

By: Graham Gibbens
Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Public Health
Andrew Scott-Clark, Acting Director of Public Health

To: Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee

Date: 2nd May 2014

Subject: Tendering for Community Sexual Health Services

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary

Public Health are part-way through the competitive tendering process for sexual health services in Kent. Tenders for the seven different lots are currently being evaluated and a key decision to award contracts is due to be taken on or shortly after 30th May. The procurement timetable has been delayed beyond the initial planned period to allow for clarification on requirements for integration with HIV treatment services. The new service model is due to start operating on 5th January 2015, following a six month mobilisation period.

Recommendation:

The Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and either endorse or make recommendations on the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to:

1. Identify the preferred bidder/s, from amongst those listed in the accompanying exempt report;
2. Agree the award of the contract/s to those bidder/s, to deliver Community Sexual Health services

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update on the procurement process for community sexual health services across Kent and outline the process for the award of contract.

2. Background

- 2.1. In October 2013, Public Health presented a proposal to the Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee to undertake a competitive tendering process to establish a new integrated service model for community sexual health services across Kent. The Committee endorsed the proposal and highlighted the importance of the service.
- 2.2. The initial planned timetable for establishing the new service model for sexual health services has been delayed due to a number of external factors including national

policy issues relating to integrated working between sexual health and HIV treatment services.

- 2.3. NHS England has agreed in principle to the continued integration of Genito-urinary Medicine (GUM) and local HIV services. The requirements of, and payments from, NHS England will be detailed prior to the award of contract.
- 2.4. Public Health has also undertaken a detailed review and market engagement exercise with a wide range of interested parties and potential service providers. Presentations at market engagement events explained the key requirements and procurement process for the new service, including the structuring of the services into seven lots.
- 2.5. As a part of the market engagement process, potential providers were invited to network, learn more about what each other do and consider opportunities for building a consortium in order to submit a joint bid for one or more of the seven lots outlined in Appendix A.
- 2.6. The new integrated service model includes a dedicated sexual health service for young people and expanded provision for psychosexual counselling. It also includes a dedicated contract for a clinical network to ensure effective standards, governance and integration across all of the services.
- 2.7. The new service model will offer increased access and availability of the full range of sexual health services. The service will be delivered from locations in each district and will have extended outreach activity in areas of greatest need.

3. Procurement process

- 3.1. The formal procurement process started in November 2013 with pre-qualification questionnaires (PQQs) being issued to all organisations who had submitted an expression of interest in bidding for the contracts.
- 3.2. Public Health evaluated PQQs in line with the evaluation guidance that had been published and Strategic Procurement issued an Invitation to Tender (ITT) on 18th March to all organisations or consortia who had passed the PQQ stage.
- 3.3. Tenders are currently being evaluated against a range of quality criteria and standards, as well as price. The evaluation panel will recommend awarding contracts to the bidder offering the best value for money overall, taking account of quality and price. The evaluation panels include commissioners from Social Care, Health and Wellbeing (including Public Health and Commissioning), NHS England and Public Health England, as well as young people for three of the seven lots.
- 3.4. The contract award for sexual health will be a key decision for the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, and will be taken on or after 30th May, following full tender evaluation. This committee has the opportunity to comment on and either endorse or make recommendations on the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1. The indicative combined budget for the seven lots that make up the new model for community sexual health services is £8million per year, with an initial contract period

of two years, with a possible two year extension. The actual spend will vary according to activity and the prices submitted as part of the tendering process.

- 4.2. The contracts for sexual health services will include provision to ensure the new services maximise access to sexual health services and deliver best value for money for the County Council.

5. Conclusion

- 5.1. Following the Committee's approval to re-tender community sexual health services, Public Health have undertaken a competitive procurement process and are currently in the process of evaluating tenders for the seven lots that make up the new service model.
- 5.2. The contract award will be a key decision due to be taken on or shortly after 30th May. The Acting Director of Public Health will, in his verbal update to the Cabinet Committee on 11th July, inform the committee as to the outcome of the evaluation and contract award.

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 The Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to consider and either endorse or make recommendations on the proposed decision to be taken by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health, to:
 1. Identify the preferred bidder/s, from amongst those listed in the accompanying exempt report;
 2. Agree the award of the contract/s to those bidder/s, to deliver Community Sexual Health services

Background documents

None

Report prepared by:

Mark Gilbert, Commissioning and Performance Manager, Public Health
0300 333 6497
Mark.Gilbert@kent.gov.uk

Faiza Khan, Consultant in Public Health
0300 333 5866
Faiza.Khan@kent.gov.uk

Wendy Jeffreys, Public Health Specialist
0300 333 5148
Wendy.Jeffreys@kent.gov.uk

Relevant Director:

- Andrew Scott-Clark: Acting Director of Public Health
- 0300 333 5176
- Andrew.scott-clark@kent.gov.uk

Appendix A – Integrated Sexual Health Services – Details of lots

1. Genitourinary Medicine Service (GUM) with Contraception and Sexual Health Services (CASH)
2. Young People's Sexual Health Services
3. Psychosexual Counselling Services
4. The Continuing Development, Implementation, Coordination and Evaluation of the Community Pharmacy
5. Development, Coordination, Implementation and Monitoring of the National Chlamydia Screening Programme Amongst 15-24 Year Olds in Kent
6. The Expansion of a Free Condom Programme
7. The Establishment and Facilitation of a Clinical Network in Kent