

Report to Alison Challenger, Director of Public Health

January 2025

Award of Contract for Provision of Public Health Services (NHS Health Checks, Smoking Cessation, Long-Acting Reversible Hormonal Contraception and Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice Services)

Report by Alison Challenger, Director of Public Health

Electoral division(s): All

Summary

The Council currently commissions a suite of Public Health Services for the population of West Sussex to be delivered by our GPs and Community Pharmacies. There are currently a total of 169 contracts, 81 GP's and 88 Community Pharmacies. The scope of these services includes the local provision of NHS Health Checks, Smoking Cessation, Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (Contraceptive Implant and Intra-Uterine Contraception Device), Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) and Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice,

These services were procured in 2019 for an initial term of three years with an optional extension period of up to two years, which has been exercised with an end date of 31st March 2025. Following a compliant procurement process utilising Health and Care Act Provider Selection Regime (PSR) Direct Award A, this report seeks to award the contract from 1st April 2025 for a period of 1 year.

Public Health is undertaking a further re-procurement compliant with PSR process during 2025/26 to award a new contract with revised specifications to reflect current best practice and this will afford time to evaluate current contract, assess what is required thereby providing the opportunity to add value, identify gaps in provision, assess need and develop evidence-based cost-effective services.

The total estimated value of the 1-year contract to the Council is £1.292m but spend may vary subject to activity. The appointed Procurement Officer has ensured that the procurement process was compliant.

Recommendation

The Director of Public Health is asked to approve the award of contract to deliver the services outlined in section 2 of this report, to commence on 1st April 2025 for a period of 1 year. The total estimated value of the contract to the Council over the whole of the 1-year period is £1.292m.

Proposal

1 Background and context

- 1.1 The Council has a statutory responsibility to improve the health of the West Sussex population. The current contracts covering this provision expires on 31st March 2025. These include NHS Health Checks, Smoking Cessation, Long-Acting Reversible Hormonal Contraception and Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice Services.
- 1.2 The NHS Health Checks Service is a statutory duty, and the provision of contraception is a prescribed service under the conditions of the Public Health Grant. All services are contracted on a tariff only basis, which is set by the Council Public Health.
- 1.3 The services are evidenced based so there is considerable certainty that they continue to deliver benefits to local people, local health and care services and the economy through good access to contraception, reducing cardiovascular disease and smoking prevalence plus intervening earlier to reduce alcohol harm.
- 1.4 The services are provided in local communities, and as these are close to home and work this reduces the amount of travel needed to access them. Using local organisations to deliver the service (following relevant training) retains skills in the county. We recognise the need to continue to monitor access and work in partnership with providers to ensure this appropriate and equitable.

2 Proposal details

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Public Health Contracts are awarded for the period 1st April 25 to 31st March 26 to deliver the following services:
- 2.2 The Services are:
 - Smoking Cessation Services (all providers)
 - Intra Uterine Device Services (GPs only)
 - Contraceptive Implant Services (GPs only)
 - Alcohol Identification and Brief Advice Services (CPs only)
 - Emergency Hormonal Contraceptive Services (CPs only)
 - NHS Health Checks (all providers)
- 2.3 Public Health is undertaking a further re-procurement compliant with PSR process during 2025/26 to award a new contract with revised specifications to reflect current best practice and this will afford time to evaluate current contract, assess what is required thereby providing the opportunity to add value, identify gaps in provision, assess need and develop evidence-based cost-effective services.

3 Other options considered (and reasons for not proposing)

- 3.1 A one-year direct award offers stability to providers supporting their delivery and recovery and enables work in partnership with providers to ensure quality including good access and service coverage.

4 Consultation, engagement and advice

- 4.1 All services are discussed as appropriate with the Local Medical Council (LMC) and Local Pharmaceutical Committee (LPC) as the collective bodies representing the current providers. It is noted though that the contracts are held between the Council and each provider separately.
- 4.2 Internal engagement and advice was sought at West Sussex County Council Commercial Panel on 1st October 2024. The Panel agreed that the award could be made following the prescribed PSR stand still period.

5 Finance

- 5.1 Revenue consequences

	Year 2025/26 £m
Revenue budget	1.292

- 5.2 The activity is funded through the Public Health Grant.

- 5.3 The effect of the proposal:

(a) **How the cost represents good value**

The services avoid potential future additional costs to WSCC, the wider public sector and the economy of West Sussex by:

- Reducing teenage pregnancy
- Reducing the risk of unwanted pregnancy
- Maintaining positive sexual and contraceptive health
- Reducing the risk of smoking related ill health and need for health and social care services
- Reducing the risk of alcohol dependence and associated ill health
- Reducing the risk of alcohol related anti-social behaviour/offending
- Reducing the health risks of passive smoking on children and young people
- Supporting healthy life expectancy through avoiding or reducing the risk of heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease and stroke
- Supporting people to engage in physical exercise and healthy eating and reducing the impact of overweight and obesity on health
- Reducing the risk of acquisition of vascular dementia

(b) **Future savings/efficiencies being delivered**

There are no savings attributed to the contracts because of the preventative nature of the services being delivered. During the one-year direct award benchmarking will continue to be updated and specifications amended to reflect the current best practice.

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

None identified.

6 Risk implications and mitigations

Risk	Mitigating Action (in place or planned)
Services not in place	<p>NHS Health Checks are a statutory requirement, and this group of providers currently deliver approximately 90% of the activity in West Sussex.</p> <p>Pause in arrangements for smoking cessation would impact smoking quit performance (a corporate target) and raise queries relating to the maintenance of baseline spend required for the new smoking grant.</p> <p>Impact on unwanted pregnancies, increased demand in specialist services which are a higher cost, increase in strokes and cardiovascular disease</p>

7 Policy alignment and compliance

7.1 Our Council Plan –

These services contribute to achieving ambitions in all priorities in the [council's plan](#).

7.2 Legal implications – The Terms and Conditions comply with current the Council's Standing Orders on Procurement and Contracts.

The outcome of the PSR assurance process showed a clear preferred provider.

7.3 Equality duty and human rights assessment – This proposal does not affect the Council's duties under the Human Rights Act as the decision does not discriminate against groups with protect characteristics. Selected groups with higher prevalence of smoking have the potential to benefit more from these services. There is also for example greater benefits from the NHS Health Checks programme in ethnic groups with a higher cardiovascular disease risk.

7.4 Protecting the environment – There are no foreseeable climate change implications to this proposal. The local nature of the services reduces the carbon footprint of these programmes. Smoking litter is a significant

contributor to total litter and releases chemicals into the environment in tackling smoking we also protect the environment.

- 7.5 **Crime and disorder** – The services include early interventions for alcohol; it has been estimated that in a community of 100,000 people each year, 1,000 people will be a victim of alcohol-related violent crime. Smoking cessation supports compliance with smoke free legislation.
- 7.6 **Public health** – the NHS Health Check is a statutory requirement and the provision of contraception if a prescribed service under the conditions of the Public Health Grant
- 7.7 **Social value** – Locally delivered services staffed by local people directly benefitting the local workforce and contributing to the local economy. These providers are local assets for community health and care generally and these contracts support their financial sustainability / viability. Reduction in reliance and pressure on services including health and social care. As these services are closer to home this reduces the amount of travel needed for residents to access them, reducing the carbon footprint and using local organisations to deliver the service (following training) retains skills in the county supporting social value and local economy.

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Appendices None

Background papers None