



EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION

REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education, Executive Member for Public Health, Prevention & Wellbeing
LEAD OFFICERS:	Abdul Razaq - Director of Public Health, Jo Siddle - Strategic Director of Children & Education (DCS)
DATE:	Thursday, 6 th July 2023

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED: Public Health Prevention and Wellbeing

WARD/S AFFECTED: (All Wards);

KEY DECISION: Y

SUBJECT: EB 0-19 Tender Decision to award

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To seek approval from the Executive Board to award the three contracts for the three lots that make up the 0-19 Healthy Child programme.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Executive Board:

- Approves the award of the contracts for the Councils 0-19 Healthy Child Programme for a three year period with the option to extend for a further two years, following a robust tender process, to commence from the 1st April 2024.

3. BACKGROUND

The local authority has responsibility for commissioning the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (up to 25 for those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)), a universal offer to all families across the borough, ensuring every child has the best start to life. The foundations for virtually every aspect of human development including physical, intellectual and emotional, are established in early childhood.

There are two mandated elements as part of the programme, the five mandated health-visitor reviews and the National Child Measuring Programme (NCMP) in Reception and Year 6. The programme however offers a model for improving a wide and varied range of health outcomes for children and their families. It forms part of the 'whole system' of support for children and young people's health and wellbeing including the NHS, the community, voluntary and faith sector, schools and colleges. The programme also links to other commissioned services such as substance misuse, mental health, sexual health, pharmacies, screening and immunisation programmes and primary care.

In August 2023, the Executive Board was asked permission to start a tender process for three Lots that comprise the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme, with the new services ready to commence from 1st April 2024. Since the Executive Board paper in August 2023, the current contract with the incumbent provider

was extended until 31st March 2024, to enable a full tender process to take place and sufficient time for mobilisation a new provider/s. Therefore the new contract will be for three years, with two plus one extensions, rather than three and half years, with two, plus one extensions.

The three Lots to be awarded are :

Lot 1 – Health Visitors & School Nursing (Contract value £3,887,666 per annum)

The largest element of the contract, the health visiting and school nursing Lot will provide the vast majority of the model. The elements of this Lot will include, but are not limited to:

- Public health nursing – Universal in reach and personalised in response, from the antenatal period up to 19 years for children, young people and families (up to 25 years for children with SEND).
- Support for all children, young people and families at the four service levels (community, universal, targeted and specialist).
- Early identification of need, screening, developmental health reviews, focus on high impact areas, and the provision of the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and School Health Needs Assessment (SHNA)
- Safeguarding support, including looked after children health assessments.
- Health improvement with a focus on prevention.

Two providers submitted tenders for Lot 1, however one tender was deemed by the panel to be non-compliant as it did not meet key elements of the service specification so only one tender was scored.

Supplier	Quality – 70%	Price – 5%	Innovation – 10%	Social Value – 15%	Total
ELHT	50%	5%	5%	5.40%	65.4

It is therefore recommended that the contract is awarded to ELHT as although they were the only compliant tender, the scores demonstrated a strong bid that showed they can deliver the depth of quality and service that was required within the service specification.

Lot 2 – Specialist Infant Feeding Support Service (Contract value £100,000 per annum)

The specialist Infant Feeding Support Service will provide multi-faceted approaches to improving breastfeeding initiation and prevalence rates in Blackburn with Darwen, therefore supporting a reduction in health inequalities. The service will contribute to promoting a social and cultural shift where breastfeeding is recognised as the conventional way to feed an infant.

Two bids were recieved for Lot 2:

Supplier	Quality – 70%	Price – 10%	Innovation – 5%	Social Value – 15%	Total
ELHT	52.5%	10%	3.75%	9%	75.25%
Bidder B	46.25%	9.98%	5%	5.4%	66.63%

It is therefore recommended that the contract is awarded to ELHT as they had the highest overall score.

Lot 3 – Community and Voluntary Sector Support service (Contract value £95,000 per annum)

The community and voluntary sector support Lot will provide low level community support and early intervention to families to include aspects such as befriending, volunteering and peer family support for young families to build the skills, confidence and strength to nurture children. The service will

support families and children with behaviour support, school readiness, speech and language, emotional support for children and families and support resilient parenting.

One bid was received for Lot 3 it was still moderated by a panel:

Supplier	Quality – 70%	Price – 10%	Innovation – 5%	Social Value -15%	Total
Homestart	52.5%	10%	2.5%	1.8%	66.8%

It is therefore recommended that the contract is awarded to Homestart as the only bidder, and as they submitted a bid that was scored highly by the panel.

The prime provider of the current 0-19 Health Child Programme is Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust. They did not submit a bid as they are currently re-profiling their business model to deliver mental health services only. Other providers that deliver elements of the current service include East Lancashire Hospital Trust (currently delivering the specialist Infant Feeding Support Service) and Spring North, Brook and Homestart (currently delivering the Community and Voluntary Sector Support service).

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

As the incumbent prime provider did not put a bid in for the service, staff currently employed by Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust will transfer pursuant to TUPE to the new provider. This will require some support from HR, finance, IT and information governance from the Council and the incoming and outgoing providers.

Successful bidder:

It is important to work with the successful bidders to ensure a smooth transition, within outlined timescales, to enable sufficient lead in and mobilisation time for the new service to begin on 1st April 2024. A detailed plan has been developed and is on schedule to achieve the desired outcomes of this tender process. Some of the risk has been mitigated as all TUPE information and confidentiality statements have been received through the comprehensive tender process. The bidders have submitted mobilisation plans/timelines and explained how they will also mitigate risks, such as transformation into the new Family Hub delivery model, communications, workforce development, estates and premises, relocation of staff etc.

Through their initial bid and further clarification questions and presentation, the successful bidder for Lot 1 has stated a clear commitment to system and service transformation, and to deliver new collaborative locality 'Start Well' offer with wider interdependent services.

Timescales:

- Award of contract is planned for July 2023
- Current contracts come to a natural end 31st March 2024
- Service contract commencement 1st April 2024

5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

This commissioning process and the new service model development has been aligned to both local and national recommendations for children, young people and national Modernised Healthy Child Programme guidance, policy and quality standards, Blackburn with Darwen's Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Blackburn with Darwen's Family Hub Programme, Children's Partnership Board Priorities

and Early Help Strategy, and will continue to consider implications with regards to a number of other developing strategic agendas.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The 0-19 Healthy Child Programme contract will be funded by the Department of Health public health grant, the table below shows the cost of the initial three year and a half year contract and then the two one year extensions that will be available, if it is decided to extend the contract length. An increase on the previous contract value (£200,000) has been added to the value of the contract as Agenda For Change uplift monies have been added to the Public health grant from 2022/23. Public health departments have to pass these monies to the provider, as the stipulation of the public health grant terms :

[Public health ringfenced grant 2022 to 2023: local authority circular - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-ringfenced-grant-2022-to-2023-local-authority-circular)

The contract value for the 0-19 service has remained at a static rate for four years, since 2019/20. Since the start of the contract in 2017/8, NHS pay scales have had a 10% increase and with inflationary increases and the cost of petrol rising, the slight increase in the contract value means the real terms actual financial envelope is a decrease on the previous contract value. The increasing complexity and demand on the service post Covid-19 and as a knock on impact of the cost of living crisis, mean that any further reduction in funding would make the service objectives undeliverable.

A breakdown of the different Lot values is shown in the table below:

	Value per annum
Lot 1 – Public Health Nursing	£3,887,666
Lot 2 – Infant feeding Service	£100,000
Lot 3 – Community and voluntary sector support	£95,000
Contract total value per annum	£4,082,666

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

An open tender process was followed to ensure these tenders attracts providers with sufficient knowledge and expertise. The tendering process complied with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules. The contract will be in a form approved by legal officers in the Contracts and Procurement team.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

The management and implementation of the mobilisation of the new services will be led by the Public Health team including input from Legal, Finance, HR and the commissioning and procurement team.

9. EQUALITY AND HEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Please select one of the options below. Where appropriate please include the hyperlink to the EIA.

Option 1 ☒ Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) not required – the EIA checklist has been completed.

Option 2 ☐ In determining this matter the Executive Member needs to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA link here*)

Option 3 ☐ In determining this matter the Executive Board Members need to consider the EIA associated with this item in advance of making the decision. (*insert EIA attachment*)

10. CONSULTATIONS

There was a four phase approach to the consultation and engagement that drew upon learning and feedback at each stage.

Stage one, focussed on children and families, young people, current staff and partners and included a mix of questionnaires and focus groups. A consultation report has been drawn up of key findings.

Stage two, involved soft market testing with current and potential providers in the market, steering the process by broadening understanding of the current market place and any innovations in practice which were written into the service specification process. Meetings with all of our incumbent providers took place in June 2022.

Stage three involved a commissioning workshop which partners who commission other parts of the integrated children's health pathway were invited to a half day workshop to consider the correct model and how it integrates with other services. Invited organisations included the Integrated Commissioning Board (ICB), NHS England, Safeguarding at East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust (ELHT), BwD children's commissioning team and Family hub leads.

Stage four followed and focused on a market engagement event, once the tenders had gone online via the CHEST procurement system. This event allowed potential providers to gain more understanding of the service required and a chance to ask questions, before the final tenders were submitted. Clarifications questions could also be asked via the CHEST and a total of 187 were asked via this method.

A full consultation programme with colleagues from other relevant departments has taken place, as well as the expert reference group, and all relevant partnership groups and boards were consulted.

Groups consulted as part of the commissioning process included:

- 0-25 Joint Commissioning Group and SEND Strategic Partnership Board
- Public health senior leadership team, Executive Member briefing and Senior Policy Team
- Children's Services Executive Member briefing and Senior Policy Team
- Policy Development Session
- Joint Commissioning Recommendations Group and Strategic Commissioning Board
- Strategic Leadership briefing and Corporate Leadership Team

11. STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation and an equality analysis and impact assessment has been considered. The

recommendations reflect the core principles of good governance set out in the Council's Code of Corporate Governance.

12. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

All Declarations of Interest of any Executive Member consulted and note of any dispensation granted by the Chief Executive will be recorded in the Summary of Decisions published on the day following the meeting.

VERSION:	1
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CONTACT OFFICER:	Liz Johnston, Public Health Specialist for Start Well
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DATE:	15 th of June, 2023
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	<div data-bbox="539 712 593 777"></div> <div data-bbox="456 777 670 837">Procurement of the 0-19 Healthy Child Pr</div>
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