

From: Peter Oakford, Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services
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To: Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 22 March 2016

Subject: **UPDATE ON THE PROCUREMENT OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S MENTAL HEALTH SERVICE**

Classification: Unrestricted

Previous Pathway of Paper: None

Future Pathway of Paper: None

Electoral Division: All

Summary: This report gives an update on the planned procurement of the children and young people's mental health service. The current contract ends on 31 August 2016. The procurement process is due to commence in March 2016. Due to the complex nature of the new service the West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group is proposing to use a competitive dialogue process to secure the best possible provider who can work with commissioners to deliver the new all-encompassing children and young people's mental health service. This is a longer procurement process which will necessitate a six month contract extension.

Recommendation(s): The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the content of the report.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The current children and young people's mental health service is provided by Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT). The service is commissioned by West Kent Clinical Commissioning Group (WK CCG) on behalf of all Kent Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCG)s and Kent County Council.
- 1.2 The current contract is due to end on 31 August 2016. A procurement process is being planned.

2. Current position

- 2.1 Work has been taking place over the last 18 months which has resulted in development of the multi-agency Emotional Wellbeing Strategy, The Way Ahead and new service model.

Commissioners and Consultants from the NHS, KCC and Public Health have been working together to develop new service specifications for the mental health and emotional wellbeing services. This work has been very complex; bringing together a number of difference services.

2.2 Two separate specifications have been developed to meet the diverse needs of children and young people.

- The Public Health School service will deliver targeted emotional health services across the age range; primary, secondary and tertiary age children and their parents and carers in Kent. It will build resilience of children and young people, building on their strengths and assets to improve the general health and wellbeing of young people and their families by delivering individual and whole school interventions in partnership with school and college staff and the wider children and young people's workforce.
- The children and young people's mental health service will provide targeted and specialist mental health intervention.

2.3 As a result of the analysis of demand and feedback during the consultation stage, KCC (EHPS) will be contributing funding to the new mental health contract to ensure that there is additional capacity in the Early Help Units, to prevent escalation into the specialist mental health service. This will be in the form of skilled Primary Mental Health Workers, who will be employed by the children and young people's mental health service provider.

3. Commissioning and procurement update

3.1 A Commissioning and Procurement Board is in place to oversee the procurement of the new mental health contract. The Board is jointly chaired by the Corporate Director of Social Care, Health and Wellbeing and the Accountable Officer for NHS WK CCG.

3.2 At the Board meeting in December 2015 it was agreed that, in order to complete the work developing the specification, the procurement process would not commence until March 2016. WK CCG as the lead commissioner has proposed that a competitive dialogue procurement process should be used. This process is particularly suitable due to the complex nature of the contract. This process is used to refine requirements through dialogue with engaged bidders beyond that which was originally undertaken at the market event in November 2015. As this is a longer process, it is necessary to offer the current provider a contract variation to extend the contract to cover the period 1 September 2016 – 31 March 2017. WK CCG are progressing this.

3.3 The CCGs are proposing that new mental health contract will be for five years, with an option to extend for up to two years.

3.4 The procurement process is due to commence in March 2016. The new service is planned to start 1 April 2017.

- 3.5 A key decision by the Cabinet Member will be required pre contract award.
- 3.6 A section 76 Agreement will be developed over the coming months, to be in place when the new contract starts on 1 April 2017.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 There are no legal implications associated with this report.

6. Equality Implications

- 6.1 There are no equality implications associated with this report.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 The services described in these specifications are part of a whole system pathway designed to meet the emotional wellbeing and mental health needs of children and young people in the context of their family.

8. Recommendation

- 8.1 **Recommendation(s):** The Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee is asked to **NOTE** the content of the report.

9. Background Documents

Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee Reports - 20 January 2015, 8 September 2015 and 2 December 2015

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s50705/B7%20-%20Emotional%20Wellbeing%20and%20Mental%20Health%20Services.pdf>

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s59415/B2%20-%20Emotional%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy%20Cover%20Report%20-%20Final.pdf>

<https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/documents/s61019/C3%20-%20Update%20on%20the%20Children%20in%20Care%20Mental%20Health%20Service.pdf>

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