

Report of:	Mark Adams, Director of Public Health Cllr Dorothy Davison, Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
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Submitted to:	Executive – 24 November 2020
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Subject:	Re-procurement of Tees Integrated Sexual Health Service
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Summary

Proposed decision(s)
That Executive approves for Middlesbrough to be part of a re-procurement of a Tees integrated sexual health service with a view to commence the new service on 1 st August 2021.

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?¹
Decision	Yes	No	Yes

Contribution to delivery of the 2020-23 Strategic Plan		
People	Place	Business
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to working with communities to improve local health and wellbeing. Contribute to the welfare of young people and vulnerable adults and protecting them from harm, abuse and neglect through clinical screening for abuse and child sexual exploitation. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contribute to providing employment for local health professionals.
Ward(s) affected		
The sexual health service is available to all wards within Middlesbrough.		

What is the purpose of this report?

To seek approval for Middlesbrough to be part of a re-procurement of a Tees integrated sexual health service with a view to commence the new service on 1st August 2021 for a period of three years.

Why does this report require a Member decision?

This decision is a key decision affecting all wards in Middlesbrough, and with financial implications of over the key threshold of £150,000.

Report Background

There is a statutory duty incumbent on Local Authorities, Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS England and NHS Improvement to commission or provide sexual and reproductive health services¹.

In August 2016, sexual health services were re-commissioned to deliver integrated services across Teesside for 5 years with an option to extend for 2 x 24month periods. Virgin Care Services Ltd. was the successful bidder. The incumbent provider has rejected the offer of a 12 month extension resulting in the collaborative commissioners moving to procure a new service.

In Tees, open access sexual health services are commissioned by six different commissioning bodies (Hartlepool Borough Council, Middlesbrough Borough Council, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council, Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council, NHS Tees Valley Clinical Commissioning Group (formerly South Tees Clinical Commissioning Group and Hartlepool and Stockton Clinical Commissioning Group) and NHS England. Services are seamless to patients.

Sexual Health Teesside (SHT) delivers levels 1, 2, 3 and 4 sexual health services ranging from condom distribution (level 1), provision of contraception (level 2), screening & treatment of Sexually Transmitted Infections (level 3) to vasectomy services (level 4). Services are delivered from a range of hub and spoke clinics, outreach facilities and subcontractors include GPs, Pharmacies, Brook, Terence Higgins Trust (THT), Marie Stopes International and Acculabs.

What decision(s) are being asked for?

To seek approval for Middlesbrough to be part of a re-procurement of a Tees integrated sexual health service with a view to commence the new service on 1st August 2021 for a period of three years.

¹ Commissioning responsibilities: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/making-it-work-a-guide-to-whole-system-commissioning-for-sexual-and-reproductive-health-and-hiv> Public Health England 2015

Why is this being recommended?

Recent changes in public health outcome performance and COVID-19 has driven the need to change the service model. In order to achieve this the Tees Sexual Health Needs Assessment has been refreshed alongside the collation of views sought from stakeholders. A service performance review and a recent piece of research to understand market appetite has developed a revised service specification.

A stakeholder e-consultation was undertaken in July 2020 and feedback has influenced the content of the final service specification. Ongoing consultation takes place with service users as part of the contract monitoring process and the current provider has been consulted throughout this process.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

See above.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

Legal

The legal processes, procurement processes and documentation used for the re-procurement will be that of the lead authority, Stockton Borough Council, and all commission partners agree to this

Financial

Sexual health services will be required to be funded through the ring fenced Public Health Grant. The annual cost is £1,024,937.

It needs to be noted that the funding allocated to the integrated service (as above) would not be enough to cover a solely commissioned Middlesbrough service.

Policy Framework

The requested decision is aligned to the Council's policy Framework.

Equality and Diversity

This service is available for all those needing it therefore there is no specific equality/diversity implications.

Risk

The key risks identified for the re-procurement of sexual health services across Teesside are held in a central risk register. The following are a list of key risks for the reporting period July – September 2020:

- Procurement strategy not agreed by all parties.
- Lack of market interest which may require negotiation with the incumbent provider
- Re-procuring in a short timescale

There is a risk that if Middlesbrough does not engage with the Teeswide commissioning of integrated sexual health services, then Middlesbrough will not be able to fulfil its duties in relation to sexual health. The funding that Middlesbrough contribute to the Tees integrated service is not enough to commission a sexual health service in isolation and this is a service areas where the councils need to collaborate to benefit from economies of scale.

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

The time line refers to the procurement of the core, clinical and integrated sexual health service. The prevention service will be procured later in the year but will commence at the same time

October - December 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Service specifications / model / timeline - signed off • Recovery plan - sign off • TUPE information received from provider / reviewed by sexual health leads • Costs - signed off following receipt of TUPE information • Procurement - advertised via ProContract (bidding opens)
January - February 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation – evaluation of bids occurs • Evaluation - award recommendation presented to sponsor • Standstill commences (10 days) - bidders informed • Standstill closes • Contract awarded • Mobilisation - commences
1st August 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teesside Integrated Sexual Health Service commences

Appendices

None

Background papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report.

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