



**Cabinet
24 April 2017**

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

Wards Affected: All Wards

**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, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (the current provider of CAMHS in Brent) 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 16 schools that pay to use the service and 3 schools that are funded by The Virtual School for Looked After Children to provide support to Looked After Children (LAC) specifically.
- 1.2 The project is currently funded by participating schools budgets (£167,000), the Virtual School for LAC (£60,000) and the Setting and School Effectiveness Service (£6,000). The total value of the contract for 2016/17 is £237,548. This is fully DSG funded. The DSG also provides some additional funds for the Local Authority's management costs and monitoring of the TaMHS contract.
- 1.3 This report seeks to award a contract to CNWL for a further 12 months without the need for a tender for TaMHS services on the grounds that, on the advice from Brent Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), 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. A CAMHS transformation process is currently underway which will map the future of mental health services for children and young people in the Borough. It would, therefore, be premature to go out to tender at this point. Brent CCG is committed to whole scale re-commissioning of CAMHS services for 2018.

2.0 Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 2.1 Approves an exemption pursuant to Contract Standing Order 84(a) of the requirement to tender a twelve month contract for Targeted Mental Health in Schools services for good operational and financial reasons as detailed in Section 3
- 2.2 Approves the award of a twelve month contract for Targeted Mental Health in Schools services from 1st August 2017 to 31st July 2018 to Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust.

3.0 Detail

- 3.1 Brent's TaMHS project was initially set up in 2009 with government funding for 2 years, 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. The first 2 year contract to Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust was awarded in 2011 and then extended to 2014. It has been necessary to continue to extend the contract annually since then due to the CAMHS transformation programme work.
- 3.2 The Project achieves good outcomes for children and families including: 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 19 schools.
- 3.3 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 therapeutic 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
 - Referral to Tier 3 CAMHS when required

3.4 Staffing Structure:

The TaMHS project currently consists of:

• Art Therapists	2.2 FTE
• Clinical Nurse Specialist	0.4 FTE
• Systemic Family Therapist	0.6 FTE
• Clinical Psychologist	0.1 FTE
• Educational Psychologist	1 FTE
Total Therapeutic Staff	4.3 FTE

Approval is being sought to grant an exemption from the requirement to tender and subsequently award CNWL NHS Foundation Trust a contract for the reasons detailed below:

- 3.5 A CAMHS review is currently taking place 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 2017 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 The existing contract represents value for money in that the total cost of £237,548 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. The rate for the therapists is negotiated and represents good value for money as it includes clinical supervision and administration.
- 3.8 The 19 schools currently involved in the project are very anxious that it should continue in the next academic year and are prepared to continue to fund the majority of the service. £70,000 has been agreed by the schools forum and funded by the DSG for the project management for an additional 12 months. However, as yet, no secure funding has been found for the project to continue beyond 2018.
- 3.9 The service is currently oversubscribed, with additional schools having requested the service last year but only a small number of them were able to access the project due to capacity and funding issues. It is hoped that additional funding will be allocated by the CCG from 2018 which would enable more schools to access the project.

- 3.10 Schools' feedback regarding the existing provider is very positive. They appreciate the school based support for children and families and the unique aspects that this provider brings to the project which they identify as:
- 3.10.1 Direct referral to Brent CAMHS Tier 3 service 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 (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder) or ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder), 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.
 - 3.10.2 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.
 - 3.10.3 Schools value having specialist mental health support on site. They appreciate the immediate school based 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.
 - 3.10.4 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.
 - 3.10.5 The project also includes the training of a school based partner, who works alongside the therapist, co-facilitating the groups, building capacity and a mental health resource in each school.
 - 3.10.6 As well as supporting the management of the TaMHS project and contract monitoring the additional funds from the DSG support management of other related programmes to support schools on preventing exclusions, work around Personal, Social and Health Education and maintaining the anti bullying council and activities.
- 3.11 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 outcomes are detailed in below.

- 3.12 During the academic year 2015/16, 378 children and their families were supported in 16 schools. Of these, 27% were assessed as experiencing severe difficulties. During the same academic year, 1077 one to one sessions were held with children and families, 302 group sessions and 64 young people were referred to Tier 3 CAMHS for further assessment and treatment. An additional 693 consultations were held with children, parents and school staff and 316 assessments took place with young people.
- 3.13 The majority of referrals were for social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMHD). During 2015/16, 53% of young people referred showed improvement in terms of well being, 55% showed improvement in at least one target, 49% in terms of behaviours for learning and 47% of families reported improvement in relationships at home. According to HONOSCA (Health of the Nation Outcomes Scales Children and Adolescents) data 71% of cases open and closed within 2015/16, for which there was an initial and follow up HONOSCA, showed improvement.
- 3.14 Approval from Cabinet to grant an exemption from the requirement to tender and approval to award a contract to CNWL from August 2017 to July 2018 would ensure that the existing provision to schools continues for the next academic year while the review of CAMHS takes place and a larger tendering exercise for CAMHS is considered.

4.0 Current Income and Projected Income

- 4.1 The current value of the contract with CNWL NHS Foundation Trust for the CAMHS service is £237,548 which funds 4.3 therapists.
- 4.2 The contract is funded from contributions from schools, the Setting and School Effectiveness Service and the Virtual School for Looked After Children, as set out in the table below:

The contract for 2016/17 is funded as follows:

	£
7 schools @ £14,000.00 for a day per week	98,000.00
7 schools @ £7,000.00 for half a day per week	49,000.00
2 schools @ £10,000.00 for a day a week (part of year)	20,000.00
Total Income from schools	167,000.00
Income from The Virtual School (to support Looked After Children in 3 schools)	60,000.00
Income from the Setting and School Effectiveness Service to fund mental health training open to all school staff	6,000.00
The balance from the DSG funding	4,548.00
Income Total	£237,548.00

Projected Funding for 2017/18

£

The anticipated new contract value would be £291,000 which would fund 5.3 FTE therapists on Band 7 of the NHS. This would be primarily funded by participating schools and allow the project to extend to five more schools, 24 in total. The usual process is that schools will be asked to commit to TaMHS for one year early in the summer term 2017. Once the total number of schools is confirmed the project manager will enter into negotiations with CNWL regarding the cost of the contract based on the FTE staffing required and will be looking to obtain a 10% saving.

12 schools @ £14,000.00 for a day per week	168,000.00
9 schools @ £7,000.00 for half a day per week	63,000.00
Total Income from schools	231,000.00

Income from The Virtual School (to support LAC in 3 schools)	60,000.00
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Income Total	£291,000.00
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5.0 Finance Implications

- 5.1 The TaMHS Service is funded from the dedicated schools grant. The budget associated with the service is net £105k in the financial year 2016/17.
- 5.2 The Schools Forum recommended to fund this service at this level at the June 2015 forum.
- 5.3 The contract has not contributed to savings opportunities when retendering contracts since the new contract value is the same at £55k per FTE therapist.
- 5.4 The contract for the service with CNWL is for £238k for the period August 2016 to July 2017. £233k of this is funded by charging schools and from other service contributions as detailed above. Extension of the number of schools resulting in an increase in contract cost to £291k is also sufficiently funded.
- 5.5 Consequently there is sufficient budget for the contract funded as outlined above.

6.0 Legal Implications

- 6.1 The TaMHS Service is classified as a Schedule 3 Service under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the "EU Regulations"). The estimated value over the lifetime of the proposed contract detailed in the Recommendations is £291k and is consequently below the threshold for full application of the EU Regulations.
- 6.2 The proposed contract is classified as a Medium Value Contract under the Council's Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations and should thus be procured

through a competitive tender exercise. As detailed in Section 3 (particularly paragraphs 3.4 – 3.6 and 3.9), Officers have indicated that there are considered to be good operational and financial reasons not to tender the contract but instead award to CNWL. In the circumstances, an exemption from the requirement to tender in accordance with Contracts Standing Orders and Financial Regulations is sought. Cabinet is permitted to grant such an exemption pursuant to CSO 84(a) if it considers that there are good operational and/or financial reasons.

7.0 Diversity Implications

- 7.1 The service is providing a valued resource for families from who are mainly from disadvantaged groups. The children and young people are usually experiencing social, emotional and mental health 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.
- 7.2 The approval to award a twelve month TAMHS Service contract to the current provider will ensure continuity and consistency of service while the review of CAMHS takes place and a larger tendering exercise for CAMHS is undertaken. This will also enable officers to consult with stakeholders, consider lessons learnt from the current contract, and identify ways of further optimising the equality benefits and social value outcomes as part of the CAMHS tender exercise.

8.0 Staffing/Accommodation Implications (if appropriate)

- 8.1 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.

Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

- 9.1 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.
- 9.2 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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