

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:	4657
Author:	Bethan Hopcraft
Department:	Finance and Resources
Contact:	Bethan Hopcraft (Job Title: Commissioning Officer, Email: bethan.hopcraft@nottinghamcity.gov.uk, Phone: 0115 876 5073)
Subject:	Procurement of a Needle and Injecting Equipment Supply Contract
Total Value:	£375,000 (Type: Revenue)
Decision Being Taken:	1) To approve the expenditure of up to £375,000 over five years (£75,000 per year) of Public Health Grant funding to procure a service for the supply of injecting equipment to community pharmacies and specialist services delivering needle and syringe exchange. 2) To delegate authority to the Director for Public Health to approve the outcome of the tender process and award the contract, to ensure best value for money and a positive outcomes for citizens.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Council commissions a range of pharmacies and a specialist service to deliver Needle and Syringe Exchange Services to citizens within Nottingham. There are currently 21 pharmacies delivering the Service, with one specialist service based in the city centre. In order to provide this Service, a supplier for the injecting equipment needs to be commissioned to deliver equipment to these bases. This decision refers specifically to the supply contract. Needle and syringe exchange has been a recognised best practice model for reducing injecting-related harm and blood-borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis, and contributes to the reduction of harmful disposal of used injecting equipment. The Council has worked with specialist harm reduction practitioners to develop a suitable range of equipment and pre-made packs to best meet the needs of the population of people who inject drugs within Nottingham. The guidance from the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence recommends that needle exchange bases provide a wide range of equipment to ensure people have access to the least harmful method of injecting substances, and that these comply with 'low dead space' requirements. The Council's needle exchange models follow both of these recommendations, and provides only ultra low-dead space injecting equipment through the supply contract currently commissioned.

The current needle supply contract is due to expire on 30 September 2022. To ensure continuation of supply to these needle exchange bases (whose contracts are in place up to 2024), a procurement exercise is required. By procuring a five-year contract, there is a reduction in processing costs associated with retendering or extending contracts within approved extension options. The provider will, as part of their contractual obligations, be subject to regular financial and performance monitoring. The contract will be issued with a six-month break clause to allow for flexibility should the need arise to defund this provision. During the existing and prior contract periods, commissioners have worked to ensure best value for money by choosing to switch to more cost-effective, unbranded equipment. This was done following consultation with Service users to ensure that they would use the equipment and that it met their needs.

Other Options Considered:

To do nothing and let the provision end on 30 September 2022: this option is rejected because other services are dependent on this provision, and it provides a much-needed service for people who inject drugs. Discontinuation of this provision could result in an increase in the prevalence and transmission of blood-borne viruses such as HIV and hepatitis, as well as injecting-related harm such as abscesses. An increase in these negative outcomes would increase the burden on other health and social care services. In line with Public Health Grant requirements as laid out in Public Health Grant Conditions and Mandated Functions in England, a Local Authority must, as a condition in using the grant, "have regard to the need to improve the take up of, and outcomes from, its drug and alcohol misuse services". The supply contract will enable needle exchange providers to deliver needle exchange to people who inject drugs. This will, in turn, allow the Council to provide an evidence-based treatment system which aligns with the needs of the drug-using population.

Background Papers:

None

Published Works:

None

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

None

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

None

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: This decision does not represent proposals for a new or changing policy, service or function.

Social Value Considerations:

Not applicable

Regard for NHS Constitution:

Local Authorities have a statutory duty to have regard to the NHS Constitution when exercising their Public Health functions under the National Health Service Act 2006. In making this decision relating to Public Health functions, the Council has properly considered the NHS Constitution where applicable and have taken into account how it can be applied in order to commission services to improve the health of the local community.

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

30/06/2022

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The proposals in this report raise no legal issues and are supported. The supplies sought to be procured under this approval seek to support the service that is already in place for the delivery of needle exchange in the city. A compliant tender process will be undertaken to identify the chosen provider ensuring best value for money and effective. Legal Services will work with the report author and Procurement colleagues as required in order to establish the necessary contractual arrangements.

Advice provided by Dionne Claire Screamon (Solicitor) on 06/06/2022.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to spend up to £375,000 over five years (£75,000 annually) of Public Health Grant through procurement of a contract for supply of injecting equipment to community pharmacies and specialist services. The contract period is for five years from 1 October 2022. The contract will be issued with a six-month break clause to allow for flexibility should the need arise to defund this provision therefore reducing future financial risk. Funding of this decision is to be made in full via the Public Health Grant and has been factored into planned use of the Grant. The Service should monitor spend and performance monitoring closely to ensure that the contract remains within the agreed budget provision and that no financial pressure occurs to the Council.

Advice provided by Tracey Moore (Commercial Business Partner) on 20/06/2022.

Procurement Advice:

The decision to approve the procurement of a 5-year contract for a pharmacy supplies service (needle and injecting equipment) commencing on 1 October 2022 is supported by the Procurement Team. The tender process will be managed by the Procurement Team to ensure compliance with procurement legislation and provide value for money.

Advice provided by Julie Herrod (Procurement Officer) on 24/05/2022.

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Adult Social Care and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 23/06/2022
Lucy Hubber (DPH)
SIGNED and Dated: 22/06/2022