	Officer Key Decision
	Report to the Corporate Director Care, Health & Wellbeing
	Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care
Authority to Award Contract for a Perinatal Mental Health Team	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Key Decision
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
No. of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	N/A
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Marie McLoughlin Consultant in Public Health Marie.mcloughlin@brent.gov.uk Chukwusomebi Anwunah Principal Public Health Strategist Chukwusomebi.anwunah@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report concerns the award of a contract for a Perinatal Mental Health Team. This report requests authority to award contracts as required by Contract Standing Order 88. This report summarises the process undertaken in selecting a provider and recommends to whom the contract should be awarded.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Corporate Director Care, Health & Wellbeing, having consulted with the Lead Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care :

2.1 Approves the award of a contract for a Perinatal Mental Health Team to Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust for 2 years in the sum of £303,571 per annum, a total of £607,142.

3.0 Detail

Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1 A gap in the provision of Mild to Moderate Perinatal Mental Health Services and Parent-Infant Relationship Support has been identified. Officers consider that the Recommendation to award of this contract will contribute to Borough Plan Priorities as follows:
- (a) The Brent Borough Plan 2023 – 2027 priorities focus on babies getting the best start in life. This service will work with families and children to ensure nurturing and bonding are developed. It also links to a “a healthier Brent”. The service will combine efficient universal provision with tailored and targeted interventions for those communities who find services hard to access.

Background

- 3.2 The Governments 2019 manifesto included a commitment to champion Family Hubs alongside additional investment in the Supporting Families programme. In April 2022, the Government announced the Family Hubs and Start for Life programme, a collaboration between the Department for Education, the Department for Health and Social Care and the Department for Housing, Levelling up and Communities
- 3.3 Through this programme, the Government committed £301.75m for 75 upper-tier local authorities to deliver start for life and family help services over the next three financial years. Brent Council was named one of the 75 local authorities (“Las”) as eligible to take part in this programme
- 3.4 The Best Start for Life vision was set out in the Early Years Healthy Development Review, chaired by Rt Hon Dame Andrea Leadsom. The review, published in March 2021, focused on the period between conception and the age of two (the first 1,001 critical days) and found that parents sometimes experienced difficulty in navigating the different services they needed as these were disjointed, resulting in parents having to ‘tell their story multiple times’. What parents and carers wanted were accessible, joined-up services, available in one place, both physically and virtually. The review set out that Family Hubs could become that home for services during those critical 1,001 days, providing universal and seamless support. It urges local authorities to work in partnership with local partners to develop a coherent and joined-up Start for Life offer, which sets out to parents and carers the services they are entitled to and how they can access them.
- 3.5 The Best Start for Life report committed to 6 action areas outlined below:

Action Areas

Ensuring families have access to the services they need

- 1. Seamless support for families:** a coherent joined up Start for Life offer available to all families.
- 2. A welcoming hub for families:** Family Hubs as a place for families to access Start for Life services.
- 3. The information families need when they need it:** designing digital, virtual and telephone offers around the needs of the family.

Ensuring the Start for Life system is working together to give families the support they need

- 4. An empowered Start for Life workforce:** developing a modern skilled workforce to meet the changing needs of families.
- 5. Continually improving the Start for Life offer:** improving data, evaluation, outcomes and proportionate inspection.
- 6. Leadership for change:** ensuring local and national accountability and building the economic case.

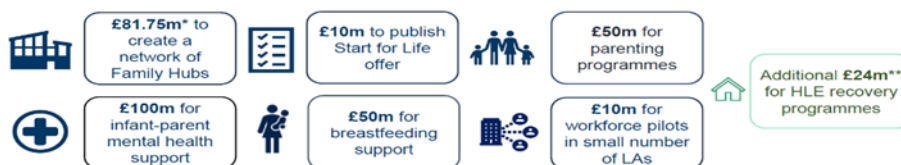
- 3.6 Income Deprivation Affecting Children Indices (IDACI) were used to determine eligibility for the programme and 75 local authorities with high levels of deprivation and disproportionately poor health and educational outcomes were identified for participation. LAs choosing to participate are expected to move towards a Family Hub model or to extend their existing Family Hubs, in Brent's case Family Wellbeing Centres, improve their Start for Life offer and transform family support.
- 3.7 The Family Hubs and Start for Life programme guide (August 2022) provides detailed guidance on programme objectives, the vision for how services should be delivered and what this investment should mean for babies, young children, and families. By the end of the programme, it is hoped that LAs will have achieved the objectives below:
- Transform the way services are designed and delivered
 - Enhance and expand services to deliver universal Start for Life and family services
 - Ensure additional targeted interventions are in place that provide tailored support for vulnerable communities
 - Improve and increase workforce capacity and capability for the multi-professional Start for Life workforce
 - Understand what works, identifying and sharing best practice

Funding provided through this programme relates to some services and activities deemed essential. The infographic below shows the funding breakdown for different components of the programme.

Investment and Funding

At the Autumn Budget, the Government committed £301.75m for 75 upper-tier local authorities to deliver start for life and family help services over the next three financial years.

The package contains funding for the following components:



* This funding is in addition to previous £39.5m family hubs funding which includes the £12m transformation fund
 ** This forms part of the £153 million of new funding announced June 2021 to aid early years educational recovery

Public Health is leading on the Perinatal Mental Health (“PIMH”) and parent-infant relationships strands.

- 3.8 This programme will provide opportunities to improve how local services share information and work together and increase the efficiency for professionals and services through effective collaboration. In the longer term, it is hoped that this will lead to a borough wide ambition for early years that reduces inequalities in health and education outcomes for babies, children, and families in Brent.
- 3.9 An indicative funding allocation for Brent between £4.18m and £4.38m over the three financial years of 2022-23, 2023-24 and 2024-25 has been provided, please see breakdown below:

2022-23	2023-24		2024-25		Total	
Total	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range	Lower Range	Upper Range
£1,059,000	£1,698,000	£1,810,000	£1,423,000	£1,512,000	£4,180,000	£4,380,000

The table below shows expected distribution of the funding across the programme strands:

Strand	% ¹
Family hubs programme spend	18.6%
Family hubs capital spend	4.7%
Perinatal mental health and parent-infant relationships	31.6%
Parenting support	16.8%
Infant feeding support	15.5%
Home learning environment services	9.6%
Publishing ‘Start for Life’ offers and Parent and Carer Panels	3.1%

- 3.10 Public health are leading on parent and infant mental health support, and infant feeding programmes. Unfortunately, the funding for the programmes were not released until 31st March 2023, therefore only giving two years to implement the programmes. An infant – parent mental health steering group was set up and several workshops took place using a tool kit to ascertain what was required. It was agreed that a small team needed to be formed to cover the needs of women and children with mild to moderate symptoms. As the Central

and North West London NHS Foundation Trust (“CNWL”) work across Brent, they were involved from the onset.

- 3.11 CNWL are the only mental health trust that work in Brent. As they already have teams to work with families under 5 with moderate to high need, Officers consider that awarding a contract to CNWL to develop a new team to provide Perinatal Mental Health services would provide a seamless service and continuity of care.
- 3.12 Officers identified the Central North-West London (CNWL) NHS Foundation Trust as the ideal provider to deliver this service in Brent for the following reasons:
- CNWL are the only mental health trust that work in Brent;
 - CNWL already delivers the 0–5-year-old Children and Adolescents Mental Health Service and this will provide a good scaffolding for the delivery of a perinatal mental health service dealing with mild to moderate mental health cases;
 - Due to the urgent nature of the need to utilise the Family Hubs and Start for Life funding, the existing infrastructure within CNWL will provide a greater chance of success in speedy and efficient recruitment and appropriate clinical governance
- 3.13 Having identified CNWL as the ideal provider, Officers sought and on 30th January 2024 obtained approval from the Cabinet Member for Public Health & Adult Social Care to Waive Contract Standing Orders to permit the procurement of a Perinatal Mental Health Team through a Direct Award.
- 3.14 Officers recommend a contract for the period of two years. The total contract value will be £607,142 for the two year period.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

- 4.1 To establish what was required, several workshops were organised. In the workshops there were CNWL, Brent Council, Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust, Imperial College NHS Trust and London Northwest University Healthcare Trust.

5.0 Financial Considerations

- 5.1 Part 3 of the Council's Constitution states that a Corporate Director has delegated authority to approve the award of contracts for services valued at less than £2 million. The estimated value of the Contract is £607,142 for the two year term.
- 5.2 The cost of the Contract will be funded from the Start for Life budget.

6.0 Legal Considerations

- 6.1 The Contract that Officers are proposing to award is valued at £607,142 over the contract term and the Contract is thus classified as a Medium Value Contract under Contract Standing Orders. Contract Standing Orders provide that a Medium Value Contract should be procured by seeking tenders. For the reasons detailed in Section 3 of the report, Officers do not consider it appropriate to seek tenders and as set out in paragraph 3.13, have sought and obtained approval from the relevant Cabinet Member pursuant to Contract Standing Order 84(a) to waive the requirement to tender, thus permitting a direct award of the Contract.
- 6.2 Perinatal Mental Health services are classed as services falling under Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (the “PCR 2015”) The estimated value of the Contract over its lifetime is less than the PCR 2015 threshold for Schedule 3 and the award of the Contract is therefore governed in part only by the PCR 2015. In the circumstances, there is not considered to be as breach of domestic law or the Council’s own procedures if the Corporate Director directly awards contracts.
- 6.3 Under the Council’s constitution, the Corporate Director, Care, Health & Wellbeing has delegated powers to award contracts values up to £2 million for services provided that:
- (a) The award of contract or approval of the agreement would not place the Council in breach if procurement legislation.
 - (b) There is sufficient budgetary provision.

For the reasons set out in Sections 3 to 6 , these conditions have been met and the Corporate Director has delegated powers to award the Contract.

7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

- 7.1 Pursuant to s149 Equality Act 2010 (the “Public Sector Equality Duty”), the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to:
- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act
 - (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; and
 - (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it,
- 7.2 The Public Sector Equality Duty covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, marriage and civil partnership, gender reassignment, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

- 7.3 Having due regard involves the need to enquire into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.
- 7.4 There is no prescribed manner in which the council must exercise its public sector equality duty but having an adequate evidence base for its decision is necessary.
- 7.5 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no adverse equality implications.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

- 8.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no adverse impacts on the Council's environment objectives and climate emergency strategy.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

- 9.1 Whilst this service is a new service to be operated by an external contractor, it is similar to a previous service that has operated. The previous service was operated by an external contractor and there are therefore no implications for Council staff arising from award of the Contract.

10.0 Communication Considerations

- 10.1 As this service forms part of Brent's Family Hubs and Start for Life offer, relevant considerations of communications and publicity campaigns have been made and are embedded within the larger Start for Life delivery plan.

Related documents:

Report to Lead Member: Approval to Waive Contract Standing Orders to permit procurement of Perinatal Mental Health Team through a Direct Award

Report sign off:

Rachel Crossley

Corporate Director Care, Health and Wellbeing