

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

2064

Author:

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Department:

Children and Families

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Subject:

Re-commissioning The Health Shop Sexual Health (sexual health and substance misuse)

Total Value:

£41,131 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

1) To approve an extension to the contract for The Health Shop Sexual Health Service from 31st March 2016 to 31st June 2016, and the additional expenditure of £41,131 to fund delivery of the service for a further 3 months.2) To grant a dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.1 in order to increase the value of the contract as above, without re-tendering for the service.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The Health Shop is a 'one stop shop' for sexual health services, providing a wide range of services in one site. It is a specialist sexual health service which works alongside Recovery in Nottingham (a needle exchange and drug user service).

The Health Shop provides sexual health advice, contraception, screening for sexually transmitted infections, pregnancy testing, and signposting to specialist Clinical Psychology and Neuropsychology services as appropriate. The Health Shop service targets the highly vulnerable drug using population through outreach services and operates drop in clinics during the week. The services are combined, so for example when someone who injects drugs is seen by Recovery in Nottingham, they are also offered a range of STI testing and treatment / referral (as appropriate) alongside comprehensive sexual health advice. This ensures that the service provides a way to reach vulnerable groups who are disproportionately affected by sexual ill-health as identified in the JSNA, and are less likely to access other mainstream sexual health services.

The service also provides an alternative way to access STI tests rather than through GUM (genitourinary medicine) services. (GUM services are tariff-based, more expensive, and it is a statutory requirement to provide open access sexual health services). The Health Shop provides an opportunity to reduce the overall costs of the GUM services, by providing cost effective prevention and treatment options).

The Health Shop, is provided by Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust and was initially jointly commissioned by Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County Primary Care Trusts, and transferred to the City and County Councils during the Public Health transition in April 2013. The annual contract value for Nottingham City is currently £164,523. The contract is due to end on 31st March 2016.

Nottingham Crime & Drugs Partnership (CPD) holds the contract with Recovery in Nottingham, to provide substance misuse services in The Health Shop premises. Their contract is due to end on 31st June 2016.

Strategic commissioning reviews of the sexual health services have identified that the most efficient and effective way to re-commission the sexual health element of The Health Shop service would be to commission a single sexual health and the substance misuse service, jointly with the CDP. To enable this to occur without a break in service provision, we request permission to extend the existing Public Health contract for The Health Shop sexual health services, for a further 3 months, and to pay the provider £41,131 to deliver the services for this period. This funding is for the Nottingham City Public Health contribution only. Nottinghamshire Council will have a separate arrangement in place with the provider from April 2016 onwards.

A formal review of the service in March 2014, carried out by City and County Public Health, identified that the Health Shop has been consistently performing well against targets during 2013/14, provides good value for money, is well-accessed by key vulnerable groups including the LGBT population, fits with the strategic priorities for Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council and delivers against three of the indicators in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

The current contract value was formally agreed by Dr. Chris Kenny, Director of Public Health Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City, and Councillor Alex Norris, Portfolio Holder for Health, through DDM ref.1583 in July 2014, and amended by DDM ref.1583 in February 2015. This agreement included the option to continue this service until 31st March 2016 and dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.1 in order to increase the value of the contract as above, without re-tendering for the service.

The change in contract length and additional funding contribution detailed above is now needed to re-align the contract end dates to ensure that strategic joint re-commissioning between the Crime & Drugs Partnership and Public Health is able to take place during 2015/16. This re-commissioning will be the subject of a future report.

The option above is recommended by Alison Challenger, Interim Director of Public Health and Carl Neal, Insight Specialist Public Health.

Other Options Considered:

1. Include The Health Shop in the re-procurement of the Integrated Sexual health Services, which is to take place in 2015/16, with the contract to commence from 1st April 2016. Whilst this was originally considered as the preferred option, it was agreed by Public Health colleagues that a service which specifically targets the more vulnerable, high-risk citizens would still be required.

2. Allow The Health Shop contract to end on 31st March 2016. This would leave the service unable to continue to operate during the 3-month period, and could leave the provider unable to re-commence any operation from June 2016. This could lead to some service users accessing the more expensive treatment services such as GUM, increasing our costs, and some of the more high-risk citizens failing to access any sexual health services, leading to a potential increase in sexually transmitted infections.

3. Decommission the service from 31st March 2016. Again it's likely that this would result in increased GUM costs and risks to vulnerable citizens as discussed in option 2.

Background Papers:

Published Works:

Reference to Delegated Decisions 1583 and 1878

Affected Wards:

Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests:

Dispensation from Financial Regulations:

Yes

Consultations:

Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications:

N/A

Equality:

EIA not required. Reasons: This is a continuation of existing activities, so there will be no adverse impact on citizens

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:

22/07/2015

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement

Legal Advice:

The proposal is to grant a further 3 month extension to the Health Shop contract held with Nottinghamshire Healthcare Trust.

The operational reasons for the need to extend under a dispensation are supported. The extension is for the purpose of ensuring service continuity for a brief period and to ensure that vulnerable citizens can receive services. On the basis that the wider substance misuse services contract is currently being prepared for tendering then the proposed extension is considered to be low risk in terms of any potential challenge. Any interested providers will have an opportunity to bid for the tendered contracts prior to the current extension having ended.

Legal services is currently advising on the wider procurement of substance misuse and will continue to advise with the inclusion of the sexual health services.

Advice provided by Naomi Vass (Senior Solicitor) on 09/07/2015.

Finance Advice:

The extension of this contract will enable the re-commissioning of the service in conjunction with the CDP.

The remaining budget available following the extension will be £123,392.00 and the contract will not be awarded in excess of this amount.

Savings generated from the joint procurement will contribute towards the savings agreed in the Medium Term Financial Plan.

Advice provided by Dee Fretwell (Finance Analyst) on 07/07/2015.

Procurement Advice:

There are no procurement concerns with this decision.

The total value of the service would require a competitive tender process for the additional 3-month service in accordance with Contract Procedure Rules. Dispensation from this requirement, to extend the existing contract, is supported for the operational reasons set out in the report (ie: aligning contract end dates and ensuring continuity of service during re-procurement).

Joint commissioning of the service with the Crime and Drugs Partnership is expected to deliver improved value for money and a better integrated service for citizens.

Advice provided by Dawn Cafferty (Procurement Category Manager) on 07/07/2015.

Signatures

Alex Norris (PH for Adults, Health and Community Sector)
SIGNED and Dated: 15/07/2015
Alison Challenger (Director of Public Health (Interim))
SIGNED and Dated: 14/07/2015
Theresa Channell (Head of Corporate and Strategic Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 10/07/2015
Chief Financial Officer's Comments: