

Cabinet Meeting on Wednesday 15 December 2021

Families Health & Wellbeing (0-19) Service: Contract Extension



Cllr Mark Sutton, Cabinet Member for Children and Young People said,

“Following lockdown, continuing concern over Covid and disruption to learning and exams, the need to support new parents, children and young people is clear and obvious.

Opting to extend this valuable service by 12 months will allow us to carry on supporting those who need it, while allowing a suitable period to consider recent events and how we ought to deliver this help in future.”

Report Summary:

The Families Health & Wellbeing (0-19) Service has been delivered as an integrated service by the Midlands Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (MPFT) since April 2018.

In April 2021 we began Year 4 of this 5-year contract (with an option to extend for a further 12 months until 31st March 2024). A priority for 2021-22 will be to consider future options and to develop a paper for further consideration by Cabinet.

Commissioners are seeking agreement, from Cabinet, to a contract extension for this service from April 2023 – March 2024.

Recommendation

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Approves the extension of the contract for the Families Health and Wellbeing (0-19) service with MPFT from April 2023 – March 2024.

Local Members Interest
N/A

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Families Health & Wellbeing (0-19) Service: Contract Extension

Recommendation of the Cabinet Member for Children and Young People

I recommend that Cabinet:

- a. Approves the extension of the contract for the Families Health and Wellbeing (0-19) service with MPFT from April 2023 – March 2024.

Report of the Deputy Chief Executive and Director for Families and Communities

Reasons for Recommendations:

1. The rationale for agreeing a contract extension with MPFT now is so that:
 - a. Both parties are ensured of the continuity of the service until March 2024
 - b. Commissioners have adequate time to understand what is required in the future (from April 2024), which delivery model is fit for purpose and to seek agreement from Cabinet via a future Cabinet report.

FHWB (0-19) Service Delivery Model

2. Staffordshire County Council (SCC) entered into a contract with the MPFT for the Families Health & Wellbeing Service (FHWBS) from April 2018 – March 2023, **with the option to extend until March 2024.**
3. The FHWBS enables children, young people and families to access information, advice and support from Health Visitors and School Nurses.
4. Local authorities (LAs) have a statutory duty as stipulated in the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) to ensure families have access to the five mandated health visitor contacts as follows:
 - a. Antenatal contact
 - b. New birth contact
 - c. 6-8 week check

- d. 12 month development review
 - e. 2-2 ½ year development review
5. The mandated contacts outlined above are offered in a number of ways. Antenatal contacts and new birth contacts are undertaken within the home. The remaining contacts are primarily undertaken at clinics for children who are identified as requiring the universal offer.
 6. If it is targeted ('Universal Plus' or 'Universal Partnership Plus' – which is the equivalent of Tiers 2-4 on the continuum of need):
 - a. contacts are undertaken by Public Health Nurses and take place in a variety of settings dependent upon need.
 - b. children on a Child Protection Plan (CPP) or a Child in Need (CIN) plan are supported by the Strengthening Families Team as part of 'Universal Partnership Plus' which ensures 'continuity of carer'.
 7. The service also provides support to young people, families and schools via School Nurses. For clarity this is not a statutory requirement.
 8. Secondary schools are offered drop-in clinics by a School Nurse. Community drop-in clinics are also available, primarily for primary aged school children.
 9. The other statutory element of the contract is the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). This involves local authorities collecting data on Reception Year and Year 6 children's height and weight from all state-maintained schools within their area.
 10. The School Training Team also offer training on asthma, anaphylaxis and epilepsy.
 11. The service is also supported by two 'hubs' and by ChatHealth.
 - a. The hubs are a central contact point of access for parents, young people and professionals that aims to provide timely access to appropriate advice, support, guidance and signposting when needed.
 - b. The hubs are situated in the East and West of the county providing a county wide service. They coordinate all referrals into the service, provide the ability to book and change appointments. The Hubs ensure information sharing across services and agencies is coordinated and distributed appropriately.

- c. ChatHealth is an innovative service enabling young people and parents to access support via an anonymous text messaging service. This service is manned by both Health Visitors and School Nurses to ensure the appropriate advice is available to those who utilise this service.
12. The service is provided by a skill mix of staff including Band 6 Public Health Nurses (Health Visitors & School Nurses), Band 5 Nurses, Band 4 Nursery Nurses, and Band 2/3 Health Care Support Workers.
13. A number of specialist practitioner roles were also built into the model by MPFT; linked to the 6 (national) high impact areas:
 - a. Infant Feeding Lead
 - b. Perinatal Mental Health Lead
 - c. Healthy Lifestyles Practitioner
 - d. Emotional Health & Wellbeing Practitioner
14. Additional roles, also part of MPFT's staffing structure for this service, include:
 - a. Community Practice Educators
 - b. Schools Training Team
 - c. Community Development Practitioners
15. Contract Review meetings (CRMs) are undertaken with MPFT every quarter; with MPFT providing a quarterly performance report. In between CRMs 'progress meetings' take place between commissioners, contract managers and MPFT colleagues to discuss performance, risks and issues. Every quarter case studies are prepared by MPFT for commissioners spotlighting a range of areas. A number of focus sessions have also taken place as part of the CRM to provide more insight on the work MPFT undertake on this contract.
16. To understand the impact the different elements of the service is having for children, young people and families within Staffordshire and to help inform future decision-making SCC Commissioners have undertaken a number of stakeholder surveys. A Health Visitor survey was carried out in March/April 2020 and three School Nurse surveys for young people, parents and carers and schools were carried out during October 2021.

Legal Implications

17. As detailed above the contract with MPFT provided for a 12-month extension from April 2023 to March 2024. The extension will be documented in accordance with the terms of the contract.

Resource and Value for Money Implications

18. As this is an extension of a pre-existing contract the financial aspect was built into the original procurement process, therefore there would be no financial implications arising as a result of this decision.
19. The contract value for the initial contract period (April 2018 – March 2023) is £47,215,497. The annual contract value for the extension period (April 2023 – March 2024) is likely to be in the region of £9,400,000.
20. Funding is available for the extension period as part of the Public Health Ring Fenced Grant.

List of Background Documents/Appendices:

Executive Summary CIA

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