

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3402

Author:

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Department:

Strategy and Resources

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Subject:

Public Health NHS Health Check Contract

Total Value:

567, 000 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1a To approve spend of up to £135,250 p.a. for 3 years with an optional extension of 1 year to commence 1 April 2019 for the delivery of the NHS Health Check Programme to citizens, to be divided across 53 GP practice contracts on the basis of demand.
- 1b To approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.2 in accordance with Financial Regulations (3.29) to award the contracts for delivery of the NHS Health Check Programme to Nottingham City GP Practices.
- 2a To approve spend up to £6,500 p.a. for 3 years with an optional 1 year extension to commence from 1 April 2019 for IT software provision to support the NHS Health Check Programme.
- 2b To approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rule 5.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulations (3.29) to award a contract for IT software provision to e-Healthscope.
- 3 To delegate authority to the Provider Performance and Development Manager to sign the contracts.

Reasons for the Decision(s)

The NHS Health Check programme is a national public health programme which sets out to identify and reduce the risk of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in the population by offering citizens aged 40-74 years without existing cardiovascular disease (or certain other conditions) a free health check. CVD is one of the main causes of citizens dying early in the city and rates of death from CVD in the city are significantly higher than the England average. The higher rate of CVD is therefore a significant contributor to the lower life expectancy in the city compared with the England average (Nottingham City JSNA).

1) NHS Health Checks programme delivery

The current Locally Commissioned Public Health Services Contracts (LCPHS) with Nottingham City GP practices for the delivery of the NHS Health Check Programmes are due to expire on 31 March 2019, and do not have an option to extend. This is the central delivery mechanism for the programme.

GP practices invite eligible patients for a health check using their medical records. The Health Check involves assessing cholesterol and blood pressure levels, and putting this information together with demographic and health related behaviour information, to calculate an individual's risk of developing CVD over 10 years. Patients with higher risk are then offered clinical support by their GP and signposted to other support.

The programme is provided through GP practices for the following reasons:

- market research indicates this is where citizens expect health checks to be delivered
- GP practices are where patients will receive additional clinical support, if required
- GP practices hold the patient's medical records and so are the only way by which the

Council can ensure that only clinically eligible patients are invited onto the programme.

Contracts with individual GP practices across the Nottingham City will award payments for NHS Health checks completed at £35 per patient for priority groups (patients with an estimated CVD risk of 10% risk at time of first invitation; patients on the learning disability register; patients on the serious mental illness register) and £6 per patient for all other eligible patients.

2) IT software provision for NHS Health Checks

Specialised software is required to link with clinical systems in GP practices and provide both GP practices and Nottingham City Council with (suitably anonymised) lists of health checks offered and received. The current provider is e-Healthscope and due to contract value was subject to an officer decision for the previous financial year. The contract is due to expire on 31 March 2019, and does not have an option to extend. The proposal is to directly award a contract to the current provider for the following reasons:

- The current provider is significantly cheaper than the local competitor which is £17,500 per annum
- E-Healthscope is more efficient because it extracts information from clinical systems without practices having to do a manual upload
- There has been a marked improvement in delivery of NHS Health Checks this year as a result of this new simpler system
- GP Practices are familiar with and like the user friendliness of e-Healthscope

Other Options Considered:

1 Do not renew the current contracts from 1 April 2019. This option was rejected as this would renege on Nottingham City Council's statutory responsibility under the 2012 Health and Social Care Act to deliver the NHS Health Checks.

2 Test the market through the competitive tender process for the GP practice Health checks. This option was rejected as the GP patient lists are required to determine the eligible population and ensure that all eligible citizen are offered a Health Check every five years.

3 Test the market through the competitive tender process for the IT software which supports delivery of the NHS Health Checks. This option was rejected in order to ensure continuity of service and avoid disruption to service delivery within the 53 GP practices.

Background Papers: None

Published Works: None

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: None

Dispensation from Financial Regulations: Yes

Consultations: Those not consulted are not directly affected by the decision.

Crime and Disorder Implications: None

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: No significant change to NHS Health Check programme delivered to citizens.

Social Value Considerations:

The NHS Health Check Programme addresses priorities which disproportionately affect socially disadvantaged communities within Nottingham City. These include prevention of cardiovascular disease and supporting citizens to make healthy lifestyle choices, such as stopping smoking, being more active, achieving a healthy weight and drinking alcohol within recommended limits. The programme also raises awareness of dementia and cancer, as many of the risk factors are the same.

Through the prevention or cardiovascular disease in the longer term, the NHS Health Checks programme should improve the economic and social wellbeing of citizens by keeping people healthier for longer, thereby reducing illness-related absence from the workplace and decreasing demand on health and social care services.

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.

Any implications affecting IT:

Yes

Decision Type:

Portfolio Holder

Subject to Call In:

Yes

Call In Expiry date:

19/02/2019

Advice Sought:

Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity, IT

Legal Advice:

The dispensations sought in this report are both supported. The value of the proposed IT contract is significantly below the applicable procurement financial threshold. There is a reasonable argument that as GPs have the medical data on the citizens who require the checks and are the relevant point of contact with citizens that they have the technical and exclusive right to provide the services. On that basis a competitive procurement is not required. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 22/01/2019.

Finance Advice:

This decision seeks approval to spend up to £135,250 p.a. for 3 years with an optional extension 1 year extension to commence 1 April 2019 for the delivery of the Programme to citizens, to be divided across 53 GP practice contracts on the basis of demand.

This decision also seeks approval to spend up to £6,500 p.a. for 3 years with an optional 1 year extension to commence from 1 April 2019 for IT software provision to support NHS Health Checks.

The total cost of this decision is £567,000 for the 3 year + optional 1 year extension period. The above expenditure will be contained within Public Health funding included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan

The proposed contract options adhere to the Council's constitutional requirements and will ensure that value for money is delivered.

This decision seeks dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules 5.1.1 in accordance with Financial Regulations (3.29) for the direct award of contracts and for reasons outlined by the report author and considering the Legal & Procurement advice, it is deemed appropriate in this instance.

Advice provided by Hayley Mason (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 25/01/2019.

IT Advice:

The IT Service support the proposal within this delegated decision.
Continuing with an existing IT product that is satisfactory and lower cost than alternatives is low risk and offers good value for money.
As this is a continuing service it is assumed that the Data Protection Impact Assessment is unchanged.
Advice provided by Paul J. Burrows (IT Change, Projects & Strategy Manager) on 24/01/2019.

Procurement Advice:

The Decision to approve dispensation from Contract Procedure Rules for direct award of contracts to GP Practices across Nottingham City is supported by the Procurement Team for the reasons contained in the report and due to the potential value of individual contracts when divided across the 53 GP Practices.

The Decision to approve dispensation from Contract Procurement Rules for a direct award of contract to the named software provider for the reasons given in the report is also supported by Procurement. Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 16/01/2019. Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 16/01/2019.

Equality and Diversity Advice:

There are no significant equality considerations Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 18/01/2019.

Signatures

Sam Webster (PH for Adult Social Care and Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 12/02/2019
Alison Challenger (Director of Public Health)
SIGNED and Dated: 12/02/2019
Laura Pattman (Strategic Director of Finance) - Dispensation from Financial Regulations
SIGNED and Dated: 30/01/2019
Chief Finance Officer's Comments: