

Report to: **STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING BOARD**

Date: 24 March 2021

Executive Member: Councillor Eleanor Wills – Executive Member (Adult Social Care and Population Health)

Clinical Lead: Dr Christine Ahmed (Starting Well)

Reporting Officer: Debbie Watson, Assistant Director of Population Health
Dr Jeanelle de Gruchy, Director of Population Health

Subject: **EARLY YEARS POPULATION HEALTH COMMISSIONING UPDATE AND INTENTIONS 2021/22**

Report Summary: The report details Population Health's early years commissioning intentions for 2021 – 2022. The report sets out specific details to extend for one year two service agreements:

- HomeStart – core grant arrangements
- Breastfeeding Peer Support Service

These proposals will ensure alignment to a 0-19 children, family and early help services review, which will inform public health commissioning arrangement from April 2022.

The Council are working with STAR procurement on all areas.

The grant and contract are currently delivering services in line with the specifications with no concerns regarding quality or finance.

Recommendations: That the Strategic Commissioning Board approve:

- Extension of the core grant arrangements with HomeStart for 12 months to 31 March 2022.
- Extension of the contract for the Breastfeeding Peer Support Service (commissioned jointly with Oldham MBC) for 12 months to 31 March 2022.

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

Budget Allocation (if Investment Decision)	The proposal is to extend the existing arrangements for a further 12 months, using existing budgets.
CCG or TMBC Budget Allocation	TMBC Controlled budget
<p>PEER SUPPORT – The TMBC Budget Allocation of £50,000 from Troubled Families for 2021/22 has been confirmed as part of the HM Treasury spending review in November 2020. Future years funding is not as yet confirmed. This is matched with an existing Population Health budget of £75,000 from Population Health for 2021/22. This makes a total of £125,000 available for this activity.</p> <p>BREASTFEEDING – The base budget for this activity is held by Population Health and is £114,713 for 2021/22. Together with confirmation from Oldham MBC that they have set aside a budget of £88,679.</p>	

Integrated Commissioning Fund Section – s75, Aligned, In-Collaboration	Section 75
Decision Body – SCB Executive Cabinet, CCG Governing Body	SCB
Value For money Implications – e.g. Savings Deliverable, Expenditure Avoidance, Benchmark	These existing current contracts will be extended for 12 months. There have been no performance or quality issues with the contracts and the service considers them to be value for money in terms of outcomes. STAR procurement are being engaged to ensure that the value for money and compliance requirements are adhered to.
Additional Comments Population health are reviewing their entire early years commissioning intentions as part of the medium term financial plan and are seeking £0.5m of efficiencies from current contracts from 2022/23. The extension of these arrangements for 12 months, is in light of the pressures faced by both Population Health and the NHS during covid, and allows an in depth review to take place. All contracts between the Council and health organisations require a 12 month lead in time, if changes are sought. The recommissioning for 2022/23 is about to commence.	

Legal Implications:

(Authorised by the Borough Solicitor)

It is important that the project officers take advice from STAR to ensure that the extensions are effected in accordance with the terms of the current contracts, of if there is no extension provision that an appropriate process is undertaken for a direct award for the 12-month period, ensuring that any risk of challenge are identified and managed.

Similarly in relation to the retendering exercise advice should be sought from STAR to ensure that a compliant process is followed.

How do proposals align with Health & Wellbeing Strategy?

The proposals align with the Starting Well elements of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy with a particular focus on support prevention and early intervention.

How do proposals align with Locality Plan?

The service links into the Council's priorities:

- Help people to live independent lifestyles supported by responsible communities
- Improve Health and wellbeing of residents
- Protect the most vulnerable

How do proposals align with the Commissioning Strategy?

The services contribute to the Commissioning Strategy by:

- Empowering Citizens and Communities

- Commissioning for the “whole person”

Recommendations / views of the Health and Care Advisory Group:

This report has not been presented at HCAG.

Public and Patient Implications:

N/A

Quality Implications:

The services support quality outcomes for children and their families to be able to start well and continue living well in their local communities.

How do the proposals help to reduce health inequalities?

The services work with families across the Borough in need of advice, support and assistance. By providing the right support at the right time, helps to reduce health inequalities.

What are the Equality and Diversity implications?

There are no negative equality and diversity implications associated with this report.

What are the safeguarding implications?

There are no safeguarding implications associated with this report. Where safeguarding concerns arise as a result of the actions or inactions of the provider and their staff, or concerns are raised by staff members or other professionals or members of the public, the Safeguarding Policy will be followed.

What are the Information Governance implications? Has a privacy impact assessment been conducted?

Information Governance is a core element of all contracts. The necessary protocols for the safe transfer and keeping of confidential information are maintained at all times by both commissioner and provider. Privacy Impact Assessments have not been carried out.

Risk Management:

Risks will be identified and managed by the appropriate officers as part of the contract monitoring process.

Access to Information:

The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer, Charlotte Lee, Population Health Programme Manager



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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The report details Population Health's early years commissioning intentions for 2021 – 2022. The report seeks authorisation to:
- Extend the core grant arrangements with HomeStart for 12 months to 31 March 2022.
 - Extend the Contract for the Breastfeeding Peer Support Service for 12 months up to the 31 March 2022.

2. HOMESTART – CORE GRANT

- 2.1 HomeStart Oldham, Stockport and Tameside (HOST) is a long-standing partner of the Council with a unique, tried and trusted peer support model, with a successful track record of grass-roots community volunteering, valued by volunteers and professionals alike.
- 2.2 HomeStart provides one-to-one peer support for families via a team of dedicated and supervised volunteers, who visit families' for a couple of hours per week and tailor support to meet the individual needs of the family. The trusted relationship that is developed between a parent and volunteer often leads powerful change within the family, as well as enabling the family to grow in confidence for accessing the wider community and universal early years offer. The core HomeStart Peer Support Service has operated for a number of years on a grant funding basis from the Strategic Commission's Population Health Directorate.
- 2.3 In 2019/20, the HomeStart Peer Support Service received 245 referrals, and supported 201 families, with 408 children. In the past three quarters of 2020/21, the HomeStart Peer Support Service has supported 268 families with a total of 532 children, on a range of issues, including isolation, family conflict, managing budgets, and the health of the child and/or parent. HomeStart through their Peer Support Service has supported the difficulties and challenges that Covid-19 has brought to many families in Tameside. The organisation has worked in a 'COVID Safe' manner to provide emotional and social support, as well as providing food and home learning packages to vulnerable families.
- 2.4 HomeStart has been a significant partner in the development of the Early Help Offer, attending panel meetings and providing a crucial pathway and intervening early to prevent family breakdown. They have adapted their service delivery and aligned to new ways of working, including asset based and relational approaches using Signs of Safety methodology. HomeStart are champions and deliver interventions supporting early attachment, infant feeding, child development and school readiness which all have strong evidence of effectiveness and return on investment.
- 2.5 The grant for the core HomeStart Peer Support Service has been £75,000 per annum. However this was uplifted to £125,000 last year using monies from the Troubled Families Funding as outlined in the report presented to Strategic Commissioning Board in March 2020. The current grant agreement is due to end of the 31 March 2021.
- 2.6 The intention during the past 12 months, was to initiate a procurement exercise however the impact of the Covid pandemic has affected the ability to undertake a re-procurement exercise before the expiry of the grant, therefore authorisation is requested to renew the current grant arrangement for one year from 1 April 2021.
- 2.7 Due to the pandemic, the Troubled Families funding has only been confirmed for one year in 2021/2022. It is therefore proposed that £50K of the Trouble Families funding allocation is aligned to the annual grant value, totalling to £125,000. The uplift of funding from Trouble Families will enable HomeStart to support more families stepping down from Early Help Services as well as continue to deliver the universal peer support offer.

- 2.8 The 12 month extension will allow the Strategic Commission to receive confirmation from the Government regarding long term funding arrangements for the Troubled Families programme, as well as allow time to review, co-design and align to the strategic objective to integrate 0-19 children and family services by April 2022. The outcomes of the 0-19 children, family and early help services review, will inform the commissioning arrangements of services commissioned from April 2022. The outcomes of the 0-19 review and further public health commissioning intentions will be reported to the Strategic Commission Board in Summer 2021.

3. HOMESTART – BREASTFEEDING PEER SUPPORT SERVICE

- 3.1 HomeStart is jointly commissioning by Tameside MBC and Oldham MBC to deliver a Breastfeeding Peer Support Service, which has made a significant contribution in supporting families to initiate and maintain breastfeeding, and therefore improving health outcomes for mother and baby. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Breastfeeding Peer Support Service has worked differently to support families, including Zoom Groups and individual tailored support. However, the Service has also restored face-to-face visits using robust risk assessments for families who are struggling with breastfeeding.
- 3.2 At the Strategic Commissioning Board in March 2020, approval was given to retender the Breastfeeding Peer Support Service jointly with Oldham MBC. However, due to the impact of the pandemic, the retender for the service has not been able to be initiated. The current contract is due to end on the 31 March 2021.
- 3.3 Authorisation is therefore sought to extend the current contract for one year from the 1 April 2021 under the Public Contract Regulations 2015, Regulation 72(1). The intention to do this has been agreed by Oldham MBC. The one year extension values at £203,392 (£114,713 – Tameside Council, £88,679 – Oldham Council).
- 3.4 During this time, this Service will be included in the review, co-design and align to the strategic objective to integrate 0-19 children and family services by April 2022. The outcomes of the 0-19 children, family and early help services review, will inform the commissioning arrangements of services commissioned from April 2022. The outcomes of the review and further commissioning intentions will be reported to the Strategic Commission Board in Summer 2021.

4. CONTRACTING PROPOSALS

- 4.1 The proposals to extent services outlined in this report have been developed, considered and advised by STAR Procurement.

5. VALUE FOR MONEY

- 5.1 As we are looking to extend contracts, the current performance monitoring processes will continue to ensure contracts are compliant and all quality aspects of the services to ensure we are achieving value for money will be undertaken on a quarterly basis.

6. EQUALITIES

- 6.1 It is no anticipated adverse equality and diversity issues associated with these proposals and indeed all seek to reduce inequalities.

- 6.2 An Equality Impact Assessment and Needs Assessment be produced along the review of 0-19 children, family and early help services review.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT

- 7.1 Any risks of poor service delivery will be mitigated by performance monitoring of the services and by the close working relationships between officers representing the Council to ensure that assessed need is being met.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 As set out at the front of the report.