

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 10 May 2022

TITLE	Recommissioning of BNSSG Contract for Provision of Sexual Health Services.		
Ward(s)	City wide.		
Author: Joanna Copping	Job title: Consultant in Public Health Medicine		
Cabinet lead: Councillor Ellie King, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Health and Communities	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report: To seek approval to reprocure sexual health services for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) commencing 1 st April 2024.			
Evidence Base: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The value of the current sexual health services contract is around £8.37 million per annum, in total for BNSSG. Bristol City Council contribution is £3,999,321. Bristol City Council is responsible for leading the commissioning and performance management across and behalf of all partners (see detail below). The total budget envelope for all sexual health services for Bristol will be commissioned within the existing parameters. However, the budget for this integrated BNSSG service will be dependent on the services included within the new contract. 2. 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). 3. 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 integrated sexual health service from University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW) to promote, improve and protect sexual health for the BNSSG population and reduce inequalities. 4. The initial contract was for 5 years (1 April 2017- 31 March 22). A 2-year contract extension was evoked by Cabinet in November 2020. The current contract expires on 31st March 2024. 5. The reason for commissioning jointly across BNSSG was to improve efficiency, reduce variation and improve integration of services and pathways. Bristol City Council has been the lead commissioner for this contract as we are responsible for the largest population and budget in relation to sexual health within the area, and have the greatest needs and inequalities 			

6. The sexual health service, Unity, is currently commissioned from University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW) through a block contract to incentivise prevention throughout. This service includes sexual health promotion and prevention, contraception, sexually transmitted infection testing, treatment and partner notification, Chlamydia screening, psychosexual counselling, HIV prevention, pregnancy testing, termination of pregnancy, training provision and research participation.
7. UHBW currently subcontract to several partners:
 - North Bristol NHS Trust for termination of pregnancy services
 - Terrence Higgins Trust for HIV and health promotion
 - Eddystone for tackling HIV and wider sexual health stigma and discrimination in North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
 - Brook for sexual health services for young people under 20
 - Marie Stopes International for termination of pregnancy services
 - British Pregnancy Advisory Service for termination of pregnancy services
8. Sexual health primary care services are also commissioned by each local authority individually. General practices are commissioned to provide long-acting reversible contraception, chlamydia screening for young people under 25 and condom collection for young people under 20s. Pharmacies provide emergency hormonal contraception, chlamydia screening and treatment for under 25s, and condom collection for under 20s. GPs also provide sexual health services as part of their general contract (NHS England have delegated commissioning to the CCG), including contraception, pregnancy advice and testing or referral for sexually transmitted infections. In Bristol these contracts total £350,000.
9. HIV prevention is commissioned by local authorities, but HIV treatment is commissioned by NHS England and provided by North Bristol Trust.
10. Further to the White paper 'Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all', the Health and Care Bill was introduced to parliament in July 2021. Building on recommendations from NHS England it reinforces the need for closer collaboration between the NHS, local authorities, and care providers to provide more joined up care. It proposes legislative changes to encourage collaboration and reduce competition within healthcare commissioning. This includes a new procurement regime to enable commissioners to direct award contracts in specific circumstances where competitive tendering is unlikely to add value. This new regime is expected to apply to this sexual health contract.
11. The Bill legislates for every part of England to be covered by an Integrated Care Board (ICB) and an Integrated Care Partnership (ICP). There will be a new Integrated Care Provider Contract which will enable commissioners to award a single contract to a provider that is responsible for the integrated provision of the majority of primary, secondary, community and other health and care services in an area.
12. The Sexual Health Oversight Group is made up of the responsible directors of public health for each local authority and the director of commissioning for the CCG. They are responsible for the oversight of the commissioning of sexual health services and have agreed that Bristol City Council should continue to lead this process including the reprocurement.
13. As part of the commissioning process, Bristol City Council will be leading on an in-depth BNSSG-wide sexual health needs assessment, which will be completed by Autumn 2022. This will involve an analysis of quantitative and qualitative data pertaining to the sexual health needs and inequalities within the BNSSG population to determine gaps and recommendations for commissioning. It will include analysis of sexual health epidemiological data, mapping of current services and assets, analysis of current service performance, and consultation with service users, stakeholders, and residents. It will also consider

evidence of effectiveness of interventions and national and local policy including the new national sexual health strategy which is due to be published spring 2022.

14. The outcomes of this sexual health needs assessment will inform our commissioning intentions. All options -including direct award or recommissioning with a new contract, will need to be considered as part of the recommissioning process. The budget for this service is dependent on what is included in the specification. The duration of the new contract is likely to be at least 5 years with an option to extend by a further 2 years.
15. A BNSSG-wide Recommissioning Steering Group, with representation from all local authority commissioners, Bristol City Council procurement and the CCG, has been appointed to oversee the process of recommissioning. There will be oversight from the BNSSG Sexual Health Oversight Group.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet

1. Approve the proposed approach to procurement of sexual health services for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, with Bristol City Council as lead commissioner.
2. Authorise the Executive Director for People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Health and Communities to procure and award the contract(s) (including any over £500k) necessary for the implementation of BNSSG Sexual Health Services from 1st April 2024, noting the associated Legal commentary.
3. Authorise the Executive Director for People, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Public Health and Communities City to invoke any subsequent extensions/variations specifically defined in the contract(s) being awarded as outlined in this report.
4. Authorise the Executive Director, People in consultation with the Section 151 Officer and Deputy Mayor with responsibility for Public Health and Communities to agree with the provider and commissioning partners the duration of the new contract, budget envelope and financial contributions in relation to the contract(s) to reflect Bristol's contribution, noting the budget envelope for the new service will be determined based upon an assessment of need and associated costs and affordability of meeting this need.
5. Authorises the Head of Strategic Procurement & Supplier Relations to approve appropriate procurement routes to market where these are not yet fully defined in this report, or if changes to procurement routes are subsequently required.
6. Note that a report will be brought back to Cabinet to note the outcome of recommendation 4.

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 recommissioning of an 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.

Consultation Details:

Consultations have taken place with partner commissioners within BNSSG who agree in principle that they are equally committed to the joint recommissioning of integrated sexual health services. They have agreed to support this process, with Bristol City Council taking the lead.

Background Documents:

- a. [Commissioning local HIV sexual and reproductive health services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)
- b. [Commissioning Sexual Health services and interventions \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- c. [Making it work revised March 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](http://publishing.service.gov.uk)
- d. [Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all \(HTML version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Revenue Cost	The budget envelope for a new service will be determined based upon an assessment of need and associated costs and affordability of meeting this need. 21/22 budget for Unity = £8,375,149 per annum. Bristol City Council contribution is £3,999,321 Plus £350,000 for Bristol primary care services.	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:** This report seeks approval to reprocur sexual health services for Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) commencing 1st April 2024. It requests delegated authority to progress the detail, with providers, commissioning partners including the duration of the new contract, budget envelope and financial contributions in relation to the contract and a report will be brought back to Cabinet on the outcome.

BCC currently makes a contribution of c£4 million to the £8.4 million current contract which is funded from the Public Health Grant. The future contract will need to be based on an assessment of need with due regard to affordability and the limits of the BCC Public Health resource envelope.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt 27th April 2022

2. Legal Advice: The procurement process must be conducted in line with the 2015 Procurement Regulations and the Councils own procurement rules. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the conduct of the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones 27th April 2022

3. Implications on IT: I can see no implications on IT in regard to this activity.

IT Team Leader: Gavin Arbuckle Head of Service Improvement and Performance 3rd March 2022

4. HR Advice: The report is requesting agreement to reprocur sexual health services for the BNSSG and there are no HR implications arising from this request.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing 25th February 2022

EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans	9/03/2022
Cabinet Member sign-off	Councillor Ellie King	14/03/2022
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	11/04/2022

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	YES
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