

CABINET MEETING – 20 June 2024

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY SHEET – PART I

Title of Report:

Integrated Sexual Health Service Contract Extension

Author(s):

Executive Director of Health Housing and Communities

Purpose of Report:

To seek Cabinet's approval to extend the Integrated Sexual Health Service (ISHS) contract for 24 months.

Description of Decision:

- Cabinet is requested to approve an extension of the ISHS contract currently provided by South Tyneside and Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust (STSFT) for a period of 24 months.
- Cabinet is requested to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities to negotiate and agree the terms of the contract extension including any increase to non-staff costs.

Is the decision consistent with the Budget/Policy Framework? Yes

If not, Council approval is required to change the Budget/Policy Framework

Suggested reason(s) for Decision:

The Council has a duty under section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) to take steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of people in its area. In particular, the provision of comprehensive open access sexual health services is designated as mandatory.

It is recommended that the Council's contract for these services with STSFT is extended for a 24-month period, for the following reasons:

- a) The services are mandated and the requirement for them is highly unlikely to change;
- b) The extension will ensure stability from a service delivery perspective and no disruption for service users;
- c) The extension will support the continued delivery of key health outcomes in Sunderland; and
- d) STSFT has performed well and has provided a high-quality ISHS throughout the current contract.

Alternative options to be considered and recommended to be rejected:

To carry out a new procurement process to appoint a provider for these services. This option is rejected, as the current contract has an available extension period of 24 months, and services are currently delivered to a high standard.

Impacts analysed;

Equality Privacy Sustainability Crime and Disorder

Is the Decision consistent with the Council’s co-operative values? Yes

Is this a “Key Decision” as defined in the Constitution? Yes

Is it included in the 28 day Notice of Decisions? Yes

INTEGRATED SEXUAL HEALTH CONTRACT EXTENSION

Report of the Executive Director of Health Housing and Communities

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To seek Cabinet's approval to extend the Integrated ISHS contract for 24 months.

2. Description of Decision (Recommendations)

2.1 Cabinet is requested to approve an extension of the ISHS contract currently provided by STSFT for a period of 24 months.

2.2 Cabinet is requested to delegate authority to the Executive Director of Health, Housing and Communities to negotiate and agree the terms of the contract extension including any increase to non-staff costs.

3. Introduction/Background

3.1 The Council has a duty under section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) to take steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of people in its area.

3.2 This includes responsibility for commissioning a wide range of services that aim to improve the health of the population and reduce health inequalities in Sunderland. These include sexual health services which are mandatory services. These services also make provision for disadvantaged groups including those with protected characteristics as defined by the Equality Act 2010.

3.3 The ISHS provides three core areas of activity:

1. Provision of contraception services (mandated function)
2. Provision of screening, testing and treatment for STIs (mandated function)
3. Sexual health advice, information, and promotion (including pregnancy options advice for young people)

3.4 The ISHS provides services at all levels of complexity (levels 1-3), in accordance with national guidance, including:

- Contraception
- Screening and Treatment for STI's
- Psychosexual Counselling
- Young people's sexual health and teenage pregnancy services
- Outreach
- HIV prevention
- Sexual Health Promotion

3.5 In addition to the mandatory elements of the service, our sexual health service has a strong focus on prevention, supporting the reduction of more expensive demand elsewhere in the system, including but not limited to the impact of teenage pregnancy, education and possible social care intervention.

4. Current Position

4.1 The current contract commenced on 1 October 2019 and is due to expire on 30 September 2024. Under the current arrangements there is an option to extend for 2 x 12 month, but it is proposed to enter 1 extension for a 24 month period.

4.2 A review of the current contract was conducted in December 2023, with a full report presented to the Public Health assurance group in February 2024. The group were assured in the performance of the current contract and supported the proposed recommendation to extend the contract with STSFT from the 1 October 2024 - 30 September 2026.

4.3 The current contract has consistently met or exceeded most of its performance targets across a broad range of key performance indicators (KPI) required as part of the contract. Some key highlights (not exhaustive) from Q2 2023/24 are:

KPI	Target	Performance	Status
Clinic Activity	<5% cancelled, <10% DNA	0% cancelled, 16.43% DNA	Unfortunately, there is no clear reason why people do not attend their appointments. The service is currently implementing changes to text reminders and conducting reviews to better understand the underlying causes.
Percentage of patients seen within 20 mins of booked appointment time	70%	98.4%	
Percentage of clients triaged within 48 hours	85%	100%	
Percentage of people offered an appointment within 48 hours	Not specified	100%	
Percentage of new HIV diagnosis referred to treatment within 2 weeks	100% referred within 2 weeks, 95% offered an appointment within 2 weeks	100% referred and 100% offered	
Percentage of under 25s screened for chlamydia	75%	93.5%	
Percentage of women offered and accepting reliable contraception post-EHC	95% offer	100% offered, 85% uptake	
Period from tests to results receipt within 10 working days	95% within 10 working days	100%	

4.4 The contract price has increased over the contract period (five years) as the contract has been varied to include the Agenda for Change pay awards and to include PrEP¹ activity:

- Original contract price (including extension period) £15,601,230.00
- New contract price (including extension period) £16,169,914.00

¹ HIV pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) involves the use of antiretroviral medicines in individuals who are HIV negative to reduce the risk of acquiring HIV

- Percentage increase to date over contract period 3.645%

Please note the above increase excludes any non-staff cost increases and the Agenda for Change pay award for 2024/2025. These will be negotiated and agreed upon separately, and any resulting increases will be added to the above contract price. The projected annual increase in non-staffing costs is estimated at £60,873, representing 6.60% of non-staffing expenses and 2.62% of the contract value. As the Agenda for Change pay award for 2024/25 has not been finalised, we are unable to confirm what this increase will amount to for the 2024/2025 financial year however, upon previous years it's led to an approximate increase of £58,000.

5. Reasons for the Decision

- 5.1 Services commissioned via the Public Health budget help enable the Council to meet its duty under section 2B of the National Health Service Act 2006 (as amended by the Health and Social Care Act 2012) allowing the Council to take steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of people in its area.
- 5.2 In particular, the provision of comprehensive open access sexual health services is designated as mandatory.
- 5.3 As approved by Cabinet in September 2018, the ISHS contract term was for 5 years with the potential option to extend for a further 2 x 12 month periods. It is recommended, that the proposed commissioning intentions to extend the contract for the 24 month period, should be approved for the following reasons:
 - a) The services are mandated and the requirement for them is highly unlikely to change;
 - b) The extension will ensure stability from a service delivery perspective and no disruption for service users;
 - c) The extension will support the continued delivery of key health outcomes in Sunderland;
 - d) The ISHS is a clinical service and fits well with an NHS provider;
 - e) The STSFT has performed well and has provided a high-quality ISHS throughout the current contract.

6. Alternative Options

- 6.1 Potential alternative option has been considered and is recommended to be rejected:
 - (i) Procurement Process – Rejected as the current contract has an available extension of 24 months, and the contract is delivered to requirement.

7. Impact Analysis

- 7.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed as part of this process and can be found in Appendix 1.
- 7.2 The ISHS will continue to be subject to ongoing Impact Analysis. By their nature, Public Health services and interventions aim to reduce inequalities by providing accessible and targeted interventions to those that are most likely to experience poor health outcomes.

8. Other Relevant Considerations / Consultations

- a. **Co-operative Values** – Public Health services and interventions aim to reduce health inequalities in their delivery by improving access to services and directing services to those communities that have highest levels of need. Additionally, they encourage and embody self-care and self-responsibility.
- b. **Financial Implications** – The costs will be met from the Public Health revenue budget utilising the funding provided in the annual Public Health Grant allocation.
- c. **Employee Implications** – There are no current identified implications for the Council's workforce.
- d. **Legal Implications** – The proposed procurement process for the services will be carried out in accordance with the relevant requirements of The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's own Procurement Procedure Rules.
- e. **Policy Implications** – The ISHS supports the shared values within the Sunderland Healthy City Plan, in particular focusing on prevention, tackling health inequalities and equity.
- f. **Procurement** – Corporate Procurement have been consulted around the proposed contract extension and the content of this report.

9. Background Papers

The below reports will help guide decisions in relation to the contract and identifying key service areas for focus.

- The Sunderland sexual health JSNA (2018) full report can be found at: [Sexual Health JSNA \(sunderland.gov.uk\)](https://www.sunderland.gov.uk/sexual-health-jsna)
- A more recent summary was completed for 2023/ 2024 and this can be found at [Sexual Health JSNA Update](#)
- Office of Health Improvement and Disparities summary profile of local sexual health Sunderland report can be found [OHID Sunderland Sexual Health](#) .

10. List of Appendices

Appendix 1: [Integrated Impact Assessment](#)