

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

4927

Author:

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Department:

People

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Subject:

Oral health promotion

Total Value:

£650,000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

Approval to expenditure for an oral health promotion service for Nottingham City for up to five years, commencing on 1 October 2023 at a value of £130k pa (up to £650k in total) to be funded from the Public Health Grant.
Approval to undertake a procurement process to secure the oral health promotion service. Approval for delegated authority to award and sign the contract be granted to Director of Public Health Lucy Hubber.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012) Local Authorities became responsible for Public Health in their area. This includes the assessment and monitoring of oral health

needs, and the planning and evaluation of oral health promotion programmes in response to those needs. The Nottingham oral health needs assessment described health inequalities experienced by children and vulnerable adults, and the potential for a stronger focus on prevention. The COVID 19 pandemic is likely to have widened oral health inequalities as many of the protective activities at school or early years were limited, and access to preventive dentistry has yet to fully recover. The Public Health Outcomes Framework summarises health outcomes for each area, and the latest information is that over a third of five year olds in Nottingham City have visually obvious dental decay, significantly higher than England and likely to have worsened when more recent figures are published. This is entirely preventable, causes pain and distress, and in some case requires hospital treatment under general anaesthetic. Further dental surveys of five year olds have taken place in 2022, with an extended sample in Nottingham, and will report next year to inform delivery of the oral health promotion service. Family Hubs are also being developed in Nottingham City and there is an expectation for them to include oral health promotion. Some adults face challenges in maintaining their oral health and this has been described in recent reports by Healthwatch and a local needs assessment with people experiencing homelessness or other severe disadvantage. Although these reports describe poor access to clinical dentistry they also show areas where greater awareness or access to preventative approaches could reduce inequalities. Older people living in care settings are also highlighted in the needs assessment as their oral health can deteriorate and impact on their nutrition and overall wellbeing. To support each of these groups there are evidence based approaches, such as supervised toothbrushing in early years settings or training of support staff, and these will be delivered by the oral health promotion service. Current provision in Nottingham is limited to areas covered by Small Steps Big Changes and is time limited. This new service will ensure that oral health promotion is available across the City based on need. The proposed five objectives of the oral health promotion service are:

To deliver a city-wide oral health promotion programme within early years settings, including a supervised tooth brushing programme and building on innovative approaches to work with the most deprived communities within Nottingham City To train health, social care, education professionals and key front-line workers to enable them to deliver appropriate oral health brief advice to the citizens of Nottingham City, including evidence-based behaviour change principles. To develop and distribute oral health resources based on evidence of need to targeted groups identified at higher need, to include children and young people, children in care, care homes, sheltered housing, asylum seeker and refugee communities, people who are homeless and people experiencing severe multiple disadvantage (SMD) To develop and participate in oral health awareness campaigns and related national and local health awareness campaigns To support the development of policies to improve oral health eg in settings for vulnerable adults

Other Options Considered: Nottingham could decide not to provide oral health promotion to its citizens and would therefore not incur the expenditure. However the Public Health responsibilities of the Local Authority would be difficult to deliver if reliant only on core services, and the chance to improve the health of children and vulnerable adults could be missed. The Local Authority could decide to employ staff and provide this service 'in house'. However this option is not likely to provide value for money and may not attract staff with sufficient expertise.

Background Papers: No others.

Published Works: Nottingham City Oral Health Needs Assessment and Profile of Oral Health in 5year old Children, These describe oral health needs in detail in Nottingham and are both published on Nottingham Insight <https://www.nottinghaminsight.org.uk/themes/health-and-wellbeing/health-needs-assessments/oral-health-needs-assessment-2020/> Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Nottingham. This strategy identifies oral health as a cross cutting issue across all four priority areas. It is published here <https://www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/media/3374491/nottingham-city-joint-health-and-wellbeing-strategy-2022-25.pdf>

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: Not aware of specific councillor or colleague interests

Consultations: Date: 05/07/2022
Other City Council Bodies: Public Health Programme Board
Support to progress to Portfolio Holder Decision and to discuss objectives of anticipated service with wider stakeholder group. The Nottingham and Notts oral health steering group also supported this approach on 19th July 2022. This group includes Healthwatch. NB This group noted here as DDM system does not save it when listed separately

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: None

Equality: Please login to the system to view the EIA document: Oral health promotion EIA v.2.docx

Social Value Considerations: The purpose of this contract will be to reduce inequalities in oral health and improve the oral health of Nottingham Citizens. In the procurement process we will require information on how this investment can contribute to increased social value beyond the direct delivery of the contract..

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 NHS Act 2006. In making this decision relating to public health functions, we have 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:

11/05/2023

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity

Legal Advice:

This decision seeks to procure and commission an oral health promotion service for Nottingham City Council for up to five years funded by the Public Health Grant and in line with current budget plans. In procuring this service, the Council must comply with its own Constitution and any other relevant requirements, for example the Public Contract Regulations 2015. The Council must ensure that any funding conditions imposed on the Public Health Grant are complied with including ensuring that appropriate contractual arrangements are entered into with the chosen supplier. The contractual arrangements should also allow for any changes to the project, for example in light of findings from the further surveys undertaken in 2022 or later.

The agreement and execution of contracts should be in compliance with the Council's constitution and with the support of Legal Services.

Advice provided by Anthony Heath, Senior Solicitor on 24th April 2023

Advice provided by Anthony Heath (Senior Solicitor) on 24/04/2023.

Finance Advice:

See attached Financial Advice provided by Tracey Moore (Commercial Business Partner) on 27/03/2023.

Advice documents: Observations of Finance Business Partner Oral Health Promotion.docx

Procurement Advice:

The tender process to secure the oral health promotion service will be managed by the Procurement Team who are engaged with the project. Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 06/04/2023.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

The EIA has been reviewed and there are no impacts to any of the protected characteristics. I am therefore happy to sign off. Advice provided by Rosey Donovan (Equality and Employability Consultant) on 19/04/2023.

Signatures

Linda Woodings as Portfolio Holder (PH Adult Social Care and Health)

SIGNED and Dated: 03/05/2023

Lucy Hubber (DPH)

SIGNED and Dated: 24/04/2023