



<b>Report for:</b> <b>ACTION/INFORMATION</b>
<b>Item Number:</b>  16

<b>Contains Confidential or Exempt Information</b>	NO
<b>Title</b>	Permission to tender for child health services (health visiting and school nursing)
<b>Responsible Officer(s)</b>	Jackie Chin, Director of Public Health and Chris Hogan, Director of Children and Families
<b>Author(s)</b>	Maggie Wilson, Head of Children's Commissioning, LBE/CCG
<b>Portfolio(s)</b>	Cllr Hitesh Tailor (adults and public health) and Cllr Binda Rai (children)
<b>For Consideration By</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date to be Considered</b>	14 February 2017
<b>Implementation Date if Not Called In</b>	27 February 2017
<b>Affected Wards</b>	All
<b>Keywords/Index</b>	Health visiting, school nursing, tender, providers, mandated items, market engagement

**Purpose of Report:**

As part of their public health duties, Local Authorities are responsible for commissioning school nursing and health visiting services.

Both services are currently provided in Ealing by London North West Healthcare NHS Trust. There are currently two separate contracts for both services but they have the same end date of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018. There is no extension clause within these contracts.

Cabinet permission is therefore required to go out to tender for these services.

The intention is to procure one contract, with a single service specification, spanning the 0 to 18 age range.

Cabinet permission is sought to carry out the tender and to delegate authority to award the contract to the Executive Director, Adults, Public Health and Children, in consultation with the two relevant portfolio holders (adults and public health and children) following the evaluation of tenders.

**1. Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

(1) Authorises the Executive Director, Children, Adults and Public Health organisations to invite and evaluate tenders for a contract (which is likely to be in the region of £6 million per annum) for the provision of health visiting and school nursing services for a period of three years from October 2018 with the option to extend for a further four years (extendable at two yearly intervals)

(2) Delegates authority to the Executive Director, Children, Adults and Public Health, following consultation with the two relevant portfolio holders, to award the contract following the evaluation of tenders on the basis that it is the most advantageous tender based on quality and cost.

## **2. Reason for Decision and Options Considered**

2.1 Local Authorities commission school nursing and health visiting services as part of their public health responsibilities.

2.2 In Ealing, there are currently separate contracts for each of these two services, both of which come to an end on 30.9.2018. Both services are provided by London North West Healthcare NHS Trust.

2.3 There are five nationally mandated items relating to health visiting although these are subject to national consultation and may change. Health visitors offer a universal contact to families from late pregnancy, in the new birth period, at 6 to 8 weeks, at 1 year and at two to two and a half years. In addition they provide a more intensive service to families who have particular needs as well as playing a key role in safeguarding young children. The five mandated items are under review nationally and the specification for the service may need to change to reflect any changes in the mandate. The health visiting contract in Ealing includes the delivery of a Family Nurse Partnership service. This service provides a health visiting service to vulnerable young women in conjunction with an intensive intervention from pre-birth until the child is two years old. This is a licensed programme which has been in place in Ealing for 7 years.

2.4 The school nursing service works in the Borough's state funded schools. It delivers the following key functions:- identification of health care needs at reception stage; support to schools to help them develop and deliver health care plans for targeted children; national child measurement programme; safeguarding; training for school staff; support and advise to schools and others relating to healthcare needs of school aged children.

2.5 As the contracts expire on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 a procurement process is required and the following options have been considered:-

Option one – dynamic purchasing system. This would not work for this service which needs to operate as a whole service and to achieve economies of scale through shared premises, management structures and skills mix.

Option two – commission with other local authorities. No other local authority has been identified that are currently going out to the market for the same range of services.

Option three – tender for a block contract from one provider. This is the preferred option and would provide stability and continuity to the service.

### **3. Key Implications**

3.1 Cabinet authority is being sought to authorise a tender for a contract for the provision of school nursing and health visiting services. This will in the future operate as one service, with one contract and one provider. Health visiting and school nursing services will, as they are now, be integrated with a range of local authority directly provided services, as part of the Early Start Ealing service model. The Early Start Ealing model also includes speech and language therapy and this element of the service is contained within the Ealing Council children's community health contract with London North West Healthcare. This model involves shared arrangements for staff management, premises, case allocation.

3.2 The aim of Early Start Ealing is to support the healthy development of children and to both prevent problems happening and provide early support when they do. These services are part of the Council's early intervention strategy.

3.3 The key components of the services for which the Council will be tendering can be summarised as:-

- ✓ Health visiting service
- ✓ Family Nurse Partnership
- ✓ School Nursing service
- ✓ Health visiting support for the Multi Agency Screening Hub and advice and consultancy for health visitors and Local Authority children's services workers, with a particular focus on support for social workers.

3.3 The market is, in the main, NHS Trusts. However there are also some independent sector providers in the market such as Virgin Healthcare. There are a number of NHS Trusts already providing these types of service in the north-west London area and other Trusts which do not currently provide these services may be interested in expanding their range. There will need to be robust market engagement at a relatively early stage of the procurement process.

### **4. Financial**

The Health Visiting service budget for 2016/17 is £5.343m and the School Nursing budget for 2016/17 is £0.619m. Both of these budgets are funded from the Council's Public Health grant. The total budget for both services in 2016/17 is £5.962m and no change is anticipated to this budget figure before the contract commences on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018. However, if there is a reduction in the Public Health grant before contract commencement, this may have an impact on the available budget for this service.

### **5. Legal**

5.1 The Council has statutory duties relating to Health Visitors which are contained in the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001, S12002/253. The commissioning of these

services was the duty of NHS England until September 2015 and is now the duty of Local Authorities.

5.2 Section 22 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 inserts a clause in section 7A of the NHS Act 2006 that creates a new power which enabled the Secretary of State, by agreement, to delegate the funding and commissioning of public health services to NHS England.

5.3 In 2015 the Secretary of State and NHS England agreed that children's public health services from pregnancy to age 5 would be commissioned by local authorities from 1 October 2015.

5.4 The transfer of 0 – 5 commissioning joins up public health services for children and young people aged 5 – 19 that are already delivered by the Council (and up to age 25 for young people with special educational needs and disability).

5.5 Local Authorities, as part of their public health responsibilities, are required to commission health visiting and school nursing services. In relation to health visiting, Local Authorities are further mandated to ensure that five interventions are provided starting before birth and then at key stages of the child's early life.

5.6 The contract for health visiting and school nursing services will be procured in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

## **6. Value For Money**

Value for money will be delivered as follows:-

1. Via an appropriate skills mix, deploying staff with the skills and qualifications that are relevant and necessary for each task
2. Shared management arrangements across health visiting and school nursing services and across health provider and Ealing Council staff
3. Continued funding of intensive interventions with vulnerable young parents to help to prevent them, and their child, from becoming looked after and with the aim of enhancing parenting skills and improving the life chances of all concerned

## **7. Sustainability Impact Appraisal**

No specific sustainability implications have been identified

## **8. Risk Management**

None identified

## **9. Community Safety**

No issues identified.

## **10. Links to the 6 Priorities for the Borough**

The Council's six priorities for the borough are to make Ealing:

- prosperous

- safer
- **healthier – this is the most relevant priority**
- cleaner
- fairer
- accessible

### **11. Equalities, Human Rights and Community Cohesion**

An equalities analysis assessment has been undertaken. Both health visiting and school nursing services work at both a universal and targeted level to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people from 0 to 18 (and sometimes up to 19 or 25) and to safeguard them from harm..

### **12. Staffing/Workforce and Accommodation implications**

The current health visiting service is delivered as an integrated service called Early Start Ealing with a mix of NHS Trust and Ealing Council employees. There are shared management arrangements and also shared accommodation arrangements. The tender documents will make clear that the service will continue to be delivered as an integrated service

### **13. Property and Assets**

The Early Start Ealing service has three administrative bases and the school nursing service has one administrative base. Two of the bases are NHS bases and one is a Children’s Centre. There may be implications for the two NHS bases should there be a new provider.

### **15. Consultation**

Consultation took place with stakeholders and the public when the service model for Early Start Ealing was developed in 2014 to 2015.

### **16. Timetable for Implementation**

Please note that with the exception of the Cabinet decision, these are indicative dates only.

Permission to tender agreed by Cabinet	14 Feb 2017	
Contract documents completed	June 2017	
Market engagement event	May 2017	
Bids invited	June 2017	
Contract award	April 2018	
TUPE arrangements and wider mobilisation	April – September 2018	
Service start date	1 October 2018	

### **17. Appendices**

Equalities assessment

### **18. Background Information**

Local Authorities are mandated to ensure that the health visiting service delivers five interventions at specified times pre and post birth. (Reference:- The Local Authorities (Public Health and Entry to Premises by Local Healthwatch Representatives) and

Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny (Amendment) Regulations 2015).

**Consultation**

<b>Name of consultee</b>	<b>Post held</b>	<b>Date sent to consultee</b>	<b>Date response received</b>	<b>Comments appear in paragraph:</b>
<b>Internal</b>				
Judith Finlay	Executive Director, Adults, Children and Public Health	12 January 2017		
Jackie Chin	Director of Public Health	12 January 2017	By 25 January 2016	Throughout
Chris Hogan	Director of Children and Families	12 January 2017		
Sima Khatun	Strategic Procurement	12 January 2017		
Charles Barnard	Head of Early Years and SAFE	12 January 2017	By 18 January 2017	1
Jumoke Adebisi and Nick Penny	Finance	12 January 2017	By 18 January 2017	4
Chuhr Nijjar	Legal	12 January 2017	By 18 January 2017	Throughout
Cllr Hitesh Tailor	Portfolio holder	18 January 2017		
Cllr Binda Rai	Portfolio holder	18 January 2018		
<b>External</b>				

**Report History**

<b>Decision type:</b>	<b>Urgency item?</b>
Key decision	No
Report no.:	Maggie Wilson, Head of Children’s Commissioning, LBE/CCG wilsonm@ealing.gov.uk

