

From: Andrew Scott Clark, Interim Director of Public Health
To: Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee

3rd November 2014

Decision No. 14/00109
Subject: School Public Health
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary

This paper outlines the plan for the implementation of a new school public health service across Kent. It recommends that the current contracts to deliver the service are extended with a new service specification that reflects a revised model.

The paper also outlines that a review is underway to identify opportunities to integrate the school public health provision with Kent County Council Early Help and Preventative services, resulting in improved pathways of provision for children and families.

Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to take the decision to extend the contracts with Kent Community Health Trust and with Medway Foundation Trust until 30th September 2015 to allow the outcome of the Healthy Child Review to influence a future procurement of these services.

1 Introduction

1.1 This paper presents the progress on the implementation of a new model for the School Public Health. It follows the paper presented to the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee on the 9th July 2014, and 23rd September.

1.2 The paper proposes that a decision is taken to extend the current contract with Kent Community Health Trust (KCHT) and with Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) but to implement a new specification for school health.

2 Background

2.1 Kent County Council commissions the Kent School Public Health service (SPH) which consists of the Public Health School Nursing service and the Healthy Schools programme. School nurses lead and deliver key elements of the Healthy Child Programme 5-19 including the mandated National Childhood Measurement Programme (NCMP)¹. SPH also includes a vaccination programme, which is commissioned separately by NHS England and School Nursing provision to special

¹ DH (2014) 'Maximising the school nursing contribution to the public health of school aged children: guidance to support the commissioning of public health provision for school aged children' www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/303769/Service_specifications.pdf

schools and children in care which is commissioned by Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). The budget for the total Kent County Council commissioned service is £5,047,000 with KCHT and £421,000 with MFT.

2.2 Currently, Kent Community Health Trust (KCHT) delivers the SPH service across Kent with the exception of part of Swale, where SPH Nursing is delivered by Medway NHS Foundation Trust. The current contract runs until April 2015.

3 Remodelling and Transforming the Kent School Public Health Service

3.1 On 9th July 2014, the Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee was asked to comment on a paper which proposed a new model for School Public Health. This was based on a review of the SPH Nursing Service and the publication of a national specification for school nursing.

3.2 A new model with key performance indicators has now been finalised for the service. The specification for the service will reflect key challenges in improving the health of children and young people, including a strong role in relation to preventing and tackling obesity, building the capability of the service to support children and young people's emotional and mental health. Commissioners will ensure that the service is visible and well publicised to children and young people and that it will improve the links with GPs.

3.3 In addition to the work to develop the model, robust contract monitoring arrangements have been established with the provider to ensure that the key requirements of the specification and improvements to the service are delivered. This will be closely monitored over the coming months. There is also work in place to improve recruitment to the service.

3.4 Concurrent to the work on the model, the Children's Health and Wellbeing Board has established a task and finish group to review how delivery of The Healthy Child Programme 0-18 can be best integrated with the Kent County Council transformation programme, in particular Early Help and Preventative services. The Director of Public Health and the Director of Preventative Services jointly chair this review. This review will ensure that opportunities for integration of provision are maximised and children and young people and their families receive integrated services.

3.5 Once this review has concluded, there may be some change to the model of provision for school health. The review will ensure that pathways of provision between the public health and early intervention services are seamless. Extending the current contract with KCHT and MFT will ensure that there is continuity of service and opportunity to deliver improvement, but the approach to implementation will also allow for future changes to the service recommended from the review.

3.6 There will be a similar opportunity to review the model for the child public health nursing services, including the 0-5 services, when the commissioning of Health Visiting services is transferred to the Local Authority in October 2015. Kent County Council is working closely with NHS England, as the current commissioner of the Health Visiting service, to ensure smooth transition of the service. Through this joint working, Kent County Council commissioners are developing an understanding of the current Health Visiting service arrangements and the operational and delivery alignment with the School nursing service.

3.7 It is recommended that the existing contracts with KCHT and MTW are extended to ensure continuity of service whilst the Healthy Child programme review takes

place.. This review should be concluded by April 2015. A key decision will be required to extend the contracts until 30th September 2015. Proposals to re-procure the service will be presented to the Committee in 2015.

4 Conclusion

4.1 This paper outlines the progress of the implementation of a new model for School Public Health. It identifies the opportunities which can be realised through implementing the revised service specification, with robust contract monitoring through an extension of the current contract.

5 Recommendation

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to take the decision to extend the contracts with Kent Community Health Trust and with Medway Foundation Trust until 30th September 2015 to allow the outcome of the Healthy Child Review to influence a future procurement of these services.

6 Contact details

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

Background Document

Children's Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee (2009) 'A New Model for School Public Health'

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/g5636/Public%20reports%20pack%2009th-Jul-2014%2010.00%20Childrens%20Social%20Care%20and%20Health%20Cabinet%20Committee.pdf?T=10>