

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**PUBLIC HEALTH, PREVENTION AND PERFORMANCE
CABINET PANEL
10 MAY 2018 AT 10.00 AM**

Agenda Item No.

3

**FAMILY CENTRE SERVICE CONTRACT AWARD - PUBLIC HEALTH
NURSING ELEMENT**

Report of the Director of Public Health

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Executive Member:-Richard Roberts, Public Health, Prevention and
Performance

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 To inform panel of the outcome of the procurement process for the Public Health Nursing element of the new Hertfordshire Family Centre Service.

2. Summary

- 2.1 The County Council is responsible for a range of services for families, children and young people including Health Visiting, School Nursing and Children's Centres.
- 2.2 The County Council's contracts for the Health Visiting service and School Nursing service (Public Health Nursing Service) and Children's Centre programme, currently expire on 30 September 2018 and needed to be re-procured.
- 2.3 Children's Services and Public Health have now jointly commissioned a new service that offers a coterminous aligned service which is integrated at the point of delivery – "the Hertfordshire Family Centre Service".
- 2.4 The new contract is for a 6 year period and will start on 1 October 2018 with an option of extending the contract for a further 2 years. A mobilisation period is currently underway as of 1 April 2018 until 30 September 2018.

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Panel is asked to comment upon and note the content of the Report.

4. Background

- 4.1 The 0 – 19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP) is the Department of Health universal programme for improving the health and wellbeing of children and young people. The programme is divided into two parts 0-5 years and 5-19 years. The programme is commissioned by local authorities with some elements being mandatory and is mainly delivered through public health nursing services (health visitors and school nurses) working in partnership with other services/agencies.
- 4.2 The Health Visiting Service is a universal service i.e. it is offered to all families with children aged pre-birth to 5 years. There is additional targeted work with families with specific needs.
- 4.3 There are five mandated contacts for families with new babies that form part of the Healthy Child Programme – an antenatal health promoting contact; a new baby review; an assessment of the baby at 6-8 weeks old; an assessment at 1 year old and an assessment when the child is 2-2 ½ years old.
- 4.4 There are six high impact areas where health visitors make a significant contribution in terms of health and wellbeing and improving outcomes for children, families and communities:
- i. Transition to parenthood and the early weeks;
 - ii. Maternal mental health (perinatal depression);
 - iii. Breastfeeding (initiation and duration);
 - iv. Healthy weight, healthy nutrition and physical activity;
 - v. Managing minor illness and reducing hospital attendance and admission;
 - vi. Health, wellbeing and development of the child age 2-2 ½ years old and support to be 'ready for school'.
- 4.5 Public Health Nursing 5-19 (school nurses) delivers the National Child Measurement Programme in reception year and year 6 which is a mandated requirement. The service also undertakes health needs assessments in each school, vision and hearing screening, school health profiling, medicine management training for staff, one to one support and advice for children and their families.
- 4.6 The Childcare Act 2006 places Hertfordshire County Council under a duty, so far as reasonably practical, to provide sufficient children's centres to meet local need. A children's centre is defined as a place or group of places where, collectively, the early childhood services are provided alongside activities for young children. The early childhood services are:

- Early years provision (early education and childcare)
 - Children's social care
 - Health services for children
 - Assistance for employment and training opportunities for parents or prospective parents
 - Provision of information and assistance for parents
- 4.7 [A report](#) was presented to Cabinet on 10 July 2017 which set out the vision for the new Family Centre Service, a jointly commissioned new service that offered a coterminous aligned service which is integrated at the point of delivery. Cabinet also agreed to the launch of a formal public consultation on key aspects of both Family Centre Services i.e. Family Support and Public Health Nursing. The consultation commenced on 17 July 2017 and ceased on 20 September 2017.
- 4.8 Panel received a [paper](#) at Public Health, Prevention and Performance and Children's Services joint panel on 25 September 2017 which summarised the results of the consultation about the new service and the proposed way forward.
- 4.9 Key findings from the consultation were that families value and respect the universal access into children's centre and health visiting services. Generally there is an understanding of the financial pressures facing the County Council and the need for change, but a clear demand emerged for locally accessible services because of the challenges facing all families before and after a new birth. Families supported the proposed widening of the age range for families to access Family Support from 0-5 years to 0-11 years.
- 4.10 The ambition was to deliver an aligned service which is integrated at the point of delivery so that every child will have the best possible start in life, giving them the best opportunities throughout their education and working lives and ensure that the County Council meets its statutory and mandated duties for babies, children, young people and their families. This will lead to a more holistic service for families and a reduction in duplication where it currently exists and increased efficiencies.
- 4.11 On 21 September 2017 Cabinet agreed the proposed approach of Children's Services and Public Health to jointly commission a new service that offers a coterminous aligned service which is integrated at the point of delivery. The proposal was that the service would be delivered under one overarching offer "Hertfordshire Family Centre Service". The service aimed to enable families from pre-birth (and the transition to parenting) through to 19 years (or 25 for young adults with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)) to access support from one place as much as possible. Children Centres would be called Family Centres in the new contract.

- 4.12 Public Health and Children's Services undertook a robust tender process to ensure that these 2 services will be transformed as part of the future contract and aligned to become a new service known as the Hertfordshire Family Centre Service.
- 4.13 The Public Health Nursing element of the service (health visiting and school nursing) has been awarded to Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust. The provider will work across the 4 quadrants of the county.
- 4.14 The Family Support element of the service has been awarded to 3 providers and they will collectively cover the 4 quadrants of the county. They are:
- Hertsmere Leisure : West and South quadrant
 - One YMCA : East quadrant
 - Barnardos : North quadrant
- 4.15 The new contract is for a 6 year period and will start on 1 October 2018 with an option of extending the contract for a further 2 years. A mobilisation period is currently underway as of 1 April 2018 and will finish on 30 September 2018.

5.0 Equality Impact Assessment

- 5.1 When considering proposals placed before Members it is important that they are fully aware of, and have themselves rigorously considered the equalities implications of the decision that they are taking.
- 5.2 Rigorous consideration will ensure that proper appreciation of any potential impact of that decision on the County Council's statutory obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty. As a minimum this requires decision makers to read and carefully consider the content of any Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) produced by officers.
- 5.3 The Equality Act 2010 requires the Council when exercising its functions to have due regard to the need to (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act; (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it and (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it. The protected characteristics under the Equality Act 2010 are age; disability; gender reassignment; marriage and civil partnership; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion and belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 5.4 The Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) undertaken on 21 August 2017 has been reviewed on an ongoing basis and is attached at Appendix 1. As officers had identified that changes will be made in

terms of service delivery in light of the proposals made, it was identified that some individuals with protected characteristics may be adversely affected and a number of mitigating actions were identified. These actions have and will continue to be taken forward as part of the implementation of the new Service.

6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 The financial implications of this contract will be met within the current budget allocations.