

Report to Alison Challenger, Director of Public Health

February 2022

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

Report by Fiona Mackison, Public Health Strategic Commissioning Lead

Electoral division(s): All

Summary

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 set out the statutory responsibility for West Sussex County Council to deliver and commission public health services for children and young people aged 5-19 years (25 years of age for young people with Special Educational Needs SEND). On 1st October 2015 the Council became responsible for statutory children's public health services.

West Sussex County Council, Public Health, currently commission the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) with Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT). This is a national programme of pre-school and school age services from Health visitors and School nurses delivering Public Health outcomes (0-19 years of age, 25 years of age for Young People with Special Educational Needs).

The current contract is compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The contract is 5 years plus an option to extend for a further period of up to 2 years.

The Council now wishes to exercise an extension of the Contract permissible under the current terms.

Recommendation

The Director of Public Health is asked to approve the extension of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) Contract with Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) for a period of one year from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The Council has a contract with Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) to provide the Healthy Child Programme (HCP).
- 1.2 Provision of HCP is a mandated part of the ring-fenced Public Health Grant and a statutory duty for Local Authorities.

- 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 contract contains the optional second extension period which the Council now wishes to exercise.
- 1.4 The second 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 formally 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-19 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.
- SCFT succeeded in completing National Child Measurement Programme 2021/21 despite a backlog due to school closures as a result of Covid-19 national guidance. The West Sussex National Child Measurement Programme is on target for completion for the year 2021/22.

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 West Sussex Coverage		
		Number of eligible pupils	Number measured	Percentage measured
2017/19	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
- Safeguarding of children and young people is a core function of the service

- 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 a period of one year from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 West Sussex County Council's procurement advice is that an open procurement in 2022 is not recommended as there are multiple changes to the National HCP model anticipated which will not be finalised in time for 2023. The new model changes will be incorporated into the subsequent contract that will commence in 2024.
- 3.2 Expected re-configuration of Early Help in 2021/22 may require adjustment to HCP to ensure integration is aligned, maintained and further improved.
- 3.3 Measures for Statutory Integrated Care Systems (ICSs) are being brought forward at pace for launch in July 2022. These will comprise an ICS Health and Care Partnership, bringing together the NHS, local government and partners, and an ICS NHS Body.

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 2 £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**

New national digital customer facing services are anticipated in 2022/23 which may leverage financial efficiencies. Further service delivery and financial efficiencies will be sought.

(c) **Human Resources, IT and Assets Impact**

Early Help redesign and subsequent withdrawal of some shared delivery space in Children and Family Centers manifests accommodation issues for Healthy Child Programme. The Public Health Strategic Commissioner for HCP and West Sussex Assets are working with Sussex Community NHS Trust Estates to secure county coverage within the value of the current contract.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Reduced performance	Existing performance management is robust. Contract terms allow leverage through Improvement Plans if required. Monthly meetings continue during the Covid-19 Pandemic for early warning of impact on performance.
Limited Financial Savings	The proposed extension holds contract year 7 at year 5 price. Public Health commissioning/contract team continue to work with the provider to capture innovative good practice during the Covid-19 pandemic.
Market Perception of not Tendering	This is an important and high cost contract. We could reasonably expect there to be interest from the market at re-procurement. The option to extend was clearly stated in the original Invitation to Tender, there has been no recourse to contractual remedy.

7 Policy alignment and compliance

- 7.1 The HCP aligns with Our West Sussex County Council Plan 2021 to 2025 to; 'Keep People Safe from Vulnerable Situations' and 'Help People and Communities to Fulfil their Potential'.
- 7.2 The HCP meets West Sussex County Council statutory responsibility under The Health and Social Care Act 2012 to deliver and commission public health services for children and young people.
- 7.3 This proposal is not considered to have any impact on staff and service users with a protected characteristic. 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.
- 7.4 No change of service provider is planned. No redundancies are anticipated as a direct result of this extension. Nationally recruitment to HCP services remains challenging.

- 7.5 The HCP commissioning and contracts team will continue to work with the supplier to capture local initiatives that may contribute to Social Value.
- 7.6 The HCP contract observes the Public Contract Regulations 2015. As such the services were competitively procured in accordance with the requirements of the Regulations and in compliance with the Council's Standing Orders on Procurement and Contracts.
- 7.7 This proposal is not considered to have Crime and Disorder Act implications.
- 7.8 This proposal is not considered to have any Climate Change Act implications.

Alison Challenger
Director of Public Health

Contact Officer: Fiona Mackison
Public Health Strategic Commissioning Lead
Starting Well, Public Health
Email: Fiona.Mackison@westsussex.gov.uk
Telephone: 0330 22 27049

Appendices None
Background Papers None