

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board  
**DATE:** 20 July 2017  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Public Health  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing  
**SUBJECT:** Halton 0-19 Public Health Service Contract 2017/18

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to seek Executive Board approval for the granting of a direct contract for the delivery of Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership services between September 2017 and March 2018.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board**

- 1) Notes the content of the report; and**
- 2) Support the recommendation to grant a Direct Award for 7 months to Bridgewater Community Health NHS Foundation Trust for the delivery of Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership services from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.**

## **3.0 BACKGROUND**

3.1 In March 2017, the Executive Board granted approval for the procurement of a new 0 – 19 Public Health Service for Children, Young People and Families. Giving every child the best start in life is crucial to reducing health inequalities across the life course. The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development – physical, intellectual and emotional – are set in place during pregnancy and in early childhood. What happens during these early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and wellbeing, educational achievement and economic status. Universal and specialist public health services for children are important in promoting the health and wellbeing of all children and reducing inequalities including:

- Delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP);
- Assessment and intervention when a need is identified; and
- On-going work with children and families with multiple, complex or

safeguarding needs in partnership with other key services including early years, children's social care and primary care.

- 3.2 The Health Visiting Service and the Family Nurse Partnership work across a number of stakeholders, settings and organisations to lead delivery of the Healthy Child Programme 0-5 (HCP), a prevention and early intervention public health programme that lies at the heart of the universal service for children and families and aims to support parents at this crucial stage of life, promote child development, improve child health outcomes and ensure that families at risk are identified at the earliest opportunity.
- 3.3 The School Nurse Team promotes the holistic health of the school aged population (5 – 19), thereby enabling them to realise their potential. They encourage children and young people to think about their health and support them to become responsible for their own health and wellbeing as they progress through childhood and adolescence.
- 3.4 In order to maximise the impact of the two teams (the 0-5 service and the 5-19 service as described above), Halton is seeking to create an integrated 0-19 service (or up to 24 for young people with a disability or complex health care need) that will deliver the Healthy Child Programme and provide both universal and targeted support services to help improve the health and wellbeing of children, young people and families in Halton.

#### **4.0 CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Halton Council has developed a specification that has outlined how it will expect delivery of public health services to children, young people and families. With mandated elements of the Healthy Child Programme at the heart of a service, the Council will incorporate the current Health Visiting, Family Nurse Partnership and School Nursing Contracts into one integrated function that includes enabling readiness for school, Children's Services' early help, iCART and the health improvement service and provide the best possible support to local families to be as healthy as they can be.
- 4.2 Bridgewater Community Health NHS Foundation Trust currently holds separate contracts with Halton Borough Council for the delivery of the

different elements of what will become the 0 – 19 (24) service. The current annual contract value is c. £2,600,000 per year for the delivery of the Health Visiting Service / Family Nurse Partnership Programme and c. £900,000 for the School Nursing Service.

4.4 The Executive Board authorised the commencement of a procurement programme for the wider 0-19 (24) service at its meeting in March 2017. It was originally anticipated that this new service would be in place by September 2017 in order to minimise disruption to local people, services and to local schools.

4.5 The development of the specification was delayed in order to enable a greater range of stakeholders to influence its development. This has had an impact on the provision of the list of staff that would be affected by TUPE regulations and as such the procurement has not happened within the original proposed timescale.

## **5.0 PROPOSAL**

5.1 It is proposed that the current provider of the Health Visitor and Family Nurse Partnership Service be given a direct award of a contract for the period of seven months from 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018.

Such an award will:

- Bring the contract in line with the School Nursing contract to enable a full, open and transparent procurement of a 0-19 service to take place.
- Minimise the impact on local families, staff and the wider health and social care economy.
- Enable operational efficiencies commenced in October 2016 to be fully realised.
- Prevent disruption to the delivery of the NHS England commissioned seasonal flu programme for children.

- 5.2 We are seeking Executive Board approval to publish the Direct Award of a contract to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 to the current provider, using the '*Voluntary Ex-Ante Transparency Notice*' (VEAT) notice through which the contracting authorities must give sufficient information as to the justification for direct award of a contract without OJEU advertising and observe a minimum 10 day standstill period before the contract is awarded.
- 5.3 If the proposal to provide a direct award is not agreed, or if there is a significant challenge as part of the VEAT process, Executive Board approval is sought to commence a full, open and transparent procurement exercise for a six month contract for the delivery of the Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership Service.

## **6.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The method of procurement complies with the Council's Procurement Standing Orders and Public Contract Regulations 2015, and will publish a VEAT Direct Award as described in section 5.3.

## **7.0 FINANCIAL/RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 As outlined in the report the provision of 0-5 Health Visiting and Family Nurse Partnership services in Halton currently costs £2.6million per year and therefore represents a significant proportion of the total Public Health grant. A seven month contract would therefore have a value of c. £1,520,000.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### **8.1 Children and Young People in Halton**

Local Authorities are well placed to identify health needs and commission services for local people to improve health. The Government's aim is to enable local services to meet local needs. The Healthy Child programme is a critical component in giving every child in Halton 'the best start in life', and improving child development, which is a Halton priority. 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 Health Visitor Service that supports the delivery of both national and local strategies and action plans whilst at the same time meeting the needs of children and their families.

## **8.2 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 their families in reducing the impact of ill health on their life chances and also encourage and support “school readiness”.

## **8.3 A Healthy Halton**

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

## **8.4 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.

## **8.5 Halton’s Urban Renewal**

N/A

## **9.0 RISK ANALYSIS**

9.1 A full risk analysis will be completed as part of the procurement exercise.

## **10.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

10.1 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not required for this report.

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

11.1 None.