



**West  
Northamptonshire  
Council**

# **WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNCIL CABINET**

**17th JANUARY 2023**

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR ADULT CARE, WELLBEING, AND  
HEALTH INTEGRATION – COUNCILLOR MATT GOLBY**

**CABINET MEMBER RESPONSIBLE FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND  
EDUCATION – COUNCILLOR FIONA BAKER**

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**Report Title**                      **Public Health & Integrated Care Board Integration Programme  
for Children & Young People’s Community Health & Wellbeing  
Services**

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## **Contributors/Checkers/Approvers**

<b>West MO</b>	Catherine Whitehead	09/01/2023
<b>West S151</b>	Martin Henry	04/01/2023
<b>Other Director/SME</b>	Stuart Lackenby	04/01/2023
<b>Head of Communications</b>	Becky Hutson	04/01/2023

## List of Appendices

None

### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet members with an update on the progress of integrated 0-19 children and young people services, including Reach youth counselling and Strong Start universal early year service and note the recommended approach.
- 1.2 The Council currently has contracts in place for the delivery of:
- The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service – a mandated service funded through the Public Health ring-fenced Grant. The current services are provided by Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) across the county.
  - Youth counselling services are provided by the Reach Collaborative (5 community organisations) delivering across the county.
  - 0-5 universal non-clinical service is provided by Strong Start across Northamptonshire.
- 1.3 To remind Cabinet that public health grant funded 0-19 services, the Reach service and related services described below are currently being managed through a Section 75 (S75) lead and associate commissioner agreement with Northamptonshire Integrated Care Board (ICB) (who are the lead commissioner). This formal commissioning arrangement was agreed in March 2019, commenced in July 2019, and is scheduled to terminate in March 2023. This so far has led to more effective contract management and plans to align, and ultimately join up, services have progressed since the creation of the ICB.
- 1.4 The timing of this proposal comes as West Northamptonshire Council (WNC) Public Health and the ICB make decisions regarding the longer-term arrangements post the current S75 agreement that expires in March 2023 and following a recently concluded scoping exercise undertaken in January 2021. ICB have formally indicated their intent to adopt the current Better Care Fund (BCF) S75 agreement to allow the extension of the 0-19 service arrangements.
- 1.5 Approval is now sought for delegated authority to be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing and The Director of Finance, to secure an arrangement for the delivery of these services through the extension of the current S75 agreements with NHS partners, from April 2023 – March 2025. This will enable longer-term commissioning options to be explored.
- 1.6 The first year of the extension will allow the integrated system to review the profile of need for children and young people aged 0-19, as well as to creatively look at delivery options. Once the ICB has agreed 0-19 priorities the second year of the extension will deliver a procurement or other delivery option. It should not be assumed that the existing NHFT arrangements would continue, although this does remain an option. Possible replacement of existing services arrangements would require a procurement or related process, including potential migration of existing service resources.

- 1.7 This longer-term contract will continue to provide current services but will allow time to develop and transform services, and will increase interest from the market, as well as obtain better value for money. It will also provide stability for service users, for whom trust and confidentiality are very important.
- 1.8 Under the S75 there are opportunities for improved joint working/ integrating of children's commissioning, Children's Trust and aligning of 0-19 universal and specialist children's services to the Northamptonshire Children's Integrated Care system plan. This will focus on prevention, transform service delivery and lead to more effective and sustainable outcome focused contracts and services that take account of annual NHS and public health grant funding reductions.
- 1.9 Building on existing organisational and policy arrangements with commissioning and provider organisations would be the least disruptive option in terms of organisational change. This will allow the Council to continue using existing mechanisms to promote better integration of care across children's services while the development of wider joint commissioning plans takes place.

## 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 The report provides summary information on the progress so far with the integrated approach for children and young people's services with the ICB, including the 0-19 services, Children and Young People's (CYP) Mental Health and Reach counselling services. The report will also include the progress made by the Strong Start universal early years' service and options for future arrangements, as the contract is due to expire on 31 March 2023.

## 3. Recommendations

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3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- a) Agree that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Public Health and Wellbeing and Children, Families and Education and the Director of Finance, to **extend** a Section 75 agreement (or equivalent public sector agreement) for up to 2 years with Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT) in partnership with North Northants Council and Northamptonshire Integrated care board (ICB) for a jointly commissioned 0-19 Public Health Nursing Services and a range of health commissioned services supporting children and young people in West Northants from April 2023 – March 2025 or an earlier end date as required.
- b) Agree that delegated authority be given to the Director of Public Health, in collaboration with the Director of Children Services and Cabinet Member for Public Health, to agree future governance arrangements for this service with the ICB.

#### 4. Reason for Recommendations

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4.1 The recommended course of action is the most cost-effective and likely to match future services with the changing profile of needs for children, young people and their families

4.2 To accord with legislation or the policy of the Council

4.3 Development of the previous decisions of Northamptonshire County Council in February 2020

#### 5. Report Background

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5.1 The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service is provided by Northamptonshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust (NHFT). The current annual contract value is £11,762,303 (combined Public Health funding by WNC and North Northamptonshire Council (NNC)). The contract ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

5.2 Youth counselling services are provided by the Reach Collaborative (5 community organisations) delivering tier 1 and 2 counselling services for young people aged 11-18 across the county. The current annual contract value is £543,000. The contract ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023.

5.3 -5 universal non-clinical service is provided by Strong Start across Northamptonshire under an Accountability Arrangement. This service delivers parenting and baby groups, 1-1 support and an online offer, working very closely with maternity and health visiting services for referrals. The contract value is £601,000, The contract ends on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2023

5.4 The 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service is public health ring-fence grant funded. The service delivers the Healthy Child Programme which is a series of mandated interventions offered to all families that promote child development and safeguarding. The Northamptonshire service delivers health visiting, school nursing, family nurse partnership (a bespoke programme for teenage parents) and breastfeeding services.

5.5 The responsibility of the 5-19 year old element of this contract was transferred from NHS England to local authority public health teams in April 2013 and the 0-5 year old contract element was transferred in September 2015. Between September 2015 and May 2018 this 0-19 contract was managed by NCC public health commissioners independently of wider children services commissioned by the Northamptonshire CCGs.

5.6 During 2021/22 Northamptonshire CCG and West and North Northamptonshire Public Health (PH) Services spent approximately just over £30 million in **separate** commissioned contracts to provide a range of universal and specialist community-based services for the same population of 185,756 children and young people aged 0-19 years.

5.7 In 2018 the CCG supported the movement of the 0-19 Public Health Nursing Service contract into a S75 agreement for a fixed period, pending a decision whether to retender as a separate contract or learn from other areas and start the process of commissioning jointly.

5.8 In June 2018 the contract was transferred under a S75 agreement to be included in the Northamptonshire CCGs specialist children services community contract. The S75, under the NHS Act 2006 (as amended), allows local authorities and National Health Service (NHS) bodies to enter into partnership arrangements in relation to certain functions, where these arrangements are likely to lead to an improvement in the way in which those functions are exercised. The specific provision for these arrangements is set out in the NHS Bodies and Local Authorities Partnership Arrangements Regulations 2000. The establishment of S75 whereby delegation of duty of care is assigned to the Health Authority are exempt from procurement regulations.

5.9 The transfer to a S75 that commenced in July 2019 therefore negated the need to re-tender the service and was in line with local transformation plans agreed through the Northamptonshire Health and Care Partnership (NHCP) for local sustainable, more efficient, longer term contract provision.

5.10 This agreed S75 until 31 March 2023 designates lead commissioner responsibilities for the full community contract to Northamptonshire ICB, with NNC Public Health as associate commissioners with lead responsibility for the universal 0-19 element and a range of specialist community based mental health services of the contract. The impact of the disaggregation of Public Health services across the 2 Councils can be addressed during the proposed 2 year S75 extension.

5.11 Resources for contract management and performance are being provided by the ICB until 31 March 2023, and as partner commissioners, Public Health attend all contract meetings to direct this element of the contract and are responsible for leading service development. This arrangement for contract and performance management may move to the two Public Health teams for the period of the S75 extension.

## **6. Issues and Choices**

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6.1 The existing Section 75 arrangement for 0-19 Services ends in March 2023. It is proposed that the integrated commissioning approach through the S75 agreement between the 2 councils and Integrated Care Board (ICB) will be extended for up to 2 years on a “one plus one” basis that would allow for the extension to be ended earlier if preparation for replacement service arrangements can be completed before March 31<sup>st</sup> 2025. Also, that services described above under this arrangement continue to be delivered during that period. During the period of the extension commissioners will be reviewing the options for long term integration of children services and the development of a transformed model of service provision and how this can be achieved.

During the two-year period of the S75 extension, commissioners will research and project 0-19 need, and agree the outcomes that are necessary to meet that need as part of a needs led and data driven commissioning process. The period of the extension will allow provider options, including that of bringing the services in house, to be modelled.

6.2 The option to end the existing S75 led services in 2023 cannot be considered as it would result in significant loss of essential services.

6.3 Delivery of other options, including bringing services in-house or running a procurement would not be possible before the end of the current S75 arrangement.

## 7. Implications (including financial implications)

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- **Resources and Financial**

7.1 The table below shows the current year’s funding with projections for a one plus one extension to a maximum of contract period to end before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

	0-19 Forecast		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£000	£000	£000
Funded by	<i>100% funded from the Public Health Grant</i>		
<b>On-going costs (revenue)</b>	£11,792,004	£11,792,004	£11,792,004
<b>Add Agenda For Change to contract value as per PH guidance</b>	See 7.2 below	See 7.2 below	See 7.2 below

	Reach Collaborative Forecast		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£000	£000	£000
Funded by	<i>100% funded from the Public Health Grant</i>		
<b>On-going costs (revenue)</b>	£543,000	£543,000	£543,000
<b>Add potential inflation cost pressure</b>	TBC	TBC	TBC

	Strong Start Forecast		
	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
	£000	£000	£000
Funded by	<i>100% funded from the Public Health Grant</i>		
<b>On-going costs (revenue)</b>	£601,000	£601,000	£601,000

7.2 The Council is holding Agenda for Change funds given to the Council and due to NHFT for its staff incremental pay uplift. The actual amount due is being finalised with NHFT and will be released in due course. Agenda for Change payment will not therefore impact on the Council's finances.

- **Legal**

7.3 The S75 arrangement behind the Council's oversight of these services and will ensure compliance with legislation and good governance.

- **Risk**

7.4 The main risk identified to date is the potential failure to identify a provider by the end of the S75 extension in 2025.

Risk	Mitigation	Residual Risk
Provider performance declines	Contract management arrangements are in place that reduce risk of this occurrence with effective escalation to service improvement processes established	Green
Disagreement with co-commissioners	Agreement reached with Northamptonshire ICB to withdraw from s75 arrangement if this is in the best interests of WNC.	Green

- **Consultation & Communications**

7.5 This report was produced for both Councils and submitted through the established governance arrangements.

- **Consideration by Overview and Scrutiny**

7.6 None

- **Climate Impact**

7.7 The Council, having declared a climate change emergency in June 2021, is committed to reducing its climate impact both within its own Council buildings and in working with businesses and the wider community to achieve net zero energy emissions. During the S75 extension and in preparation for new arrangements from 2025 climate impact will be a key factor in consideration of service delivery options.

- **Community Impact**

7.8 The report considers the health and wellbeing of Northamptonshire children, young people and their families

## 8. Background Papers

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- Introducing The Children and Young People Transformation Pillars and Leads  
[northamptonshirehpc.co.uk/2021/09/introducing-the-children-and-young-people-transformation-pillars-and-leads/](http://northamptonshirehpc.co.uk/2021/09/introducing-the-children-and-young-people-transformation-pillars-and-leads/)
- What Good Children and Young People’s Public Health Looks Like  
[www.adph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/What-Good-Children-and-Young-Peoples-Public-Health-Looks-Like.pdf](http://www.adph.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/What-Good-Children-and-Young-Peoples-Public-Health-Looks-Like.pdf);
- Healthy Child Programme Update (0-19) (2021)  
[Healthy Child Programme update](#) ;
- The Best Start for Life: A Vision for the 1001 Critical Days – The Early Years Healthy Development Review Report 2021  
[The Best Start for Life: A vision for the 1001 Critical Days - The Early Years Healthy Development Review Report \(2021\)](#)