

Report to: Lead Member for Children and Families

Date of meeting: 19 February 2018

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: The Establishment of a Collaborative Partnership Agreement with East Sussex Health Care Trust (ESHT) for the provision of an integrated 0-5 service.

Purpose: Approval of the Collaboration Agreement for Integrated Services between ESCC and ESHT

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Lead Member is recommended to approve the following:

- 1) To enter into a collaborative partnership with ESHT for delivery of an integrated 0-5 service with effect from 1 April 2018; and
 - 2) To delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve the terms of such Collaboration Agreement, and to take any actions arising from the collaborative partnership.
-

1 Background

1.1 The integrated 0-5 Health Visiting & Children's Centres Service has operated from April 2016 under an integrated joint management structure aligned to the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) locality areas. The Health Visiting (HV) element of the service is commissioned by Children's Services Department (CSD) from East Sussex Healthcare Trust (ESHT), using ring-fenced Public Health Grant funding for delivery of the Healthy Child Programme.

1.2 When the Health Visiting contract transferred from NHS England to the Local Authority in October 2015, a two year contract waiver was agreed from April 2016, to allow service redesign to be undertaken. The current contract with ESHT comes to an end on 31 March 2018, and therefore a new arrangement needs to be in place by 1 April 2018.

1.3 Having considered a number of options for delivery of the new service it was recommended to and agreed by the Children's Strategic Planning Group in July 2017 that a collaborative partnership with ESHT for the provision of Health Visiting, Family Keywork and Children's Centres be entered into. Lead Member approval is required in order to formally enter into the Collaboration Agreement so that the collaborative partnership can commence with effect from 1 April 2018.

2 Supporting information

2.1 The proposed collaborative partnership with ESHT is entered into under the old "Hamburg" exemption, now codified in regulation 12 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR). A co-operation under Regulation 12 of the PCR is different in a number of respects from a traditional services contract.

2.2 The collaborative partnership with ESHT will have a different operational, management and financing approach than those that are currently in place. The proposed partnership structure entails staff from both parties contributing to the provision of the service, with co-located teams and a joint management structure. Furthermore, the proposed collaborative partnership will adopt an aligned budget, more details of which are set out in section 3 of this report.

2.3 The principles of collaboration have been agreed with ESHT and a formal Collaboration Agreement is in the process of being finalised. The Collaboration Agreement sets out the parties' respective obligations and contributions to the collaborative partnership as well as the risk sharing arrangements between the two parties and standards of service that both parties are expected to deliver.

2.4 The integration of these services under the collaborative partnership will act as a "test case" during the Accountable Care test-bed period. The long term plan is for further integration with School Health services and aligning the public health nursing functions by April 2020. If the collaborative partnership is agreed by the Lead Member, the future reconfiguration of services will be addressed as part of the Early Help Service review.

3 Finance section

3.1 Budgets for the 0-5 Integrated Early Help and Children's Centre service are composed of a base Council budget of £3.988m and a Public Health grant element of £6.3m. The base council budget will form part of the wider Early Help Review with the requirement of £2.6m savings to be made in 2019-20. The Public Health grant is ring-fenced until 2020-21 and in 2019/20 it is proposed that £6.3 million will be spent on the Health Visiting element of the integrated service.

3.2 Under the Collaboration Agreement, ESHT will invoice on a monthly basis based on 1/12th of the annual cost of delivering the health visiting element of the integrated service. That amount will then be reconciled monthly to reflect the actual cost of delivering the services during the previous month (particularly to take account of any vacancies). The proposed financing arrangements will avoid any overpayment.

4 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

4.1 Considerable progress has been made to establish an integrated 0-5 service with significant improvement in data capture and in performance against key performance indicators. A move away from ESHT as the current provider would be likely to de-stabilise the service and thus have a negative impact on the progress achieved thus far.

4.2 The proposed arrangements with ESHT have been structured in accordance with the requirements of Regulation 12 of the PCR. It is therefore recommended that the Lead Member approve the proposed collaborative partnership between ESCC and ESHT for delivery of an integrated 0-5 service from 1 April 2018. In addition, the Lead Member is recommended to delegate authority to the Director of Children's Services to approve the terms of the Collaboration Agreement between ESHT and ESCC and to take any actions arising from the collaborative partnership.

STUART GALLIMORE
Director of Children's Services

Contact Officer: Simone Lane
Tel. No. 01273 335216
Email: simone.lane@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS

All