

Nottingham City Council Delegated Decision



Nottingham
City Council

Reference Number:

3507

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Strategy and Resources

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Subject:

Online Chlamydia Self Screening Kits

Total Value:

£44000.00 (Type: Revenue)

Decision Being Taken:

- 1) Approve spend of £44,000 for an online chlamydia screening service kits distribution from 1/4/19 to 31/3/20**
 - 2) Approve procurement of the contract to service provider approved G-cloud framework**
 - 3) Delegate authority for Head of Contracting & Procurement to sign the final contract in respect of the service**
- This is now a retrospective decision.**

One of the sexual health priorities in the Public Health Outcomes Framework (PHOF) is to 'Achieve a detection rate of 2,300 per 100,000 for Chlamydia screening (15-24 year olds)'. This is an indicator of how accurately those most at risk are targeted and tested.

Key facts regarding Chlamydia:

- In 2017, there were 422,147 new STI diagnoses made at sexual health services in England. Of these, the most commonly diagnosed STIs were chlamydia (48% of all new STI diagnoses).
- Chlamydia is the most commonly diagnosed sexually transmitted infection (STI) in the UK with sexually active young people at the highest risk of infection. Nationally, Public Health England (PHE) estimate that around 70%-80% of young adults with chlamydia will be unaware they have the infection.
- Chlamydia often has no symptoms but can lead to a wide range of complications/ serious health consequences, and represents a substantial public health problem. The prevalence of infection is highest in young sexually active young adults (15 to 24 years olds). Gay, bisexual, and other men who have sex with men are also at risk.
- By offering a range of opportunistic chlamydia screening of young adults who are sexually active and without symptoms, allows for the earlier detection of chlamydia infection which can be easily treated and also reduces onward transmission and the consequences of untreated infection.
- Chlamydia testing in non-genitourinary medicine (GUM) settings can also be cheaper and by offering young people additional choice of testing services increases the normalisation and de-stigmatisation of STI testing, making young people more able to and willing to take responsibility for their sexual health.
- Public Health England (PHE) recommends screening of sexually active young adults annually or on change of partner.
- In 2018 the guidance on treatment dosage for chlamydia was changed due to the increasing antimicrobial resistant nature of the disease.

Key facts for Nottingham City

- In 2017 the chlamydia detection rate for Nottingham City was 2,128 per 100,000 15-24 year olds. Only 18% of the eligible population was screened.
- The chlamydia diagnostic rate amongst people of all ages in Nottingham in 2017 was 710 per 100,000. Half of these diagnoses were amongst people aged under 25. This was the second highest amongst Nottingham's statistical neighbours.

The current online chlamydia testing service targeted at 15-24 year olds in Nottingham was commissioned in 2016. The contract is now nearing an end and the provider has changed its business focus. During the year 2017-2018, 2627 chlamydia testing kits were requested, around 65% of these were first time users of the online service. Approximately 70% of the kits were returned of which just over 10% were positive. This performance has been satisfactory to the terms of the contract.

A key outcome of the current service within Nottingham City is to contribute to the reduction of the prevalence of chlamydia in young people aged 15 to 24 years; provide choice by providing additional access to chlamydia screening (increasing access addresses perceptions of stigma) and increase the awareness of chlamydia in young people.

Other Options Considered: Do nothing - this will leave a significant 'gap' in provision of screening services, evidence suggests that those accessing digital services are the ones less likely to access terrestrial services. This will be a backward step for the city in terms of direction of travel towards smart cities and digital services. Much of the country has already made significant progress towards digital front doors, online consultations, online contraception for sexual health services.

Carry out an open procurement exercise to invite expressions of interest - the shortest period of notice was service on the Council, this did not provide sufficient time to address the funding gap caused by this extremely competitive provider and then complete procurement activity. This proposal is for a period of 12 months to allow sufficient time to plan a longer term approach.

Background Papers: N/A

Published Works: N/A

Affected Wards: Citywide

Colleague / Councillor Interests: N/A

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

Crime and Disorder Implications: Online sexual health screening services are likely to attract young people who otherwise would not access face to face services. This increases their chance of timely diagnoses and treatment and provides a springboard for vulnerable young people into other services and increases the likelihood of them accessing support as victims of crime such as child sexual exploitation, trafficking and sexual violence.

Equality: EIA not required. Reasons: No change to citizen access or in an existing policy or function.

Social Value Considerations: The value of this service will not exceed the EU threshold. This is a specialist clinical service which can only be provided by accredited providers, there is no local competitive provider market for this locally.

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:	Officer
Executive Decision?	Yes
Scheme of Delegation Reference Number or Other Source of Delegation:	11
Subject to Call In:	No The call-in procedure does not apply to the decision because the value of the decision is below the call in threshold.
Advice Sought:	Legal, Finance, Procurement, Equality and Diversity
Legal Advice:	This report raises no significant legal issues. G-Cloud is a legally compliant framework for calling-off services. Advice provided by Andrew James (Team Leader Contracts and Commercial) on 25/03/2019.
Finance Advice:	This decision seeks approval to procure a contract for online chlamydia self screening kits. The total cost of this decision is £44,000 which covers the period 01/04/19 to 31/03/20. The expenditure associated with this decision will be contained within Public Health funding included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan This proposal is for a period of 12 months to allow sufficient time to plan a longer term approach which will ensure that value for money is delivered. Advice provided by Hayley Mason (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 25/01/2019. Advice provided by Hayley Mason (Strategic Finance Business Partner) on 16/04/2019.
Equality and Diversity Advice:	Equality considerations will need to be fully covered through the procurement process if the Council intends to meet its Public Sector Equality Duty. Advice provided by Adisa Djan (Equalities and Diversity Consultant) on 25/03/2019.
Procurement Advice:	The Decision to procure a contract for Online Chlamydia Self Screening at a value of £44,000 for the period 1/4/19 to 31/3/20 is supported by Procurement. The Call-off from the CCS G-Cloud 10 Framework will be supported by the Procurement Team. Advice provided by Nicola Harrison (Procurement Lead Officer) on 18/03/2019.
Signatures:	Alison Challenger (Director of Public Health) SIGNED and Dated: 25/04/2019