

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Allison Duggal, Interim Director of Public Health

DECISION NO:

18/00051b

For publication

Subject matter: Extension and variation of the contract for *the provision of a free condom programme for young people throughout Kent* until March 2025.

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates: Relating to key decision 18/00051b taken in October 2018, <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/mglIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=49560&Opt=0>

Decision: Extension and variation of *the provision of a free condom programme for young people throughout Kent* with the current provider, METRO, until 31 March 2025. This is in line with the key decision 18/00051b.

Reason(s) for decision: Following a comprehensive contractual review, KCC public health commissioning found that Metro, the contracted provider, delivered most of its intended outcomes throughout the first contractual period (2019 – 2022) e.g., the provision of a robust condom programme, face to face outreach activity, sexual health training for practitioners working with young people.

The Commissioners along with the Public Health Specialist and Consultant will work together to amend the Key Performance Indicators and activity metrics to ensure they are fit for purpose, based on learning from throughout the pandemic and the first contractual term itself. These amendments will constitute a minor contract variation, although the services provided will continue as per the original specification and outcomes desired when the contract was procured. The variation will be developed and shaped in collaboration with the Consultant in Public Health. Themes of the changes includes

- reviewing and refreshing the key performance indicators and metrics so that they are more fit for purpose,
- refining reporting processes to provide greater visibility of activity.

Financial Implications:

The cost to extend the condom programme contract for an additional three years is estimated to be £578,218. This is the agreed price for fixed costs during the first three years of the contract as per the original tender, although condom demand and KCC's priorities for the service will likely lead to an increase in the amount payable for the extension.

Legal implications: The provision of open access sexual health services is a statutory responsibility for local authorities as per The Local Authorities (Public Health Functions and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) regulations 2013. Therefore, the condom programme contract is deemed an essential service as it is one of the services KCC commission to achieve this statutory obligation.

The Public Contract Regulations 2015 provide the legal framework by which local authorities are permitted to procure public goods and services. The recommendation is being made in line with the guidelines of this legislation.

Equality Implications: An EQIA was complete when the contract was originally procured in 2018. This contract extension and variation will not change the way service users' access, interact with, or experience the service, therefore there are no associated equality implications.

As has been the case throughout the first contractual period, all service changes will be continually reviewed throughout the second period and the EQIA will be updated should it be necessary.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

Wendy Jeffreys, Consultant in Public Health has recommended that a refreshed EQIA would be worth conducting. Commissioners will complete this in January 2022.

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

1. No longer have a condom programme (do nothing): Rejected on the grounds that the decision may disadvantage some young people from accessing condoms and there may be a risk of other commissioned services, such as integrated sexual health clinics, being overwhelmed by increased condom demand.
2. Re-procure the condom programme: Rejected as felt that re-producing at this time would not disrupt the target audience currently accessing the programme and result in fragmentation of the sexual health system.

Any conflict of interest declared by any executive member consulted by the decision maker and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

None.



21/12/2021

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signed

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date