

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 8th December 2022

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: Award of Contract for Community Infection Prevention and Control service.

WARD(S) All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to the Award of Contract for the Community Infection Prevention and Control Service.

Approval is sought to proceed with an award of contract to Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for the provision of community infection, prevention and control services on behalf of Halton, Warrington and St Helens councils, following a successful retender process lead by St Helens Council as lead commissioner.

- 2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That the Board approve the proposal to award the contract for Community Infection Prevention and control services for Halton to Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Under the responsibilities of the Health and Social Care Act, Halton Borough Council is responsible for the provision of public health functions across the domains of health promotion, health protection and health care public health.

Infection, prevention and Controls represents a vital service which undertakes duties to promote health, protect the population and provide advice and support to health care services against a variety of infections and infectious agents that pose a threat to our populations.

- 3.2 The Community Infection, Prevention and Control service is commissioned to prevent infections through provision of comprehensive high quality evidence-based infection control, advice and support in the community, and through the promotion,

review and audit of infection prevention and control standards within health, social care and relevant community settings.

Key work of the service includes, but is not limited to:

- Advice and support to professionals, the public and relevant community settings
- Education and training
- Response to cases, clusters of communicable disease
- Outbreak management
- Audit and quality improvement procedures
- Completion of root cause analysis for HCAI's
- Work with commissioners and partners to develop and deliver work plans to achieve relevant national and local targets for example (but not limited to) AMR, MRSA, Clostridium Difficile).

- 3.3 The contract is commissioned on a joint contractual basis between St Helens Borough Council, Warrington Borough Council and Halton Borough Council where all three LAs are liable jointly and severally. St Helens Borough Council act as lead Commissioner for the management of contractual arrangement and processes.

The responsibility for payment of the total contract price is, and going forward will be:

St Helens Borough Council 35%
Warrington Borough Council 40%
Halton Borough Council 25%

The contract value is £2.167m based on a per annum value of £433.527k pa for a contract duration of 3 + 1 + 1.

- 3.4 The service is currently provided by 3 Boroughs Infection Control Team, hosted by St Helens CCG (now transferred under the Cheshire and Merseyside ICS arrangements).
- 3.5 The current contract ends on 31st March 2023. The existing contract has exceeded its maximum 3+1+1 duration, with an additional year agreed under extenuating principles as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. As such a full procurement exercise has been undertaken. A fully compliant FTS tender under the Light Touch Regime was published on the 26th September 2022 for an Infection Prevention Control Service, St Helens Borough Council, Warrington Borough Council, Halton Borough _

Reference – DN634773

- 3.6 One tender submission was received from Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

The incumbent provider St Helens CCG did not submit a tender and did not express an interest in the opportunity.

The tender submission from Bridgewater was evaluated in three stages:

Stage 1 - Evaluation of a Suitability Questionnaire to help ensure Bridgewater have the capability, experience and capacity to provide an IPC Service.

Stage 2 - Evaluation of answers to IPC Tender Questions around how Bridgewater will deliver and manage the service,

Stage 3 - Bridgewater attended an interview to help ensure that they would meet key areas around delivering breadth of the specification, maintaining community focus, clinical supervision and providing the service within budget.

In all three evaluation stages Bridgewater achieved and / or exceeded the required standards and submitted a price of £443.527K per annum that is within budget.

As such we seek to award the contract to this provider to undertake the contract specifications.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The method of procurement complies with the Council's procurement policy and Procurement Standing Orders.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Budget implications are highlighted above, failure to prevent and control infection will impact on other health and social care services.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children and Young People in Halton**

The service provides support to all members of the population including families and children, and support schools and other children setting in creating hygienic and safe environments for our children and young people..

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

The service contributes to supporting local residents to remain healthy and prevent illness best enabling opportunities to remain economically and academically active.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

The service will support our the people in Halton to promote health, protect the population and provide advice and support to health care

services to prevent, and manage a variety of infections and infectious agents that pose a threat to our populations.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The service contributes to a Safer Halton by supporting local people, settings and health care services to minimise risk and harm from infectious diseases and outbreaks.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The Tender process is fully compliant with the Public Contract Regulations, 2015 thus avoiding the risk any potential legal challenges.

Failure to award a contract will result in failure to provide appropriate infection prevention control services that fulfil requirements of the public health functions under the Health and Social Care Act.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 All contractors will be required to demonstrate that they embrace and comply with the Equality Act, and services will be monitored to ensure this is the case.

9.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

To ensure business continuity and maintain provision in infection, prevention and control services across the Borough

10.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

10.1 To issue a Direct Award for a limited period to the current provider, this does not provide a stable environment for the service area. Impacting on performance and service delivery to service users.

11.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

11.1 The contract will commence from 1st April 2023

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

None within the meaning of the Act.