



Cabinet
16 March 2015

**Report from the Strategic Director of
Children and Young People**

For decision

Wards Affected:
ALL

**Contract for the provision of the Targeted Mental Health in
Schools Service (TaMHS)**

1.0 Summary

- 1.1 The TaMHS Service is a targeted mental health service providing support for children aged 5 to 16 and their families. It takes the form of either multiple family therapeutic group work and/or individual family work. The project is a collaborative partnership between Brent Council, Brent CAMHS (the current provider) and schools. It is overseen by professionals from these services and managed by a project manager from the local authority. The project brings CAMHS practitioners into schools on a weekly basis, providing vital support for children and families who have mental health issues. The project is currently used by 17 schools that pay to use the service.
- 1.2 The project is currently funded by participating schools (£158,000) and a contribution from the (centrally retained) Dedicated Schools Grant of £50,000.
- 1.3 The council has had a contract with CNWL (Brent CAMHS) for provision of this service since 2009, when government funding was provided to establish targeted mental health support in schools. This report seeks to award a contract to CNWL without the need for a tender for TaMHS services on the grounds that, on the advice from Brent Clinical Commissioning Group, it would be in the best interests of future service provision to defer retendering to align with the timeline for (and integrate with) the retendering of the CCG's much larger CAMHS contract. This is primarily on the grounds that there is considerable value in having the same provider for both services. In addition, a mental health strategy is currently being developed by the council, working with the CCG, which will map the future of mental health services for children and young people in the borough.

2.0 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet grant an exemption from the requirement to tender and approve the award of a contract to Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (“CNWL”) for Targeted Mental Health in Schools services for a period of 12 months from August 2015 to July 2016, with a view to retendering as part of the wider CAMHS recommissioning in 2016.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Brent’s TaMHS project was initially set up in 2009, with government funding, to improve mental health outcomes for children and families. Eight schools took part in the initial two-year pilot, which proved to be very successful. Key outcomes achieved included: preventing school exclusions, improving the attainment of children, engaging vulnerable families and developing collaborative partnerships between parents and carers, schools and Brent Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). The project has expanded since then and now includes 17 schools.
- 3.2 The therapists are allocated to a school for half a day or a day each week providing a range of support including:
- Assessment meetings with children/families
 - Delivery of multi-family group work with a school based partner
 - Individual sessions with families
 - Classroom observations
 - Advice and training for school staff about mental health issues
 - Attendance at school inclusion meetings to ensure a co-ordinated approach
 - Liaison with agencies and professionals involved with the families ensuring a joined up approach
- 3.3 Staffing Structure:
The TaMHS project currently consists of:
- Art Therapists – 2 full time
 - Clinical Nurse Specialist – 0.5
 - Systemic Family Therapist – 1 full time
 - Clinical Psychologist – 0.1
- Total Therapeutic Staff – 3.6
- 3.4 Approval is being sought to grant an exemption from the requirement to tender and subsequently award CNWL a contract for the reasons detailed below.

- 3.5 A CAMHS review is to be undertaken during 2015/16 covering the whole of North West London. From discussions with our local CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) it is clear that the TaMHS service needs to form part of this review and it is anticipated that the delivery, funding and number of schools involved in the project will be reviewed. A new contract with the existing provider would ensure that the existing provision to schools could continue for a further academic year. This would give time for the review of CAMHS to take place in 2015/16 and preparation for a larger tendering exercise to be undertaken.
- 3.6 Following the review of CAMHS it is anticipated that recurrent funding will be identified for the TaMHS project and that a longer term strategy for sustainability will be developed.
- 3.7 A mental health strategy is currently being developed by the local authority which will map the future of mental health services for children and young people in the borough from 2014 to 2018. This will map out existing support and address the borough's key challenges in terms of CYP mental health. As one of the main Tier 2 CAMHS provisions in the borough the TaMHS project will form part of this strategy.
- 3.8 The existing contract represents value for money in that the total cost of £208,000 consists solely of salary and employment on costs for therapists who are employed on Band 7 of the NHS. This level of practitioner would cost at least the same with any other provider.
- 3.9 The 17 schools currently involved in the project are very anxious that it should continue next academic year and are prepared to continue to fund the majority of the service. Funding has been identified from within the Children and Young People's Department to part fund the project for an additional 12 months from July 2015. However, as yet, no secure funding has been found for the project to continue beyond 2015/16.
- 3.10 The service is currently oversubscribed, with 15 additional schools having requested the service last year but only five of them were able to access the project due to capacity and funding issues. Additional funding is currently being sought CCG (£70,000) for 2015/16 which would enable more schools to access the project. There are currently 10 further schools which have expressed an interest in the project for 2015/16. If permission to issue a new contract to CNWL for 2015/16 is approved and the request for funding from CCG is successful then the service would be able to expand further to support more schools, children and families in 2015/16.
- 3.11 Schools' feedback regarding the existing provider (Brent CAMHS) is very positive. They appreciate the school based support for children and families and that fact that there is no waiting on long lists. Schools appreciate the unique aspects that this provider brings to the project which they identify as:
- 3.11.1 Direct referral to Brent CAMHS Tier 3 service or for diagnostic assessment. TaMHS practitioners are supervised and managed between Brent CAMHS and the Local Authority and this allows for discussions related to school referrals to

Tier 3 CAMHS to take place quickly and efficiently. For young people who are assessed as requiring specialist diagnostic assessment e.g. for ADHD or ASD, or where a Specialist Tier 3 intervention is required, the TaMHS therapist is able to make referrals directly to Tier 3 CAMHS and act as the bridge between CAMHS and the schools, providing regular updates on progress to the school.

- 3.11.2 The multi-family group work approach and high level of family engagement also sets the TaMHS project apart from other therapeutic interventions. Each week six to eight families come together in a group, with a focus on both school and home targets for the children which are reviewed weekly in the group.
- 3.11.3 Schools value having specialist mental health support on site. They appreciate the immediate in school support for children and their families and positive relationships that are developed with the therapists. Schools appreciate that there is no waiting on long lists for children and families. The school based nature of the support also contributes to a low failure to attend appointments rate which results in better value for money.
- 3.11.4 Schools appreciate the highly qualified staff employed by the project; all TaMHS practitioners are qualified therapists (see 3.3 above) and receive supervision within Brent CAMHS. This is qualitatively different to counselling agencies that use volunteers or trainees to deliver services since it is able to address more significant mental health issues.
- 3.11.5 The project also includes the training of a school based partner, who works alongside the therapist, co-facilitating the groups builds capacity and a mental health resource in each school.
- 3.12 The project continues to deliver positive outcomes for children and families in Brent. A range of outcome measures are in place which track each child in terms of: attendance, punctuality, attainment, behaviour, improvement in attitude to learning and improvement in well being. Feedback from children and families is also sought regularly, via review meetings, questionnaires and focus groups. Some of the outcomes are detailed in 3.12 below.
- 3.13 During the academic year 2013/14, 279 children and young people were supported. Of these, 123 were experiencing severe difficulties, 129 moderate difficulties and 27 mild difficulties. 334 one to one sessions were held. 254 group sessions and 30 young people were referred to Tier 3 CAMHS for further assessment. The majority of referrals were for emotional and behavioural difficulties (49 per cent) and 20 per cent of young people were referred due to family/home difficulties. During the summer term 2014, 64 per cent of young people referred showed improvements in terms of well being, 57 per cent showed improvements in terms of attitude to learning, 53 per cent in terms of behaviour, 47 per cent improved their attendance, 80 per cent made improvements in English and 55 per cent improved in Mathematics.

3.14 Approval from Cabinet to grant an exemption from the requirement to tender and approve to award a contract to CNWL from August 2015 to July 2016 would ensure that the existing provision to schools continue for the next academic year while the review of CAMHS takes place, the Council's Mental Health Strategy is developed, and a larger tendering exercise for CAMHS is considered.

4.0 Financial Implications

4.1 The current cost of the contract with CNWL for the CAMHS service is £208,000, which funds 3.6 therapists.

4.2 The contract is primarily funded from contributions from participating schools, with the remainder funded by the centrally held Dedicated Schools Grant, as set out in the table below:

Income 2014/15	£
5 academies at £13,000 for 1 day per week	65,000.00
4 non academy schools @ £12,000 for 1 day per week	48,000.00
7 schools @ £6,000 for half a day per week	42,000.00
1 school @ £3,000 for half a day per fortnight	3,000.00
Total income from schools	158,000.00
Contribution from the centrally retained Designated Schools Grant	50,000.00
Income Total	208,000.00

The new proposed contract of £246,000 would be primarily funded by participating schools with the remainder funded by the centrally retained Designated Schools Grant and the Public Health Grant as set out in the table below. In addition to the current provision the provider will also be delivering a mental health in schools programme which will involve a training programme for school staff in identifying mental health issues and workshops for parents.

Projected Income 2015-16	£
5 academies at £13,000 for 1 day per week	65,000.00
4 non academy schools @ £12,000 for 1 day per week	48,000.00
7 schools @ £6,000 for half a day per week	42,000.00
1 school @ £3,000 for half a day per fortnight	3,000.00
Total income from schools	158,000.00
Contribution from the centrally retained Designated Schools Grant	58,000.00
Public Health Grant	30,000.00
Income Total	246,000.00

5.0 Legal Implications

- 5.1 Under the new Public Contract Regulations 2015 (“the EU Regulations”), the majority of which came into force on 26 February 2015, the services of Clinical Input fall within the Social and Other Specific services category listed in Schedule 3 of the EU Regulations (“Schedule 3 Services”) that currently have a EU threshold set at £625,050 and a specific procedure to follow.
- 5.2 The estimated total value of the contract over its lifetime is £246,000. As such, the total value of the contract is below the EU threshold for Schedule 3 Services and therefore not subject to the full requirement of the EU Regulations though subject to the limited requirements of Part 8 of the EU Regulations including a requirement for contracts that have been awarded to be published on Contracts Finder.
- 5.3 As the estimated total value of this contract is in excess of £172,514 but less than £250,000, it is subject to the Council’s own Standing Orders and Financial Regulations in relation to Medium Value Contracts. Contract Standing Orders require that Medium Value Contracts are procured using a tender procedure. For the reasons detailed in paragraphs 3.4 to 3.12, it is not proposed to tender this contract but to award it directly to CNWL.
- 5.4 Under Contract Standing Order 84(a), Cabinet has the power to grant an exemption from the requirements to procure in accordance with the Contract Standing Orders. Cabinet shall exercise this power following legal advice that there is no breach of domestic or EU law or the Council’s own procedures in the exercise of the authority and where there are good operational and / or financial reasons for doing so. Further, given the limited value and duration of the contract and the specialist nature of the services, it is not considered that this contract would be of cross border interest and therefore it is considered direct award is permissible in the circumstances described in this report.
- 5.5 As indicated in paragraphs 2.1 to 3.13, in addition to seeking an exemption from the requirements to tender, Officers also seek approval pursuant to Contract Standing order 88 to award the contract to CNWL.

6.0 Diversity Implications

- 6.1 The service is providing a valued resource for families from who are mainly from disadvantaged groups. The children and young people are usually experiencing emotional and behavioural difficulties which can put a strain on family life. Some families experience additional challenges such as poor mental or physical health and social and economic deprivation.

7.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

7.1 This service is currently provided by an external contractor and there are no implications for council staff arising from the recommendation. Also, there are no accommodation implications as the contractor is not based on council premises.

8.0 Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

8.1 The council is under a duty pursuant to the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 (the "Social Value Act") to consider how relevant services being procured might be structured to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area; how, in conducting the procurement process, the council might act with a view to securing that improvement; and whether the council should undertake consultation. Officers have had regard to these requirements in the Recommendation contained within this report.

8.2 The services to be procured have as their primary aim improving the social wellbeing of some of the most vulnerable groups in Brent. The market for such services is highly specialised to client needs and geographical locations which narrows the opportunities available to the council in terms of procuring in such a way as to promote social value. Officers consider that the proposals to combine the TaMHS service with the CAMHS service in due course will offer officers additional opportunities to improve the economic, social and environmental well-being of its area.

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