

**Oldham Borough Council
Record of Decision**



1. **TITLE:** To seek approval for Oldham Council to enter a collaboration agreement for the provision of the Greater Manchester Sexual Health Improvement Programme (GMSHIP)

2. **SERVICE AREA:** Public Health

3. **PURPOSE OF DECISION**

To ensure that Oldham residents have access to appropriate and effective HIV/STI testing and treatment services and that Oldham has HIV prevention and support provision in place.

The purpose of the report is to request approval to enter a collaboration commissioning agreement (under a Memorandum of Understanding), with all 10 GM Local Authorities, for the delivery of HIV prevention and support services, also known as Greater Manchester Sexual Health Improvement Programme (GMSHIP).

4. **DECISION MADE BY:** Director of Public Health

5. **DECISION:**

RESOLVED - That:

Option C: Approve to enter into the collaboration commissioning agreement to continue the partnering arrangements, with Manchester City Council as lead commissioning authority, for a period of 36 months.

6. **OPTIONS/ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED**

Option 1 - To not enter into the collaboration commissioning agreement. Therefore, Oldham will no longer contribute to the GM commission and the provision of HIV prevention services for Oldham residents is discontinued.

This is not a viable option as there is a reputational risk as the Council has previously agreed to work in partnership with all GM Local Authorities in the procurement of sexual health services. There is also a risk of destabilising the wider GM Sexual and Reproductive Health system if one locality withdraws from the GM commissioning arrangement.

This decision would also be unsupportive of the GM Population Health Plan's objective to scale up the response to HIV eradication; through the prevention of onward transmission of HIV, both through earlier diagnosis and identification of undiagnosed people living with HIV.

Option 2 - Proceed to market to procure the provision of a

comprehensive GM-wide HIV Prevention Programme for a new service to be in place by 1 July 2024.

This is not a recommended option. Manchester City Council, on behalf of GM, has undertaken a review and considered commissioning options to continue service provision as part of a waiver, resulting in the proposal to award a new contract for three years to continue the ongoing delivery of the service by the current providers, as set out in the report below. The review undertaken concludes that the GM Sexual Health Improvement Programme is delivered by unique providers (The PASH Partnership) with specialist knowledge and skillset, and that there are no appropriate alternative providers with the knowledge and skills to deliver the service, hence no alternative routes to the market.

In support of the award of the GMSHIP contract to the three current providers, Regulation 32 of PCR allows a direct award of a contract without publication (a direct award) in the following circumstances:

“(b) (ii) where the works, supplies or services can be supplied only by a particular economic operator (because) competition is absent for technical reasons”. The benefits of the PaSH programme as described above is dependent on its unique providers of the specialist services across the city, which would permit the use of the Reg 32 exemption. All of the other GM localities are in the process of seeking agreement via their internal governance to enter into the new collaboration agreement, with Manchester City Council, acting as the lead commissioning authority.

Option 3 - Approve to enter into the collaboration commissioning agreement to continue the partnering arrangements, with Manchester City Council as lead commissioning authority, for a period of 36 months.

This is the recommended option and will ensure that the provision of HIV prevention and support services for Oldham residents continues. This will also ensure that we meet our mandated and non-mandated responsibilities around HIV/STI testing, treatment, prevention and support and that there is equity of access and provision across all of the GM localities.

7. REASONS FOR THE DECISION

The purpose of the report is to request approval to enter a collaboration commissioning agreement (under a Memorandum of Understanding), with all 10 GM Local Authorities, for the delivery of HIV prevention and support services, also known as Greater Manchester Sexual Health Improvement Programme (GMSHIP).

8. INTERESTS AND NATURE OF INTERESTS DECLARED

None



Oldham
Council

9. **PRINCIPAL GROUPS CONSULTED:** Not applicable
10. **DOCUMENT CONSIDERED:** Delegated Cabinet Member Decision Report - Greater Manchester Sexual Health Improvement Programme (GMSHIP)