

EXECUTIVE BOARD DECISION



REPORT OF:	Executive Member for Children, Young People and Education, Executive Member for Housing & Public Health
LEAD OFFICERS:	Director of Public Health, Abdul Razaq and Strategic Director for Children and Education, Jo Siddle
DATE:	Thursday, 11 July 2024

PORTFOLIO/S AFFECTED:	Public Health Prevention and Wellbeing
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WARD/S AFFECTED:	(All Wards);
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KEY DECISION:	N
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SUBJECT: EB 0-19 Healthy Child Programme Update
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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The report provides an update on the mobilisation of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme following the transfer of provider to East Lancashire Hospitals Trust (ELHT) from 1st April 2024 from the outgoing provider, Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (LSCFT).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

The Executive Board note the content of the report.

3. BACKGROUND

The local authority has responsibility for commissioning the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (up to 25 for children in our care and SEND) which is 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 (undertaken for every child between 28 weeks of pregnancy, and up to when a child is 2 ½ years old) and the National Child Measuring Programme (NCMP) which measures the height and weight of children in Reception class 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.

The commissioning of the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme was split into three lots for recommissioning:
Lot 1: Integrated Public Health Nursing Service (Including health visiting and school nursing)
Lot 2: Specialist Infant Feeding Support Service
Lot 3: Community and Voluntary Support Service.

The total cost of the combined contracts is significant at £4.083m per year for up to 5 years, making it one of the Council's largest contracts.

Lancashire and South Cumbria NHS Foundation Trust (LSCFT) was the previous provider of the three lots under a prime provider model.

Following a rigorous tender process, the Executive Board gave permission in July 2023 to award the contracts for mobilisation from 1st April 2024 as follows:

Lot 1: East Lancashire Hospital Trust (ELHT)

Lot 2: East Lancashire Hospital Trust (ELHT)

Lot 3: Homestart Blackburn with Darwen.

Mobilisation process and outcomes

The mobilisation programme has been overseen by Public Health, working closely with colleagues from ELHT and LSCFT. It was directed by a Programme Board with Task and Finish Groups set up to progress the following areas:

- Information Management and Technology
- Workforce
- Safeguarding
- Estates and facilities
- Governance

An internal Council mobilisation group was also formed to progress issues internally as a cross-directorate team to identify risks and mitigations including staff from finance, Human Resources (HR), Information Technology (IT), Family Hubs and Early Help teams.

The three contracts went live on 1st April 2024. ELHT reported it as one of the smoothest transitions they have experienced. Nearly one hundred staff TUPED to ELHT and they have reported that the support and welcome from the new provider has been exceptional.

All the health visitors have been provided with laptops and iPads so that they can enter data straight into the system and the service is looking to streamline administration going forward. The service will be using a system called EMIS which will have enhanced functionality including text message reminders to service users around appointments.

The new commission covers pre-birth to age 19 (up to 25 for Looked After Children (LACs) and Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).) A pathway is in development that will provide enhanced support for parents with vulnerabilities including younger parents who are unsupported/isolated, parents experiencing mental health challenges or substance use, care-experienced people, those with abuse experience, refugees and those who have experienced the sudden death of an infant. The pathway will aim to improve the outcomes of pregnancy by helping women improve their ante-natal health and the health of their unborn baby; improve children's subsequent health and development by helping parents to provide more consistent, competent care for their children; and improve the life course of women by planning subsequent pregnancies, finishing their education, finding employment or seeking additional employability training.

The 0-19 staff are based in the Family Hubs and work closely with local authority staff to ensure the connectedness to the early help offer and array of service provision within the hubs.

ELHT and local authority staff in Family Hubs organised informal welcome events to enhance relationships and joint working in late April 2024. These took place in each Hub and afforded staff the opportunity to meet with the Directors of ELHT, have tea and cake together and form a basis for relationships to build. These were well-received and feedback from staff was positive.

Partnership meetings have been scheduled, which include staff of the three lots, service leads from our Children's Directorate and Lancashire & South Cumbria ICB colleagues, to enhance connectivity and progress agendas and workstreams on a collaborative basis. These meetings will be led by Public Health. The first of these meetings will take place in person on Monday 10th June 2024.

The services are having an official launch to stakeholders on the 18th July 11-1pm and will bring together delivery partners of the Healthy Child Programme and wider early years network to celebrate the new contract and the opportunities that it will bring.

The most complex aspect of the mobilisation has related to the transfer of service data and records from LSCFT to ELHT. This has required development of a data sharing agreement and consideration of a range of options for data transfer. A manual transfer of records for clients due to be seen in the first three months and any cases with safeguarding concerns was completed. In the meantime, staff are currently having to access two data systems while they await a full data migration between the two services. ELHT currently have read only access to the previous database and they are hoping to have completed a full data transfer by the end of September 2024.

Specialist Infant Feeding Support Service

The Specialist Infant Feeding Support Service will continue to be delivered by ELHT. It is envisaged that having the same provider of the Integrated Public Health Nursing Service and Specialist Infant Feeding Services will be beneficial and promote a cohesive and smoother service with increased information sharing.

The Infant Feeding Service will provide 54 hours per week support on the wards at Burnley Birth Centre and Burnley Birthing Suite (located where the majority of our mums give birth) to help women who want to initiate breastfeeding. There is also a specialist service that provides one to one support for women who encounter issues with feeding, such as tongue tie, milk supply concerns or breast problems. The specialists also support with responsive and safe formula feeding. This element of the service trains staff in Family Hubs, Children's Centres and Early Years settings to ensure that the community are receiving and sharing consistent and clear messages around infant feeding. The service also supports the Breastfeeding Friendly Venues scheme and the UNICEF Gold Baby Friendly Accreditations.

Community and Voluntary Support

The Community and Voluntary Sector support service will be delivered by Homestart Blackburn with Darwen. The service provides support with practical aspects of parenting, eg. toileting, school readiness, behaviour management, as well as parental wellbeing support (eg. parental isolation). The model is delivered by volunteers and offers home visits and group work to those with children up to the age of 5. Homestart proactively started to increase presence within Family Hubs in preparation for the new contract in early 2024 and have been supported with Family Hubs funding to offer a specific project that is targeted at dads.

A robust key performance indicator (KPI) framework has been developed for all three commissions, which also includes elements of mandated data. The performance framework has provision for annual review and will form part of the quarterly contract-monitoring arrangements.

4. KEY ISSUES & RISKS

- Staff in the 0-19 service have reported that the transition has had minimal impact on service delivery to families.
- Staff are continuing to be based in the Family Hub buildings so there has been no changes to buildings or accommodation.
- The North Team were previously based at Audley and Queens' Park Children's Centre moved to Shadsworth Family hub in March 2024.
- An enhanced parenting pathway is being developed in conjunction with staff from Early help services as outlined above.
- Staff are currently having to access two data systems while they await a full data migration between the two services, although plans are in place to resolve this by the end of September 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. It will continue to consider implications with regards to a number of other developing strategic agendas.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The financial envelope for this contract will be funded from the annual Public Health grant allocations for this Authority and analysed as follows:

Lot 1 - £3,887,666 per annum (Integrated Public Health Nursing Service)

Lot 2 - £100,000 per annum (Specialist Infant Feeding Service)

Lot 3 - £95,000 per annum (Community and Voluntary Support)

There are no additional cash limit financial implications for the Council.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, local authorities are responsible for improving the health of their local populations and are key commissioners. The successful commissioning and monitoring of these services for Blackburn with Darwen's 0-19 Healthy child programme supports the Council in fulfilling its legal responsibilities.

8. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Contract monitoring

The contract monitoring of the three services will necessitate more internal staff time in terms of management than under the previous prime provider model. However, it is believed that the benefits that the direct contracting relationship will bring will outweigh the time requirements.

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

An extensive four phase consultation and engagement took place as part of the recommissioning process that that drew upon learning and feedback at each stage. This feedback was used to put together the service specifications and KPI's for each service.

Young people from the Blackburn with Darwen Youth Forum (now known as the Young BwD Foundation) also joined a tender panel as part of the recommissioning process and heard presentations from the providers. The young people came up with some great ideas about how the service should communicate with them and the new service have committed to working with the Young Blackburn with Darwen Foundation as the service mobiles.

Staff were entitled to Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) i.e. TUPE arrangements from LSCFT to ELHT and were subject to a full consultation process which included group staff sessions and individual interviews as well. Relevant unions and HR departments were involved from both organisations.

A joint communications statement was agreed by the three organisations and sent out to all providers and partners, including information about the new email addresses for staff. All existing service telephone numbers remain unaffected.

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.

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DATE:	02.07.2024
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BACKGROUND PAPER:	EBD1: Executive Board Decision (blackburn.gov.uk) – 6 th July 2023
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