invitation to Tender. Performance has improved and Public Health commissioning will continue to work with the provider to improve performance and capture innovative good practice especially during the current pandemic.

7 Policy alignment and compliance

- 7.1 HCP aligns with the Council's priority to give children the Best Start in Life.
- 7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was carried out as part of HCP procurement 2016 (CW0116-7). An EIA will form part of HCP re-procurement.
- 7.3 The HCP commissioning and contracts team will continue to work with the supplier to capture local initiatives that may contribute to Social Value.
- 7.4 This proposal is not considered to have Crime and Disorder Act or Climate Change Act implications.

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Appendices None

Background Papers None