

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 03 November 2020

TITLE	Extension of Contract for Provision of Sexual Health Services	
Ward(s)	City Wide	
Author: Joanna Copping	Job title: Public Health Consultant	
Cabinet lead: Asher Craig	Executive Director lead: Jacqui Jensen	
Proposal origin: <i>BCC Staff</i>		
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: <i>Cabinet</i>		
Purpose of Report:		
<p>Since 2013 Local Authorities have been responsible for commissioning sexual health services as part of their mandated public health responsibilities. In 2017, Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset Councils jointly commissioned University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW) to fulfil this function, alongside BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Group. The contract is for 5 years from 1 April 2017 until 31 March 2022 with the option of a 2 year extension.</p> <p>We are requesting approval to enact this 2 year extension (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024), subject to financial agreement across all parties.</p>		
Evidence Base:		
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since 1st April 2013, local authorities have been mandated to commission comprehensive open access sexual and reproductive health services. Responsibility for commissioning termination of pregnancy services lies with Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). 2. In April 2017 Bristol, North Somerset & South Gloucestershire Local Authorities (and Bath and North East Somerset Council for chlamydia screening provision) and Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) CCG jointly commissioned a new service called Unity to promote, improve and protect sexual health for the BNSSG population and reduce inequalities. 3. Unity is a partnership of third sector and NHS providers who have united to provide an integrated, open-access HIV, sexual and reproductive health service. This includes rapid STI testing, treatment and partner notification to reduce the spread of infections and complications, comprehensive contraceptive services to reduce unplanned pregnancies, and also accessible termination of pregnancy services. Unity's focus has been on promoting self- management and access and they have delivered on some notable achievements, such as the introduction of extensive online STI testing, the delivery of innovative in-house testing and community clinics located to improve accessibility for the most vulnerable. Unity has continued to provide essential services throughout Covid-19, in line with national guidance. 4. The service was commissioned from University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (now University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW)) through a block contract to incentivise 		

prevention throughout. UHBW subcontract to a number of partners (currently North Bristol NHST Trust, Terrence Higgins Trust & Eddystone, Brook Young People, Marie Stopes International and British Pregnancy Advisory Service). The contract is due to run until 31 March 2022 with the option of extending the contract term for 2 years until 31 March 2024. Bristol City Council is responsible for co-ordinating the commissioning across all organisations.

5. The contract has now been running for over 3 years and the commissioners have therefore considered the following options:
 - i. To enact this extension to the contract with UHBW until 2024 or
 - ii. To recommission sexual health services, either jointly, or as separate organisations, through an open tender process.
6. The preferred option for all commissioners would be to extend the contract until 2024 to enable the Unity service to mature and to continue to provide a stable and integrated service to serve the BNSSG population. This option reduces inefficiencies and costs associated with reprocurement, will enable commissioner-provider relationships to further develop, will avoid duplication and variation in services across the area, as well as providing streamlined and accessible services for the population which is vital during the current Covid-19 pandemic.
7. If this proposal is agreed, formal discussions with the provider and commissioning partners will be required to agree the budget envelope and financial contributions from each party.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet

1. Approve the extension of the Integrated Sexual Health services contract for 2 years until 31st March 2024.
2. Authorise the Executive Director, People in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Communities, Equalities and Public Health to agree with the provider and commissioning partners the budget envelope and financial contributions in relation to the extension of the contract to reflect Bristol's contribution and take all steps required to extend the contract.
3. Agrees that any proposed variation to the Council's contributions will be subject to the approval of the s.151 Officer.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

Theme 4 (Wellbeing) of the Corporate Strategy describes how we need to embed health in all our policies to improve physical & mental health and wellbeing, reduce inequalities and the demand for acute services. It recognises that Public Health is a statutory requirement of Local Authorities and that we need to commission Public Health services to improve the health & wellbeing of our residents. The continued commissioning of this sexual health contract will help to achieve these aims.

City Benefits:

Whilst there is a requirement to provide open access sexual health services to all residents, sexual health problems are not equally distributed within the population. Strong links exist between deprivation and sexually transmitted infections (STIs), teenage conceptions and abortions, with the highest burden borne by women, men who have sex with men (MSM), teenagers, young adults and black and minority ethnic (BAME) groups. Similarly Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) infection in the UK disproportionately affects MSM and Black Africans. Some groups at higher risk of sexual health problems face stigma and discrimination, which can influence their ability to access

services.

The continuation of this integrated sexual health service will enable Bristol to bring key partners together to deliver a collaborative approach to tackling these health inequalities and improve health outcomes. Extending this contract (rather than recommissioning a new service) also reduces inefficiencies and costs associated with reprocurement, will enable commissioner-provider relationships to further develop, will avoid duplication and variation in services across the area, as well as providing stable and accessible services for the Bristol population which is vital during the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Consultation Details:

Consultations have taken place with fellow BNSSG local authority commissioners and the CCG who are in agreement in principle that they would like to enact the option of the 2 year extension.

Background Documents:

A Framework for Sexual Health Improvement in England (Department of Health, 2013):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/a-framework-for-sexual-health-improvement-in-england>

Sexually transmitted infections and screening for chlamydia in England, 2018 (Public Health England, 2019):

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/806118/hpr1919_sti_s-ncsp_ann18.pdf

Revenue Cost	Current budget= £8,143,124 per annum x 2 years Current funding contributions to the total contract value above per annum: BNSSG CCG= £2,132,591 Bristol City Council= £3,854,127 South Glos Council= £966,181 North Somerset Council = £1,160,522 Bath & North East Somerset Council= £29,703	Source of Revenue Funding	Public Health Grant (Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils) and BNSSG CCG.
Capital Cost	£0	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input type="checkbox"/> Ongoing cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		Saving Proposal <input type="checkbox"/> Income generation proposal <input type="checkbox"/>	

Required information to be completed by Financial/Legal/ICT/ HR partners:

1. Finance Advice: The report proposes a two year contract extension at a cost of c£8.1m per annum. Bristol’s contribution can be funded from within existing resources, from Public Health Grant monies. This assumes that Bristol’s contribution remains at £3.854m and that partners agree to continue their contributions at existing levels. However, this may increase slightly depending on whether PrEP funding continues. Formal discussions will need to take place with the provider and commissioning partners to agree this budget envelope and confirm financial contributions, prior to any contract extension. If partner contributions are subject to change, then any variation in Bristol’s contribution will need to be agreed with the Section 151 Officer.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt – 26/10/2020

2. Legal Advice: The extension is in accordance with the terms of the contract. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the contractual arrangements for the extension.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Solicitor/Team Leader, 11 September 2020

3. Implications on IT: As this is a continuation of existing services, we do not anticipate any impact on IT Services from this initiative		
IT Team Leader: Simon Oliver - 9th September 2020		
4. HR Advice: This report seeks to take up the option of a two year extension for commissioned sexual health services provided by UHB and UHBW and this does not have any HR implications for Bristol City Council employees.		
HR Partner: Lorna Laing, 11/09/2020		
EDM Sign-off	Jacqui Jensen	23/09/2020
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Asher Craig	24/09/2020
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	5/10/2020

Appendix A – Further essential background / detail on the proposal	NO
Appendix B – Details of consultation carried out - internal and external	NO
Appendix C – Summary of any engagement with scrutiny	NO
Appendix D – Risk assessment	NO
Appendix E – Equalities screening / impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix F – Eco-impact screening/ impact assessment of proposal	NO
Appendix G – Financial Advice	NO
Appendix H – Legal Advice	NO
Appendix I – Exempt Information	NO
Appendix J – HR advice	NO
Appendix K – ICT	NO
Appendix L – Procurement	NO