



Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 20 March 2019

Public Health Commissioned Services

Cllr Alan White, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing said,

“Public Health services continue to provide vital interventions to prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections, address drug/alcohol addiction and to help people live healthier lifestyles by making positive changes, such as quitting smoking.

Despite reductions in central government funding for Public Health, we want to continue to build on our recent successes into 2019/20 and 2020/21 and look at areas where improvements are needed. By continually reviewing the way we work and adapting this to the needs of our population, we can be sure that people in Staffordshire will continue to enjoy good health for as long as possible.”

Report Summary:

The paper updates Cabinet on recent developments in Public Health services and seeks permission for the authority for the award of contracts during 2019/20 and 2020/21 to be delegated from Cabinet to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.

Recommendations

I recommend that:

- a. Cabinet note the recent developments in Public Health services, particularly an expansion of active promotion of NHS Health Checks.
- b. Cabinet delegate authority to award contracts for Drug and Alcohol services and Sexual Health services during 2019/20 and 2020/21 to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.
- c. Cabinet note the reference in the NHS long term plan to the possibility of changes to the arrangements for commissioning of Public Health services, although no firm commitments or timescales were set out.

Local Members Interest
N/A

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Recommendations of the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing

I recommend that:

- a. Cabinet note the recent developments in Public Health services, particularly an expansion of active promotion of NHS Health Checks.
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Report of the Director of Health and Care

Reasons for Recommendations:

1. There are three main public health services for adults:
 - a. Healthy lifestyles;
 - b. Drug and alcohol; and
 - c. Sexual health;
2. These, along with public health services for children and other public health programmes and interventions are funded from the Public Health Ring Fenced Grant, which has been reducing by £1m annually over the last three years. This, along with the Council's overall financial position, has required a range of changes to services.

Healthy Lifestyles

3. The Healthy Lifestyles service provides a range of interventions for people aged over 50 in the 52 Local Super Output Areas (LSOAs) where there are the greatest health and care needs, including NHS Health Checks, weight management, smoking cessation and falls prevention.
4. Public Health England (PHE) continue to raise concerns that NHS Health Checks are only actively promoted to people in these 52 LSOAs and have escalated these concerns to the Department of Health and Social Care. NHS Health Checks are available on request to people outside these areas and the Council remains of the

view that this is consistent with our statutory obligations under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 to offer NHS Health Checks to eligible individuals.

5. The service went live in April 2018. Despite much effort the Council has struggled to secure general practices to refer people or provide subcontracted services. One reason for this is that a large number of general practices have patients registered both within and outside the 52 LSOAs: they were reluctant to refer some of their patients and not others, and indicated that it was not financially viable to take on a subcontract for only a proportion of their practice population.
6. To resolve this, while still targeting people in the 52 LSOAs, active promotion of the service will be extended to enable selected practices refer all eligible people within their practice population, and to provide subcontracted services to these individuals. Practices have been selected based on those that have 20% or more of their practice population living in the 52 LSOAs. This change will be within budget and is likely to increase coverage of NHS Health Checks and associated services. It will mean that NHS Health Checks are actively promoted to some people outside the 52 LSOAs and not to others, although they will remain available to everyone on request.

Drugs and Alcohol

7. Drug and alcohol services aim to help people recover from substance misuse problems. Services have made considerable savings over the last two years, and delivery and outcomes are being monitored carefully to ensure that the associated risks continue to be effectively mitigated.
8. There have also been some service developments. The Intensive Family Support Service works with children on the edge of care and provisional data suggests that the service prevented around 20 children becoming Looked After in its first year, which is likely to mean around up to £1m in costs avoided. Also, around £2.6m new funding has been secured from central government in the last 12 months.
9. The current contracts with the charity Addiction and Dependency Solutions (ADS) and North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust ends in April 2020. To ensure compliance with procurement regulations, a service redesign and tender exercise will be carried out during 2019/20, with consultation starting in February. One of the intentions will be to improve integration of drug and alcohol services with other organisations working with the same people, such as mental health and Job Centre Plus. Cabinet is asked to delegate authority to award the contract to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.
10. There current contracts total £5.5m. The service redesign and tender exercise will result in a single contract with an annual value of around £5m, awarded for up to 7 years, thereby achieving the required £500k MTFS savings. A significant proportion of these savings have been achieved through the introduction of a Social Impact Bond (SIB). The SIB will form part of the tender for the IFSS elements of the contract, it which involves outcome-based payments and benefits from a grant from the Department of Culture Media and Sport for £1.89m.

Sexual Health

11. Sexual health services aim to prevent and treat sexually transmitted infections as well as offering family planning advice and interventions. Services are provided mainly by the Midlands Partnership Foundation Trust, alongside GPs and pharmacies, and continue to operate effectively and efficiently. There has been an increase in the incidence of sexually transmitted infections nationally and locally, which may put some operational and financial pressures on the services in future years but are manageable in the immediate future.
12. While there is no requirement to tender services in the short-term to ensure compliance with procurement regulations, in order to make financial or operational improvements there may be a need to renegotiate or retender some of the sexual health service contracts during 2019/20 and 2020/21 and Cabinet is asked to delegate authority for this to the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Health, Care and Wellbeing.
13. There are currently four (three plus the same agreement with around 100 GP practices) sexual health contracts worth around £6.5m. Plans are already in place to achieve the required £100k MTFs savings in 2019/20. No further savings are scheduled to be made from sexual health, although if financial pressures emerge a tender process represents an opportunity to reduce costs.

National Health Service long term plan

14. The NHS long term plan was published in December 2018 and made a reference to the possibility of changes to the arrangements for commissioning of Public Health services:” *the Government and the NHS will consider whether there is a stronger role for the NHS in commissioning sexual health services, health visitors, and school nurses, and what best future commissioning arrangements might therefore be.*” An update will be provided to Cabinet in the event that these national considerations are likely to present any issues for the Council.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

None.

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