

**By:** Graham Gibbens, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health  
Meradin Peachey, Director of Public Health

**To:** Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee

**Date:** 4<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Subject:** Tendering for an integrated model of sexual health services in Kent

**Classification:** Unrestricted

### **Summary**

The commissioning of sexual health services is now the responsibility of local authorities.

There will be changes made to the delivery of sexual health services, based upon the findings of the review conducted.

The tendering of sexual health services will commence in October 2013.

### **Recommendation**

Members of the Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee are asked to consider and endorse, comment or make recommendations on the proposed decision to be taken by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to:

Tender for services as detailed within the report.

## **1. Introduction**

The purpose of this paper to set out the proposed changes to the sexual health services in Kent. Cabinet committee are requested to have regard to the content of the report.

## **2. Background**

### **2.1 Review of current services**

In February 2013, a decision was taken by the Director of Public Health to commission through West Kent PCT for West Kent:

- An external consultancy to engage and consult with users of the services, professionals and managers to identify views on the quality of service provision and potential changes and
- An external public health organisation to review the access, availability and activity levels of services and population sexual health outcomes such as the rates of infection

Audit of enhanced services provided by GPs and community pharmacists to provide long acting reversible contraception and emergency hormonal contraception were undertaken by public health supported by the local medical committee and local pharmacy council..

In June 2013 a decision was taken by the Cabinet Member Adult Social Care & Public Health, Graham Gibbens, to go out to tender on sexual health services across Kent. Specific engagement with stakeholder and users was conducted in East Kent through the surveys used in West Kent. East Kent professionals had participated in the external review and East Kent services have been incorporated into the external review of services.

Assessments of population groups needs have been reviewed or undertaken such as the sexual health needs of those with learning disabilities.

### **2.1.1 The review identified three key recommendations:**

- An integrated model of delivery;
- Improved accessibility to services;
- Improved communication about services.

### **2.1.2 Proposed change to service delivery**

The model of delivery will be a hub and spoke. This will give a located service in every district based upon the differing population needs. The sexual health services will be integrated with one another and with other services such as drug and alcohol or Kent Integrated Adolescent Support Services (KIASS).

To improve access to services, providers will be expected to:

- ensure that outreach work becomes a significant and flexible component of service delivery.
- offer appointments and drop in options. Provide services at the weekends, before 9am and after 5pm

and that there is a single telephone number for all services.

The promotion of services and information about service delivery points will be provided through the creation of an integral sexual health services and sexual health information website.

### **3.0 Implications**

Sexual Health is one of the mandated services, as outlined in the Health and Social Care Act that Local Authorities have responsibility to commission. These include community contraception services, emergency contraception, pharmacy sexual health provision, Genitourinary medicine (GUM) services, Local HIV prevention and sexual health promotion.

The proposed service changes enable potentially new providers to offer their expertise and services thereby bringing increased competition into the market.

### **4.0 Financial consequences**

The sexual health budget is the largest within public health. Going out to tender will offer better value for money and efficiencies through integration of services.

### **5.0 Planned timeframe**

Notice will be served to current providers at the end of November 2013. A mobilisation period of at least four months is needed and therefore a contract start date is planned for July 1<sup>st</sup> 2014.

## **6. Recommendation**

- Members of the Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee are asked to consider and endorse, comment or make recommendations on the proposed decision to be taken by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health to:

Tender for services as detailed within the report

## **7. Contact Details**

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## **8. Background documents**

None