

Report to:	EXECUTIVE CABINET
Date:	24 January 2024
Executive Member:	Cllr Eleanor Wills – Executive Member (Population Health & Wellbeing)
Reporting Officer:	Debbie Watson, Director of Public Health
Subject:	CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF LOCALLY COMMISSIONED SERVICES (LCS) IN COMMUNITY PHARMACIES IN TAMESIDE
Report Summary:	<p>Public Health commission services from local pharmacies located in Tameside which provide additional services for residents and preventative interventions under a standard NHS Contract.</p> <p>In July 2022 the GM NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) took over the management of this contract when Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) ceased to exist. More recently, following notification from the ICB of an issue with the transfer of this contract during the merger from the CCG to the ICB the contract was novated back to the council for a temporary period whilst the ICB undertake a review of locally commissioned service (LCS) provision. Going forward, the proposal is that the contracts for these services in pharmacies will revert back to the previous arrangements aligned with the ICBs wider commissioning of LCSs in community pharmacies from April 2025 onwards.</p> <p>The current contract is due to expire on 31 March 2024 and this report is seeking permission to issue a direct award to the relevant pharmacies in Tameside for a contract for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 at an estimated cost of £0.095m (dependent on activity) whilst the review of LCS provision is undertaken.</p> <p>The LCS provision in community pharmacies is crucial as part of the mandated public health functions of the local authority. A direct award route for this is being sought due to the specialist and localised nature of community pharmacy providers across Tameside.</p>
Recommendations:	That the Executive Cabinet be recommended to approve a direct award to local pharmacies in Tameside to deliver the locally commissioned services under this contract for a period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.
Corporate Plan:	<p>The proposed activities directly support the delivery of the following priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very best start • Resilient families and supportive networks • Longer and Active lives with good mental health
Policy Implications:	The commissioning intentions outlined in this report will ensure that key public health functions are delivered including some mandated functions of the local authority under the Health & Social Care Act (sexual health provision). Delivering these programmes will support

achieving Corporate Plan objectives.

Financial Implications:
(Authorised by the
statutory Section 151
Officer & Chief Finance
Officer)

The report is recommending approval of a direct award to local pharmacies for the commissioned services detailed in section 1.5. The recommendation is requesting the direct award for the period of 01/04/2024 – 31/03/2025.

The commissioned services would be funded by Population Health general fund budget and is affordable. The total budget for Local Enhanced Services in 2023/24 is £0.276m. Within this total there is currently £0.035m allocated for Pharmacy Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) and £0.074m allocated for Pharmacy Smoking Cessation support.

It is essential that value for money is evaluated as part of any direct award process and that this is clearly evidenced and retained for section 151 officer assurance.

Legal Implications:
(Authorised by the
Borough Solicitor)

The report would indicate that advice has been provided by STAR procurement, which has found that a direct award will be an appropriate route for the contracts, the subject of the award, for the period from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025. A direct award can be made in exceptional circumstances as provided for in CPR 9.3 of the Council's Contract Procedure Rules

Risk Management:

Risks will be identified and managed by the appropriate officers.

Access to Information:

NOT CONFIDENTIAL

Background Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting



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1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Pharmacy teams have an important role to play in prevention and embedding public health practice in their everyday role. Alongside their role optimising the use of medicines, community pharmacy teams are increasingly delivering a wide range of public health interventions, from stopping smoking to sexual health services, flu immunisations and more. The Locally Commissioned Services (LCS) framework in Tameside includes services commissioned by Public Health from local pharmacies to provide additional preventative interventions and services for residents under a standard NHS contract. The services sitting under the LCS Pharmacy contract include the provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC) and Smoking Cessation support. Sexual health provision including emergency hormonal contraception is a mandated public health function of the local authority; therefore, it is essential that we ensure the continued delivery of these services within Tameside.
- 1.2 In July 2022 the GM NHS Integrated Care Board (ICB) took over the management of this contract when Tameside and Glossop Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) ceased to exist. More recently, following notification from the ICB of an issue with the transfer of this contract during the merger from the CCG to the ICB, the contract was novated back to the council for a temporary period whilst the ICB undertake a review of LCS provision. Going forward, it is proposed that the contracts for these services in pharmacies will revert back to the previous arrangements aligned with the ICBs wider commissioning of LCSs in community pharmacies from April 2025 onwards
- 1.3 The specifications for the EHC and Smoking Cessation services are continually reviewed and updated as required through the contracting period following changes in national clinical and strategic guidance, changes in nationally commissioned services and any local service transformation.
- 1.4 The following sections provide further detail of each of the locally commissioned services (LCS). Please note that these contracts are paid by activity therefore demand levels and spend may fluctuate but costs will not exceed the allocated budgets, which have been set based on modelling from previous year's activity.

1.4.1 LCS (Pharmacy) – Provision of Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC)

The aim of the EHC service is to promote the use of, and maintain ease of access to EHC in order to reduce the number of unintended conceptions amongst female residents of all ages and to encourage safer sex and the use of regular methods of contraception.

The objectives of the EHC service are to:

- Consult with clients attending for EHC and:
- Offer information and advice about all methods of emergency contraception including the emergency intrauterine device (IUD) and provide information on the probability of failure with advice on the course of action in the event of this occurring
- If deemed to be appropriate, issue and supply free emergency contraceptive pill(s) in accordance with the relevant Patient Group Direction (PGD). If the client is under 16 years of age, Fraser competencies will be adhered to
- Offer referral information and advice about regular methods of contraception including long-acting methods and how to obtain them
- Offer information and advice about safer sex and the benefits of screening for sexually transmitted infections
- Signpost for free condoms and lubricants
- Refer or signpost to other services including GPs (for routine prescribing of contraceptive pills) and integrated sexual and reproductive health services (for

LARC methods).

In 2022/23, seventeen pharmacies commissioned to provide EHC across Tameside carried out 1,237 consultations for EHC at a total cost of £0.025m, which includes the cost of consultations and the EHC medication.

The proposed budget for this service for 2024/25 is £0.035m per annum to allow for fluctuations in demand as per modelling from recent year's activity.

1.4.2 **LCS (Pharmacy) - Smoking Cessation Service**

The aim of the Smoking Cessation service is to supply Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT) to clients of the TMBC Be Well Smoking Cessation and the Smokefree Pregnancy services and to provide an accessible pharmacy smoking cessation service in the community together with behaviour change support. The service outcomes are measured in the nationally recognised metric of number of 4 week quits.

The objectives of the service are to;

- Supply NRT products to clients of the TMBC Be Well Smoking Cessation service
- Supply NRT products to clients of the NHS Smokefree Pregnancy service
- To offer an accessible smoking cessation service in the community setting.
- To supply or administer appropriate NRT
- To offer behavioural support and advice to help clients attempting to quit smoking.
- To educate clients on specific product advice and general smoking cessation advice.

The Service is available for tobacco users over 12 years of age, including pregnant and lactating women, identified as sufficiently motivated to quit who are referred via:

- Primary care professionals
- Secondary care clinicians
- Self-referral
- Work place
- Other voluntary organisations
- And other professionals

Between 1 April 2023 and 30 September 2023, pharmacies dispensed 4,194 items/packets of NRT to stop smoking clients under the pharmacy stop smoking service at a cost of approximately £0.071m for this period.

- 1.5 Due to the planned introduction of vape starter kits by the Be Well stop smoking service, funded by the Department of Health and Social Care, it is expected that the costs of NRT will reduce in the next financial year, therefore the proposed budget for this service for 2024/25 is £0.060m per annum.

1.6 **Commissioning Proposal**

- 1.6.1 Public Health are reviewing the arrangements for this contract in discussion with STAR procurement and partners from the GM ICB. A review will continue ahead of April 2025 to determine a longer term commissioning solution, working with the ICB. For the current period, an appraisal of the different procurement options available has been undertaken, advised by STAR procurement, which has found that a direct award will be an appropriate route for these contracts for the period from 01 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

- 1.6.2 These services can only be provided by a community pharmacy in Tameside due to their location in the community, the range of services on offer, and access to

appropriately qualified staff, hence the reason for the direct award approach as advised by STAR Procurement, and hence why the Public Contract Regulations (CPRs) do not apply.

1.6.3 Permission is sought to;

- Continue to fund the services which fall under this contract for a further period of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025 at a total estimated cost of £0.095m (dependent on activity).
- Work with STAR procurement to seek an exemption to issue a Direct Award to local pharmacies to deliver the services under this contract for a duration of 12 months from 1 April 2024 to 31 March 2025.

2 RECOMMENDATION

2.1 As set out at the front of the report.