

## **Report to CABINET**

# **Request for an extension to the Right Start service contract provided by Bridgewater Community Healthcare NHS Trust**

### **Portfolio Holder:**

Cllr Chauhan, Cabinet Member Health and Social Care

Cllr Moores, Cabinet Member Children's Services

Cllr Shaid Mushtaq, Cabinet Member for Education and Early Years

### **Officer Contact:**

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**20<sup>th</sup> June 2020**

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### **Reason for Decision**

The value of this contract requires a decision to be taken at Cabinet.

### **Executive Summary**

The early years period has a critical influence on future outcomes throughout life. The provision of high quality, effective services, which support communities at this critical time is therefore a priority particularly within the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent years progress has been made in integrating public health and education services to provide a joined-up offer for families. As we further develop models of children's services

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provision in Oldham there are opportunities to consider how we can more effectively join up community, health and care services as part of a place-based model to create a more seamless offer for children and families.

Cabinet passed a key decision in 2019 to extend the current contract for the delivery of Oldham's integrated early years offer – Right Start.

Since this contract extension was agreed, the position has changed substantially as the current pandemic continues to pose unforeseen and unprecedented challenges to all particularly impacting on front line health, care and support services and the availability of the market place to engage in new procurement exercises this financial year due to resilience planning and business recovery by health providers.

Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) was characterized as a global pandemic by the World Health Organization on 11 March 2020.

COVID-19 and recovery plans will continue to be reviewed as lockdown layers are sequentially lifted.

**Recommendation**

Cabinet are asked to approve a one-year extension of the contract from 31 March 2021 up until 31 March 2022.

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### **1. Background**

- 1.1. On 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 the new integrated delivery model for Oldham Early Years Offer – Right Start and School Nursing Service was brought together from a number of providers into a single service. The Right Start service aligns to the GM Early Years Delivery Model and also delivers a number of mandated/statutory functions for Public Health and Education.
- 1.2. The service entitles families with young children from conception to five years to a set of universal and targeted evidence-based services, through the eight stage integrated assessment model and corresponding pathway of intervention. This enhances the statutory elements of the health visiting service and uses children's centres as the vehicle to deliver the core universal preventative service for children and young people alongside schools and early years settings.
- 1.3. This service is delivered on a block contract basis across the two lots, funded through the Public Health budget.
- 1.4. In 2019 a two-year extension up until 31 March 2021 was agreed at Cabinet.

### **2. Current Position**

- 2.1 Following award of the extension of the Right Start contract in 2019, work commenced to identify a number of alternative models for future delivery of services within scope of the current arrangements. However, the landscape has now changed substantially due to the unforeseen outcomes arising from the global pandemic. This could not have been planned for. The pandemic affects providers of health and care services to an unprecedented extent meaning market stimulation is not possible given the circumstances and arising demands on services. It is also envisaged that providers within this field will need a minimum of a six-month recovery model post COVID-19.

### **3. Points to Consider**

- 3.1. The Right Start service has reported increased and unprecedented demand in relation to their high need / children at risk caseload arising from the COVID-19 pandemic. This could not have been planned for or foreseen.

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3.2. The transformation we are working towards is in the context of wider changes across Children's services in Oldham. Bridgewater is currently part of the Oldham Cares Alliance working to ensure transformation and improved outcomes. The majority of the Right Start contract covers mandated/statutory services. The requirement for the Local Authority to provide or commission these services has not changed as a result of COVID-19.

#### **4. Options**

4.1 These are set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda

#### **5. Preferred Option**

5.1 These are set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda

#### **6. Recommendation**

6.1 These are set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda

#### **7. Financial Implications**

7.1. These are set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda

#### **8. Legal Services Comments**

8.1 These are set out in the report in the restricted part of this agenda

#### **9. Co-operative Agenda**

9.1 All Public Health services fully support and adopt the Council's cooperative values as they promote the active engagement of Oldham residents in the life of the community. This contract particularly promotes fairness and openness in terms of the services that it provides.

#### **10. Procurement Implications**

10.1 These are set out in this report in the restricted part of this agenda.

#### **11. Environmental and Health & Safety Implications**

11.1 None

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**12. Equality, community cohesion and crime implications**

12.1 None

**13. Equality Impact Assessment Completed?**

13.1 No

**14. Key Decision**

14.1 Yes

**15. Key Decision Reference**

15.1 CHS-02-20

**16. Background Papers**

16.1 None

**17. Appendices**

17.1 None