

CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR - 19 FEBRUARY 2014

PROVISION OF SCHOOL HEALTH NURSING SERVICES

Report by the Director of Public Health

Introduction

1. The current commissioning arrangements for School Health Nursing Services were put in place by the NHS and the contracts with current providers of these services cease on 31 March 2014.
2. In order to guarantee continuation of these services Oxfordshire County Council will need to put in place contract(s) to commence 1 April 2014.
3. In addition to School Health Nursing, Public Health Services delivered in schools also include the National Child Measurement Programme (mandated service for Local Authorities) and school based immunisation programmes which are still commissioned by the NHS.
4. Historically public health services delivered in Colleges of Further Education within the county have not covered all colleges and have also focussed predominantly on sexual health. We would seek to extend these services.
5. In the recommissioning of these services an Invitation to tender would be invited in 4 separate, but related lots. This would enable separate responses to be received to each lot, but also enable potential efficiencies if one provider came forward for multiple lots.
 - (a) Core School Health Nursing Services
 - (b) School Based Immunisation programmes
 - (c) College Nursing Services in Colleges of Further Education
 - (d) Delivery of the National Child Measurement programme
6. The school based immunisation programme still led by the NHS would be one of these lots, but would be awarded to the successful bidder for the core school health nurse service.
7. Oxfordshire County Council procurement process would be followed to commission these services.

Exempt Information

There is no exempt information contained within this report.

Legal Implications

8. 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 (“NHS Act 2006”) as amended by s12 Health and Social Care Act 2012). This includes “providing services or facilities for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness” (s 2B (3) (c) NHS Act 2006).

Financial and Staff Implications

9. Public Health has a ring fenced budget which is approximately £25 million per year.
10. Money is already committed to paying for public health services for children and young people aged 5-19 and the National Child Measurement Programme within the Public Health budget. This information is already reported to the Cabinet.
11. The maximum budget for each lot per annum would be
 - (a) Core School Health Nursing Services £1,550,000
 - (b) School Based Immunisation programmes £300,204 (NHS)
 - (c) College Nursing Services in Colleges of Further Education £200,000
 - (d) Delivery of the National Child Measurement programme £150,000

RECOMMENDATION

12. **The Cabinet Member for Public Health & the Voluntary Sector is RECOMMENDED to approve the incurring of expenditure for the commissioning of School Health Nursing Services and to delegate to the Director of Public Health, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and the Voluntary Sector, the authority to determine tenders and contracts in order to secure the provision of services.**

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