

Decision Pathway – Report



PURPOSE: Key decision

MEETING: Cabinet

DATE: 06 September 2022

TITLE	Sexual Health Services contract extension to March 2025		
Ward(s)	All		
Author: Christina Gray	Job title: Director of Public Health		
Cabinet lead: Cllr Ellie King, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities	Executive Director lead: Hugh Evans, Executive Director People		
Proposal origin: BCC Staff			
Decision maker: Cabinet Member			
Decision forum: Cabinet			
Purpose of Report:			
To request approval for the extension of existing sexual health contracts for 1 year (1 st April 2024 to 31 st March 2025) to accommodate the publication of the new national Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy, sexual health service specification and the introduction of the NHS Provider Selection Regime during 2022 – 23.			
Evidence Base:			
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Since 2013 Local Authorities have been responsible for commissioning sexual health services as part of their mandated public health responsibilities. 2. In 2017, Bristol City Council, on behalf of Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Bath & North East Somerset Councils and BNSSG Clinical Commissioning Groups jointly commissioned University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust (UHBW) to fulfil this function. The service is called Unity Sexual Health Service and its role is to promote, improve and protect sexual health for the BNSSG population and reduce inequalities in that regard. This contract expires on 31st March 2024. 3. To complement the main Unity service, primary care providers (GPs and pharmacists) are also commissioned to deliver long-acting contraception, emergency contraception, chlamydia screening and condoms. 4. The request to extend the contract for a year from 1st April 2024 to 31st March 2025 includes sexual health services delivered in primary care as well as specialist sexual health services. 5. The intention was to recommission these services with a new start date of 1st April 2024, however delay to expected publication of key national guidance combined with the NHS reorganisation and establishment of the new Integrated Care Board have had a significant impact on our ability to proceed with the procurement process. 6. The new national Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy is now expected in 2022 – 2023. The new national service specification for Sexual Health, which is required to inform the local specification, is also expected in 2022 – 2023. The last specification was published in 2013. And the new NHS procurement regulations, which will likely have a significant impact on these services are also expected during 2022 – 2023. 			

7. The Clinical Commissioning Group has been replaced by the Integrated Care Board as of 1st July 2022. Commissioning is no longer a core function within the new arrangement, focuses being on collaborative system working, performance and delivery. The system is in its infancy, and it will be some months before we will fully know what the impact of this new approach is for the provision and delivery of services, and how this will impact on different system models for sexual health, as informed by the guidance documents outlined above.
8. The decision would be subject to financial agreement across all parties, who have been informed of the request to extend the contract and asked for written confirmation of their support in principle to extend.

Cabinet Member / Officer Recommendations:

That Cabinet:

1. Authorise the Executive Director People in consultation with the Cabinet Member Public Health and Communities to take all steps required to extend the Integrated Sexual Health services contract and primary care contracts (including individual contracts over £500k) for 1 year from April 2024 to March 2025 as outlined in this report.

Corporate Strategy alignment:

The Wellbeing theme of the Corporate Strategy describes the need to embed health in all 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 the need to commission Public Health services to improve the health & wellbeing of our residents. The provision of sexual health services is essential 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 minoritised groups. 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 provide for the continuation of stable and accessible services for the Bristol population.

Consultation Details:

Consultations have taken place with all BNSSG local authority commissioners and the CCG which is in agreement that it is necessary to maintain current arrangements until 2025 to accommodate the new national guidance.

Background Documents:

- a. [Commissioning local HIV sexual and reproductive health services - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408357/Commissioning_local_HIV_sexual_and_reproductive_health_services_-_GOV.UK_(www.gov.uk))
- b. [Commissioning Sexual Health services and interventions \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408357/Commissioning_Sexual_Health_services_and_interventions_(publishing.service.gov.uk))
- c. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408357/Making_it_work_revised_March_2015.pdf
- d. [Integration and innovation: working together to improve health and social care for all \(HTML version\) - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/408357/Integration_and_innovation_working_together_to_improve_health_and_social_care_for_all_(HTML_version)_-GOV.UK_(www.gov.uk))

Revenue Cost	£8,420,703 for Unity contract (Bristol's contribution is £4,040,030) £363,011 for Bristol primary care services	Source of Revenue Funding	Public Health Grant (Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Councils) and BNSSG CCG.
Capital Cost	£N/A	Source of Capital Funding	N/A
One off cost <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ongoing cost <input 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 Cabinet approval for the extension of the Integrated Sexual Health services contract (Unity and primary care contracts) for 1 year from April 2024, to accommodate the publication of new national guidance. It is estimated that the Unity contract will cost c£8.4m and Bristol's contribution will be c£4.04m with the balance being picked up by partner organisations. The primary care services contract will cost c£0.36m.

It is recommended that the confirmation of partners' agreements to make a extension for a further year is sought (via their own decision pathways) prior to the letting of the contract. This should include consideration of and acceptance of any risks by all partners, in the event that the contract sum changes, as a result of any contract extension negotiations which may take place. Any increase in BCC share of the costs will need to be funded from the Public Health Grant.

Finance Business Partner: Denise Hunt, Finance Business Partner 18 July 2022

2. Legal Advice: The extension is required to allow time for the Council to consider new national guidance and to follow a fully compliant procurement process. Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the contractual arrangements for the extension.

Legal Team Leader: Husinara Jones, Legal Team Leader 11 August 2022

3. Implications on IT: There are no IT implications evident in this proposal, which extends existing arrangements. Any future potential change in supplier or service may have some implications, for example if it requires any lawful, appropriate data transfers or raises issues in different systems used by suppliers in providing the service. In practice this should not have internal implications for BCC, but IT advice should be sought during the project to reprocur the service to confirm this and help assure any contractual arrangements relating to data or systems.

IT Team Leader: Tim Borrett, Director: Policy, Strategy and Digital, 26 July 2022

4. HR Advice: The report is seeking approval for the extension of existing sexual health these contracts for 1 year and there are no significant HR implications arising from this report.

HR Partner: Lorna Laing, HR Business Partner 19 July 2022.

EDM Sign-off	Hugh Evans	20 July 2022
Cabinet Member sign-off	Cllr Ellie King	28 July 2022
For Key Decisions - Mayor's Office sign-off	Mayor's Office	08/08/2022

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