

REPORT TO: Health and Wellbeing Board
DATE: 18th September 2013
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health
PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People and Families
SUBJECT: School Nursing Service
WARDS: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the progress of the procurement of a School Nursing Service for Halton.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- 1. the Board note the contents of the report and appendices; and**
- 2. feedback comments to the Director of Public Health; and**
- 3. Support the recommendation to commence with consultation on the procurement of a service to be in place no later than September 2014.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 From April 2013, Local Authorities assumed the accountability for the commissioning of School Nursing services. This therefore, has provided a timely opportunity to review the existing commissioning arrangements to shape and design future provision with input from stakeholder engagement, in line with the ongoing review of all public health contracts.
- 3.2 The School Nursing Service sits within the statutory responsibility of the Director of Public Health for public health protection and health improvement.
- 3.3 The contract for the existing School Nursing Service has been extended to March 2014, with the option to extend for a further one year period. Due to the financial value of the contract (over £1million per year), and in line with Council policy, the service will need to go through an open procurement process.
- 3.4 A new specification is being developed as part of a collaborative piece of work with commissioners across the Cheshire and Merseyside footprint and the core elements of the proposed service are listed below. A further briefing on the School Nursing service is included as **Appendix A**.

3.5 The service to be procured will:

- Work in partnership with schools, health services, social care and other partners to understand local health needs and support the development of local provision.
- Undertake a school health entry assessment for all reception age children.
- Provide public health advice, health assessments, health screening, immunisations, brief intervention, guidance and support to those of school age, involving their families, carers and education staff where appropriate.
- Routinely offer height and weight screening as part of the National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP) in reception and year 6.
- Undertake a health and well-being assessment to facilitate the transition into year 7.
- Work within the scope of the Working Together to Safeguard Children document and local protocols and guidance around the safeguarding children agenda. It will provide professional reports to conference as appropriate, attend safeguarding conferences and take an active part in safeguarding activity where appropriate.
- Initiate the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and act as lead professional where appropriate and where a health need has been clearly identified.
- Initiate or attend meetings when a health need has been clearly identified (including long term conditions).
- Recognise the significant impact that domestic violence can have on children and young people and act in accordance with national and local guidance.
- Offer screening to any child moving into a Halton school from out of area as appropriate.
- Provide further screening, health assessment and advice at the request of parents at any stage of a child or young person's time at school.
- Offer support to individual children, young people, parents and families and make referrals to a wide range of other professionals when specific needs are identified, as appropriate.

3.6 Public Health Teams and partners across Cheshire and Merseyside have reviewed the current service specification to ensure that it is in line with the Healthy Child Programme and National Guidance in relation to the School Nursing Charter and have developed the enclosed draft specification to begin the process of engagement (**Appendix B**). There is a requirement to reinforce the need for an effective universal, preventative, collaborative and early intervening service that has a crucial role in identifying 'at risk' children and young people. The specification will also need to clarify that the aim of the service is to reduce the risk of this client group becoming the most vulnerable adults in the future.

3.7 In order to ensure that all stakeholders can inform and influence the development of the service, it is intended that a period of engagement will

begin in September and last for two months. During this time, Head Teachers, school staff, School Nurses, youth workers, and other partners will be encouraged to provide their opinions on how the service can be improved to better meet the needs of children, young people and their families. More importantly, children and young people will also be encouraged to provide feedback on the service and identify ways in which it can be improved. Such engagement will ensure that local people can influence the future direction of this vital service.

3.8 The process of engagement will particularly seek the views of elected members, as well as the Children's Trust, the Health and Wellbeing Board, the local Healthwatch and other interested partners who will inform the final specification before it is subjected to procurement.

3.9 It is intended that the procurement process will commence in early 2014 with a view to ensuring that the successful provider is mobilised to begin operation no later than September 2014, in line with the beginning of the new school year.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 The delivery of an effective School Nursing Service compliments the overarching framework set out in both the Halton Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Children and Young Peoples Plan. It is informed by the commissioning plans for the NHS, Social Care, Public Health and other services through which the Health and Wellbeing Board has agreed are relevant. The service contributes to a number of key national indicators, as identified through the NHS Outcomes Framework, the Public Health Outcomes Framework and the Adult Social Care Framework and also supports the delivery of the Children and Young Peoples Plan.

5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 As part of the procurement process, potential bidders will be encouraged to look at efficiency and innovative practice to provide the best possible value for money. Whilst the quality of a proposed service will be the most important factor in any final decision, the proposed cost of any application will also be a factor in the final decision and award of contract.

5.2 Any successful bidder may be subject to TUPE regulations with regards to staff. Currently 28.5 WTE staff are employed by the service.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

Improving the Health and Wellbeing of Children and Young People is a key priority in Halton and will continue to be addressed through the delivery of an effective and efficient School Nursing Service that supports the delivery of

both national and local strategies and action plans whilst at the same time meeting the needs of children, young people and their families.

6.2 **Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton**

Employment, Learning and Skills is a key determinant of health and wellbeing and is therefore a key consideration when developing strategies to address health inequalities. An effective service will support children and young people in reducing the impact of ill health and risk taking behaviour on their life chances.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

All issues outlined in this report focus directly on this priority.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Reducing the incidence of crime, improving Community Safety and reducing the fear of crime have an impact on health outcomes particularly on mental health. There are also close links between the service and on areas such as mental health, alcohol and domestic violence.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

By providing, education, information and support to children, young people and their families the service can contribute to the wider urban renewal of Halton.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

Halton Borough Council may be at risk of not meeting national targets if recommendations outlined in the report are not met. The current contract is due to expire in March 2014, which is the end of a one year contract extension. There are no financial risks. The recommendations are not so significant they require a full risk assessment.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

This is in line with all equality and diversity issues in Halton.

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
APPENDIX A DH Briefing for Elected Members 2013	Runcorn Town Hall	Simon Bell
APPENDIX B DRAFT Specification and Questionnaire	Runcorn Town Hall	Simon Bell