

Divisions Affected - All

Delegated Decision by Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety

6 February 2023

Extension and Budget approval for Oxfordshire Stop Smoking Service (Public Health Service) in Oxfordshire

Report by Corporate Director for Public Health and Community Safety

RECOMMENDATION

1. **The Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety is RECOMMENDED to**
 - (a) Approve the budget for and authorise the Director of Public Health to extend the current Specialist Stop Smoking Service contract by one year to 30th June 2025.
 - (b) Delegate authority to the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Head of Legal and Deputy Monitoring Officer and Section 151 Officer, to award an extension to the Stop Smoking Service Contract as referred to in this report, in line with the Council procurement guidelines.

Executive Summary

2. Smoking leads to 64,000 deaths in England each year, harming nearly every organ of the body. It causes 1 in 4 of all cancer deaths, with lung being the most common. Other health risks from smoking include Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Cardiovascular Disease (CVD), poor pregnancy related outcomes such as low birth weight and stillbirths, poor mental health, and dementia. In Oxfordshire there are estimated to be 60,000 adult smokers.
3. In line with NICE Guidelines, a Specialist Stop Smoking Service (SSSS), was commissioned for Oxfordshire in 2021 with an initial contract period of 3 years with the option to extend in aggregate for a further 2 years.
4. In October 2023 central Government announced ring fenced funding for Local Authorities to support increased capacity in Stop Smoking Services for the period 24/25 to 28/29.
5. The current core SSSS is commissioned at Level 3 to reach around 750 Oxfordshire residents annually with a full offer of behaviour change and nicotine replacement therapy (NRT) as per NICE Guidelines.

6. This proposal seeks to condense the remaining extension period of 1 year and 9 months, associated quit target and budget, into being delivered across 12 months. This would give an increased quit target of 1400 (almost doubling capacity).
7. The total cost of the proposed condensed contract extension from 1st July 2024 to 30th June 2025 will be £690,102. This will utilise the current core contract value and an additional £391k of the new national ring fenced funding.
8. The contract value will be over £500,000 and therefore is required to be entered in the Forward Plan, in accordance with the Access to Information Rules. This is a key decision and one that is delegated to the Cabinet Member for Public Health to take, consistent with overall Council policy to deliver agreed strategy/plans within the area of responsibility and within approved budgets.

Background Information.

9. Smoking rates have fallen by more than third over the last decade across all ages but still around 12.7% of the population continue to smoke in England. In Oxfordshire around 11.2% population smoke.
10. Evidence shows that people are most likely to successfully quit smoking with support from a specialist stop smoking service.
11. Nationally and locally, smoking prevalence is higher in people on lower incomes, unemployed, working in routine manual populations or living with poor mental health.
12. Oxfordshire has the following prevalence rates:
 - 11.2% of Oxfordshire residents smoke (2022)
 - 6.4% smoking at time of delivery (22/23), approximately 420 births,
 - 19.8% individuals with long term mental health condition (21/22)
 - 25.7% of routine and manual workers smoke (2022)
13. Smoking impacts heavily on our local costs to health and social care each year (<https://ash.org.uk/resources/view/ash-ready-reckoner>). This includes an estimated:
 - £336 million in productivity costs
 - £133 million in social care costs
 - £18 million health care costs
 - £3 million in fire costs
14. The Oxfordshire Tobacco Control Strategy reflects the England Tobacco Control Plan 'Towards a Smokefree Generation' aspiration to become smoke free (<5% prevalence). Specific actions include prevention, supporting

smokers to quit, reducing variations in smoking rates, and regulation and enforcement.

15. National Government published 'Stopping the Start' in October 2023, which highlighted a range of initiatives to support England to become smokefree by 2030. This includes increasing Local Authority budgets related to stopping smoking from 24/25 for five years, up to and including the financial year 28/29.
16. The current SSSS commissioned by Oxfordshire County Council, Public Health, is delivered across three levels:
 - Level 1 = promotion and awareness raising
 - Level 2 = one off behavioural support session, self-funded NRT/vapes
 - Level 3 = 12-week behavioural support to quit and funded NRT/vapes

Level 3 is available for priority populations as identified in the strategy; pregnant women, routine and manual workers, long term mental/physical health conditions, unemployed, carers, living in areas of high deprivation.
17. The current SSS contract runs until 30th June 2024. There is an option to extend for up to a further 1 year and 9 months in aggregate. Additional capacity and associated funding has already been added from 1st April 2023 – 30th June 2024.
18. This proposal is to condense the remaining extension period of 1 year and 9 months, associated quit target and budget, into being delivered across 12 months. This would double capacity and give an increased 4-week quit target of 1400 (minimum).

Corporate Policies and Priorities

19. This commission aligns with the following local priorities:
 - (a) Oxfordshire County Council's **Strategic Plan 2023-2025** which includes commitments to tackle inequalities in Oxfordshire, prioritise the health and wellbeing of residents and create opportunities for children and young people to reach their full potential.
 - (b) The Oxfordshire **Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2024-2030** which has preventing ill health and tackling health inequalities as it's key underpinning principals.
 - (c) The **Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire (BOB) Integrated Care Partnership (ICP) Strategy (2023)** which outlines priorities to reduce the proportion of people smoking across BOB, including in deprived areas, and those in contact with NHS services (pre-operative, maternity, severe mental illness).
 - (d) The Oxfordshire Tobacco Control Strategy (2020-2025).
20. The service also fits with national guidance for smoking cessation and tobacco control:

- (a) **The DHSC (2020) strategy paper** Towards a Smokefree Generation: A Tobacco Control Plan for England (2017), and subsequent policy paper, Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation (2023).
- (b) The **NHS Long Term Plan (2019)**
- (c) **NICE guidance (NG209)** (2021) – Tobacco: preventing uptake, promoting quitting and treating independence.

Financial Implications

- 21. The condensed contract value is expected to be £690,102 per annum. The condensed contract term will be 12 months.
- 22. The additional funding for 24/25 of £790,000 from DHSC is expected from DHSC via a Section 104 grant in April 2024. The additional funding required to condense the extension period and associated quit target for the SSS is £390,102. Remaining monies will be utilised to support other initiatives in smoking cessation in line with funding agreements.

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Legal Implications

- 23. The Council has a statutory obligation to “take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area” (s2B National Health Service Act 2006 as amended by s12 Health and Social Care Act 2012).

The extended contract is not materially different from the original contract and constitutes a permitted modification under Regulation 13 of the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023.

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Staff Implications

- 24. The Live Well Promote and Prevent Team within Public Health will carry out the contract variation and extension process, in collaboration with the Procurement and Legal team.

Equality & Inclusion Implications

- 25. This expansion, will operate alongside a successful bid to the national Stop to Swap Scheme and will enable every Oxfordshire resident to be eligible for smoking cessation guidance and support with a quit aid. However, efforts to

target support at those most likely to smoke and with the poorest outcomes will remain paramount.

Sustainability Implications

Risk Management

26. The purpose of extending the current service and increasing capacity is to minimise risk. Alternatives would be to reprocure for a considerably larger service at this point. However, the current service is performing well in terms of both uptake and outcomes. Consequently amalgamating the remaining term and targets with the current provider in line with procurement rules whilst planning carefully what might be required moving forward is the planned approach.
27. The key risks identified with this approach are:
 - (a) Greater demand than capacity allows. This will be mitigated by offering the Stop to Swap Scheme (which Oxfordshire has successfully bid for) alongside the core Stop Smoking Service and ensuring that other routes to smoking cessation support are in place for example the new NHS service providing a full pathway to support pregnant women to quit.
 - (b) Less demand than specified. This is deemed unlikely but there are contractual levers in place that ensure funds are not fully paid if anticipated demand is not met.
 - (c) Anticipated Government funding to increase smoking cessation capacity is not received. We will not progress contractual changes until we receive the final memorandum of understanding (expected January 2024).

Consultations

Statutory consultation is not required for this proposal.

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