

NORTH SOMERSET COUNCIL

**DECISION OF COUNCILLOR NIGEL ASHTON
LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH
with advice from the DIRECTOR, PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES**



DECISION NO: P&C63

SUBJECT: Sexual Health Services commissioned from University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (2015/16 & 2016/17)

DECISION:

Agreement and approval is sought to award University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) an extension of the contract for the provision of: 'Specialist sexual health services – genitourinary medicine services (sexually transmitted infection testing and treatment) and contraception services'.

1) INTRODUCTION

Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012), local authorities have a mandated responsibility to commission comprehensive, open access sexual health services. This includes providing specialist services to the local population which can meet the full range of potential sexual health needs.

UHB is the only specialist sexual health service provider in Bristol and approximately 10% of the activity at UHB sexual health services is provided to North Somerset residents.

2) RATIONALE

This section of the decision paper sets out the reasons for issuing the contract directly to the current provider under similar terms and conditions without retendering for these services. The decision is to cover future service delivery for 2016/17 and retrospective service delivery for 2015/16.

The Council's Contract Standing Orders provides for an exception to the requirement to undertake a competitive tendering/procurement process in highly exceptional circumstances. The exceptional circumstances applicable to this exception fall under CSO 5.2.9, which is as follows:

'where there is no effective competition for the goods, services or works in question because payment is fixed under statutory authority or is of such a specialist nature that there is effectively only one supplier'.

Based on the above criterion, the primary reason for not competitively tendering the contract at this stage is that UHB is the only specialist sexual health service provider in Bristol with the capability to deliver the full integrated service.

The following considerations also apply:

Patient care:

It is vital to ensure that the quality of patient care is maintained in line with NHS clinical guidelines. UHB currently delivers safe, high quality services that are compliant with national guidelines. There are risks involved in commissioning non-NHS organisations to provide these services in terms of clinical governance and compliance.

Health service infrastructure:

There is a need to ensure that the close inter-relationships between clinical services at UHB are maintained, for example laboratory services and HIV care. Any change in provision would require a detailed risk assessment around clinical governance and the proposed clinical setting.

Developing the market for specialist sexual health services:

Since April 2015, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils have collaborated to plan the process for procurement of sexual health services across the three areas. This is being overseen by the Directors of Public Health.

3) FUTURE COMMISSIONING

A report was presented to the Executive in October 2014 on sexual health commissioning arrangements. The report set an ambition for an update on the procurement of sexual health services across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) to be brought back to the Executive during 2015 with a new service to be established by March 2016.

However, it has taken longer than anticipated to secure agreement across the BNSSG local authorities and with the NHS on the scope of the procurement and to confirm the available resources. This is particularly in light of the ongoing reductions to the local authority Public Health grant. Bristol City Council is the lead commissioner with North Somerset Council and South Gloucestershire Council as associate commissioners. The aim is now to complete a tender process and have new service arrangements in place from April 2017. Extending existing contract arrangements for specialist sexual health during 2016/17 will allow for this joint procurement process to be completed.

The aim of the future sexual health procurement is to improve the sexual health system by achieving improved patient outcomes and greater efficiencies through the redesign of services. Whilst UHB is the only specialist sexual health service provider in Bristol with the current capability to deliver the full integrated service, the proposed future procurement will be based on a review of service pathways which may allow a different service model to emerge. Other providers may be in a position to tender for these services either as a single provider or as part of a consortium bid.

4) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed extension of contract with UHB has two separate funding elements as set out in the table below. Contract savings for the services provided by UHB have already been achieved in order to meet the reduction to the local authority public health grant and deliver the public health contribution to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

Sexual health provider	Contract value: 2014/15	Contract value: 2015/16*	Contract value: 2016/17*
University Hospitals Bristol Trust – contraception services	£107,602	£105,912	£70,000
University Hospitals Bristol Trust – Genitourinary Medicine (GUM) services	£125,168	£114,963	£114,963
Total	£232,770	£220,875	£184,963

**Please note: Values expressed in the table for 2015/16 and 2016/17 are estimates as elements of the service charges are based on activity delivered. However, any variance should be close to these estimated values.*

The total contract award over the two year period (2015/16 – 2016/17) is estimated to be £405,836 and will be funded in full from the Public Health Budget.

The need for future savings to accommodate future reductions to the local authority public health grant will be taken into account during the proposed procurement of sexual health services across BNSSG.

Signed:
Councillor Nigel Ashton
Leader of the Council and Executive Member for Public Health

Dated:

Reviewed:
Trevor Isaac
Service Accountancy and Development Manager

Dated:

Confirmation of advice given:

Signed:
Sheila Smith
Director, People and Communities

Dated: