



**Executive**  
15 March 2010

**Report from the Director of  
Children and Families**

Wards affected:  
ALL

**Commissioning of the specialist Child and Adolescent  
Mental Health Service (CAMHS) in Brent 2010-11**

Forward Plan Ref: C&F-09/10-018

**1.0 Summary**

- 1.1 The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (hereafter referred to as CAMHS) is a jointly funded statutory service commissioned by NHS Brent and Brent Council. This specialist Mental Health service, which includes provision for social care, learning disabilities and adolescent care, is commissioned to supplement the core CAMHS service provided by NHS Brent.
- 1.2 The service is currently delivered by Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (hereafter referred to as CNWL) at a total cost of £1,006,504.31 per year (total Council and NHS funding). The current contract is due to expire on 31 March 2010. For delivery to continue, this High Value service is required to undergo a full tender in order to comply with the Council's Standing Orders, unless the Executive grant an exemption from tendering.
- 1.3 The Joint Commissioning Board, a sub group of the Brent Children's Partnership, are assessing the current use of resources for specialist CAMHS, on behalf of NHS Brent and Brent Council. This is with a view to potential reconfiguration to achieve priorities and address gaps. It is anticipated that this review of CAMHS will support a reconfigured service to be commissioned jointly with NHS Brent from 1 April 2011.
- 1.4 The Children and Families department are seeking exemption from the full tender requirements and seeking approval from the Executive to commission CNWL to deliver this service on a one year contract from 1 April 2010 to 31

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March 2011. By recommissioning the existing provider, it is hoped that there will be minimal disruption to delivery for 2010-11.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

The Executive are requested to:

- 2.1 Approve an exemption from the usual tendering requirements of Contract Standing Orders in relation to the joint Council and NHS Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, on the basis that there are good operational reasons for doing so as set out in section 3 of the report.
- 2.2 Award a contract jointly with Brent Primary Care Trust for the joint Council and NHS Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service to the current provider, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust, for the period 1 April 2010 to 31 March 2011.

## **3.0 Detail**

- 3.1 The current contract with CNWL for the delivery of specialist CAMHS is due to expire on 31 March 2010 and a new service configuration is being explored for April 2011 onwards. This forms part of the wider review of Mental Health services in Brent, which encompasses services currently commissioned by both Brent Council and NHS Brent. The scope of the review includes children, younger and older adults, people with learning disabilities and drug and alcohol services. The aim of the review as it relates to child and adolescent mental health services is to assess the potential for greater integration with Local Authority Children's services as well as deliver early intervention services at a locality level within current resource levels. Therefore the review could result in a decision to continue the existing service with a new specification, or introduce significant changes to the way that Mental Health services are provided in the borough. The review is ambitious in its timescales and is scheduled for completion of meetings by June 2010, and implementation in the 2011-12 financial year onwards.
- 3.2 The current and proposed contract with CNWL relates to the delivery of appropriate, accessible and comprehensive specialist CAMHS for children and young people up to the age of 18, in particular those known to social care and those with disabilities. Services are provided on the basis of a personalised needs led assessment in order that interventions are appropriate to the individual. Clinical interventions are in the form of both specialist 1:1 support and group work. Assessment and treatment are provided by child and adolescent psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, nurses, child psychotherapists, family therapists, play therapists and occupational therapists. The service is delivered in multidisciplinary assessment clinics, schools, Children and Families Social Care offices, community settings and homes. Over the last year, the service has supported an average caseload of 400 children and young people per quarter.

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- 3.3 In view of the service review described in paragraph 3.1, this report recommends that this one year contract should not be subject to a tender process for the following reasons and be recommissioned with the current provider:
- It is highly unlikely that a new provider could be operational from April 2010, as there is not sufficient lead in time to establish a new service.
  - Even if it were possible to establish a new service to start from April 2010, CAMHS involves working alongside some of the most vulnerable children and young people within Brent. The establishment of a new service provider in April 2010, and potentially again in April 2011, could prove disruptive for these users.
  - Service users and professionals are aware of where and how to access these current services.
  - If a new provider was sought, it would require months of publicity to promote the new service so that both users and professionals are aware of the revised arrangements.
  - The commissioners are confident in the standard of service delivered by CNWL. CNWL are an experienced provider who have met their service delivery targets throughout 2009-10.
  - The recommissioning will give sufficient time to participate in the mental health review process, undertake an assessment of the market to determine whether there are other providers with the capability and capacity to provide this service and develop a comprehensive specification that addresses emerging priorities and gaps using existing resources.
- 3.4 Therefore this report recommends an exemption from the tendering requirements of Contract Standing Orders to enable CNWL to be commissioned to deliver the existing service for a further year.
- 3.5 CNWL currently provide tier 4 or highlight specialist CAMHS services to the eight PCTs belonging to the North West Sector CAMHS Consortium. The consortium is made up of eight boroughs in the north and west of London, including Brent. CNWL deliver core and targeted CAMHS services on behalf of NHS Brent as well as the provision of specialist CAMHS to five other boroughs in the sector. In line with current arrangements, CNWL will continue to be performance managed through a service level agreement with rigorous, quarterly monitoring arrangements.
- 3.6 A report recommending the recommissioning of this service for one year from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 to fully assess the options for reconfiguration arising from the review discussed in 3.1 was presented to Brent Children's Partnership Joint Commissioning Board. The recommendation was approved by the Board at its meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> February 2010. The Joint Commissioning

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Board is a sub group of Brent's local Children's Trust and is chaired by the Director of Strategic Commissioning of NHS Brent.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications from this report. The report relates to the service to be provided in 2010/11. The funding has already been identified and will be drawn from a joint budget with NHS Brent and the Local Authority. The Local Authority contribution is £674,556 and the NHS Brent contribution is £331,948.
- 4.2 Any High Value CAMHS contracts beyond April 2011 will be subject to further reports to the Executive.

#### **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 The Council is under an obligation to secure that there are mental health services in place for children in accordance with its general duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need, under section 17 of the Children Act 1989.
- 5.2 All contracts for services exceeding £500,000 in value are classified as High Value contracts under Contract Standing Orders. Here the Council element of the service is £674,556 for 2010/11. Such a contract is required by Contract Standing Orders to be tendered. Where any contract is proposed not to be tendered, then only the Executive can approve this under Standing Order 84, on the conditions that there are good operational and / or financial reasons for doing so. Here the operational reasons are set out in paragraph 3.3 of this report, and Members need to be satisfied that the reasons are sufficient to justify an exemption from the usual tendering requirements of Contract Standing Orders.
- 5.3 In addition, Members can only grant an exemption from tendering where there is no breach of the European public procurement requirements. Mental health services are Part B services under the relevant regulations, and so the contract is subject only to partial application of the regime. Most importantly there is no requirement to advertise and tender a Part B contract in accordance with the regulations. However as a Part B service it will still require notification of the contract award to the EU Publications Office.

#### **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 This contract relates to the delivery of specialist CAMHS for children and young people known to social care services, those with learning disabilities and young people aged up to their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday with mental health problems and disorders. The presence of mental health problems is a known risk factor which can result in vulnerability and associated behaviours.

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- 6.2 The aim of this provision is to enable practitioners in the Children and Families department, and other agencies such as schools and GPs, to access a range of flexible and responsive therapeutic services for vulnerable children and young people who present with family breakdown, social crisis, neglect, absent parenting and or socially unacceptable behaviour and including those with learning disabilities and associated mental health problems. Current service users are representative of the ethnic and cultural diversity in Brent.
- 6.3 The service will ensure that children and young people with mental health problems and disorders have access to timely, integrated, high quality, multidisciplinary mental health services to ensure effective assessment, treatment and support, for them and their families. Provision is delivered on the basis of a personalised needs led assessment of individual children and young people in order that interventions are appropriate and targeted to those most in need.
- 6.4 The failure to approve the award of this contract could lead to the withdrawal of services from some of the most vulnerable children and young people in Brent. Those most at risk include young people known to social services and children and young people with learning disabilities.

## **7.0 Staffing Implications**

- 7.1 This service is currently provided by an external provider and there are no implications for Council Officer staff arising from continuation of the contract.

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