

DECISION-MAKER:	CABINET		
SUBJECT:	RECOMMISSIONING OF SCHOOL NURSING SERVICE		
DATE OF DECISION:	15 APRIL 2014		
REPORT OF:	CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
AUTHOR:	Name:	Tim Davis	Tel: 023 8083 4970
	E-mail:	Tim.davis@southampton.gov.uk	
Director	Name:	Andrew Mortimore	Tel: 023 8083 3204
	E-mail:	Andrew.mortimore@southampton.gov.uk	

STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY
None

BRIEF SUMMARY

This report sets out the reasons for a proposal to re-tender the School Nursing Service against a service specification that better meets its commissioning responsibility for public health outcomes. Putting the service out to tender will establish a service that improves overall frontline capacity, better delivers the Healthy Child Programme for 5-19 year olds, and improves links with other services in relation to safeguarding vulnerable children and delivers earlier intervention. If approved, a service against the new specification would be in place January 2015.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

- (i) To delegate authority to the People Director, in consultation with the Director of Public Health to revise the service specification for the School Nursing Service and, following consultation with the manager of the Integrated Commissioning Unit to recommission the service subject to the new service remaining within approved budgets
- (ii) To delegate authority to the People Director, in consultation with the Director of Public Health, following consultation with the Head of Property and Procurement, to do anything necessary to secure the commissioning of the School Nursing Service up to and including entering into appropriate contract(s).

REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The review undertaken of School Nursing in Southampton by the Council's Public Health Team identified a number of gaps in unmet child health needs. It identified ways in which the current service, falls short of the requirements of the Healthy Child programme.
2. A recommissioned School Nursing Service, based upon a service specification aligned to the outcomes set out in the Healthy Child Programme would provide better public health outcomes for the City's 5-19 year olds.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

3. Not to go out to market test the service, and/or make changes to the service specification was also considered. It was rejected on the basis that it would not enable the Council's leadership role in delivering better outcomes for the City's children under the Healthy Child Programme, or improve value for money through creating a service better equipped to support partnership working.
4. To delay market testing of the service until after Health Visiting services have transferred into the Council in October 2015 was considered. This was rejected on the basis that there are a number of ways in which the service needs to be enhanced to deliver the Healthy Child Programme. The scope of the change required exceeds what could be achieved through a contract variation. Going out to tender now means that the Council will be broadly in line with the commissioning cycles of neighbouring authorities, and able to take advantage of the new national service specification for a School Nursing service. Waiting until after Health Visiting has transferred into the Council would mean a significant delay in recommissioning the service, and realising the anticipated benefits.

DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)

5. Responsibility and associated funding for commissioning school nursing services transferred into Southampton City Council on 1 April 2013 when it became responsible for Public Health.
6. The Council reviewed the School Nursing Service during 2013-14 to determine how well it met the public health and wellbeing needs of local children. The review updated the needs assessment against which the service is currently commissioned. It also considered the extent to which the existing service and service specification can address health and wellbeing needs to improve outcomes overall and reduce the gap for groups who have poorer outcomes.
7. A review of the existing service included financial analysis which enabled officers to cost the current service more accurately. This has resulted in room to consider more accurately how to specify a service that would be better placed to deliver the Healthy Child Programme whilst also retaining the capacity to work more effectively in support of local partnership arrangements to keep the City's more vulnerable children safe in any recommissioned service.
8. As a result, the Director of Public Health recommends the service is put out to tender. Commissioners and Public Health colleagues are developing a revised specification for the School Nursing Service. The new service would cover existing School Nursing Service activities and would more accurately be described as a Health and Wellbeing Service for school aged children and young people (5-19).
9. It is anticipated that the revised specification for the service would deliver scope for significant specific improvements in the capacity of the new service in relation to the following not covered in the existing specification:
 - Stronger leadership for delivery of the Healthy Child Programme (5-19)

- Provision for 16-19 year olds in college provision in the City.
 - Year round provision in relation to some of the activities carried currently within the School Nursing Service.
 - Additional capacity within the service to provide more comprehensive specialist support to children and families and more effective working with professionals from a range of services to ensure more vulnerable children are kept safe from abuse and neglect.
 - Better coverage and provision of the Healthy Child programme in respect of children and young people educated at home.
 - Improved support from the service for children whose attendance at school is poor due to persistent poor health.
 - Improved capacity for the service to provide a child health leadership role for its work with schools in the development and delivery of their Personal Social and Health Education (PSHE) and Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) curricula.
 - Improved coverage and capacity for the service in relation to mental and emotional health and wellbeing issues among children and young people.
 - Significant increases in the capacity of School Nurses to deliver face to face work with children and young people.
 - Increased capacity to support NHS England in the co-ordination of immunisation programmes to protect children and young people from a range of conditions.
10. A report on the findings of the School Nursing Service Review is incorporated into the Executive Summary of the Needs Assessment for 5-19 year olds attached as Appendix 1 to this report. Delegated authority to finalise the specification for the new service is sought to ensure consistency with a national service specification for core elements of a School Nursing Service. Locally, commissioners will need to ensure that local needs inform this specification as identified within the Council review.
11. The review of the commissioning specification for this service has also been informed by a major refresh of the Needs Assessment for the service in relation to changes in the child population served by the service, the socio economic and wider social context of the city for its children, lifestyle and health improvement priorities, current health and wellbeing outcomes, variation in outcomes between schools and some more customer focussed work in relation to the current service with children and young people, parents, service partners (such as schools) as well as sessions with staff from the current service. This resulted in a comprehensive needs assessment which underpins the need for the Council to sustain a significant investment in the level of school nursing and related health and wellbeing work towards children and young people of school age. A summary of the revised Needs Assessment has been made available in the Members Meeting Room.

12. Consultation with children and young people, parents, school based and other partners of school nurses as well as work with staff from the existing service formed part of the needs assessment. All clearly identified a committed and professional service in relation to the delivery of its services against the existing service specification. Identified needs through engagement helped shape proposals for the new service.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Capital/Revenue

13. Funding for the new service would continue to come from City Council Public Health budgets. The final cost will be subject to this exercise and to the tender submissions but it is envisaged that the service can be delivered within approved budgets.

Property/Other

14. The proposal should not have any property implications for the service as it relates to services commissioned from an external provider which have no specific implications for Council owned property or land.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

15. The Council currently commissions School Nursing services under its statutory responsibility for Public Health. Responsibility for this service transferred to the Council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Other Legal Implications:

16. The proposals set out in this decision are consistent with the Human Rights Act 1998, and statutory guidance relating to Public Health functions in respect of the NHS Act 2006.

POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

17. The decision sought is wholly consistent with the Council's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and other policy framework strategies and plans.

KEY DECISION? Yes

WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	All
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SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices

1.	School Nursing Service Executive Summary Health Needs Assessment for Young People Aged 5-19
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Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) to be carried out.	Yes
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Other Background Documents

Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at:

Title of Background Paper(s)	Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable)
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1.	None	
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