

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL – RECORD OF OFFICER DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY:

Dr Anjan Ghosh, Director of Public Health

DECISION NO:**For publication**

Subject matter: Long-Acting Reversible Contraception in Primary Care

Cabinet Member decision to which this action relates:
Key Decision 23/00062

[23/00062 - Long-Acting Reversible Contraception in Primary Care](#)

Decision:

As Director of Public Health, I agree to award contracts to successful Primary Care providers for the Supply of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), commencing on 1 December 2023 for an initial period of one year, with the potential for two 12-month extensions as per the original decision. It is noted that there has been a slight slippage in the start date from the originally planned 1 October, attributed to operational considerations. This Officer ROD will approve the initial contract term of one year, with subsequent Officer RODs required for the extension periods when they are due. The revised contract terms reflect the planned maximum three-year period, taking into account the deferred start date. The estimated spend for the one-year period on this activity-based service will be in the region of £1,300,000, with a total estimated spend for the three years being just over £4m.

Reason(s) for decision:

The Record of Decision 23/00062 delegated authority to the Director of Public Health award new contracts and take relevant action, including, but not limited to, finalising the terms, entering contract and other legal requirements, as necessary to implement the decision. This Officer decision confirms the award of new contracts to 100 Primary Care providers for the Supply of Long-Acting Reversible Contraception (LARC), and to continue to contract with additional providers who engage with the ongoing Dynamic Purchasing System opportunity and successfully pass the required criteria.

Financial Implications:

The contract operates on an activity-based model, where the total cost is contingent upon the number of procedures that are carried out. The estimated value of these contracts is expected to be in the region of £4,155,000 including activity and reimbursement of devices until 30th November 2026.

Legal implications:

LARC services are awarded to primary care providers via a light-touch Public Contract Regulation 2015 procurement compliant process for the period of one year (1 December 2023 to 30 November 2024) with options for two additional 12-month extensions (up until 30 November 2026).

Equality Implications: An Equalities Impact Assessment for continuing delivery of LARC in primary care was completed for the re-procurement plan. The re-procurement process has been successful

in maintaining service continuity and the number of providers in a steady level. As there are no changes to the service model, Equality implications for any specific protected groups do not arise from the re-procurement. While the new contract provides additional opportunities to enhance coverage via collaboration between Practices, some positive overall implications can be expected.

Data Protection Implications: A Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) screening tool has been completed and a full DPIA has been drafted. DPIA draft is progressing in collaboration with stakeholders. As this service model has not changed, minimal implications to data protection are likely.

Comments received from any Members or Officers consulted:

The following Officers have been consulted with no additional comments.

Wendy Jeffreys, Consultant in Public Health

Matt Wellard, Commercial and Procurement Manager

Jane Blenkinsop, Finance Business Manager

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health:

No additional comments made

Any alternatives considered and rejected:

Not awarding the contracts would disrupt continuity of care and limit patient choice. Without primary care offering LARC services, there would likely be a decrease in uptake of LARC, leading to more unintended pregnancies and terminations. Integrated sexual health services may struggle to handle the increased workload, resulting in longer wait times and limited availability.

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

Signed



Dr Anjan Ghosh

Date: 12 March 2024