

Delegated Decisions report



11 January 2022

RE-PROCUREMENT OF NHS HEALTH CHECKS

Name of Cabinet Member	Councillor Jane Carr (Cabinet member for Tackling Inequalities and Child Poverty)
Report sponsor	Oliver Mytton Deputy Director of Public Health
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Exempt / confidential / not for publication	No
Council Plan reference	A Healthy Place
Wards affected	All wards

Executive Summary

Under the terms of the Service Level Agreement for Public Health functions (covering Bedford Borough Council (BBC), Central Bedfordshire Council (CBC) and Milton Keynes Council (MKC)), Milton Keynes Council has responsibility for leading on NHS health checks and managing contracts on behalf of all three authorities. The NHS Health Check programme is a statutory requirement.

This report is seeking approval for the Public Health team to re-commission the NHS Health Check programme.

The contract period requested is two years contract plus one year extension. The total value of the two years contract is £941,206 combined, the MKC value is £441,476. The one-year contract extension value is £470,603, with the MKC proportion equating to £220,738. Payment is activity based and the stated values represent the maximum payments if general practice delivered health checks to all eligible people. Relevant shares of operational costs and activity are recharged to Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils.

1. Decisions to be Made

- 1.1 That the commencement of an appropriate tender exercise for contracts to deliver the NHS Health Check Programme on behalf of Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Milton Keynes Council, be approved.
- 1.2 That the contracts be delivered by General Practitioners for a period of two years, commencing on 1 April 2022 to 31 March 2024, with an option to extend for a further one year.
- 1.3 That the Deputy Director of Public Health be given delegated authority to award the contracts.

2. Why is the Decision Needed?

- 2.1 NHS Health Checks aim to assess an individual's risk of developing cardiovascular disease and to spot early signs, in order to put in place interventions to prevent or delay the onset of diseases.¹ The NHS Health Check programme is a statutory requirement.
- 2.2 If we do not recommission this contract, we will not fulfil our statutory obligations. If we do not recommission these contracts, we risk not being able to identify people at risk of cardiovascular disease and so fail to prevent avoidable cardiovascular disease, negatively impacting on people's health and well-being.

3. Implications of the Decision

Financial	Y	Human rights, equalities, diversity	Y
Legal	Y	Policies or Council Plan	Y
Communication	Y	Procurement	Y
Energy Efficiency	N	Workforce	N

(a) Financial Implications

The total value of the two-year contract is £941,206 combined, the Council's value is £441,476.00. The one-year contract extension is £470,603.00 combined, the Council's value is £220,738.00. This is the maximum value; the contracts are activity-based contracts paid per completed NHS Health Check. The payments to an individual practice will not exceed the £25,000 threshold per practice.

¹ The NHS Health Checks are for patients aged 40-74 years of age with no history of cardiovascular disease and include as standard a BMI check using the patient's height and weight, blood pressure check, a cholesterol check and general lifestyle questions as well as questions about family medical history with onward referral to appropriate clinical and community services such as weight management

The total value of the two years plus one year extension is £1,412,809.00 combined, the Council's value being £662,214.00.

The table below provides a summary of the financial commitments being made by the Council and all three local authorities collectively.

LA	Costs per annum per LA	2 years contract	1 year extension if used	3 years with extension
MKC	£220,738	£441,476	£220,738	£662,214
Total	£470,603	£941,206	£470,603	£1,412,809

Relevant shares of operational costs and activity are recharged to Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire councils.

There is no movement of net budgets between authorities. Milton Keynes Council will pay invoices related to Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire NHS Health Checks and Milton Keynes Council will recharge Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire Councils as per the service level agreement, for their proportion of the costs.

(b) Legal and Procurement Implications

- (i) The Health and Social Care Act 2012 amended the NHS Act 2006 to give local authorities (LAs) the leading role in improving their population's health and the Secretary of State the duty to protect the health of the population in England and reduce health inequalities. NHS Health Checks are a prescribed function and mandatory.
- (ii) There is an agreement in place between Milton Keynes Council, Bedford Borough Council and Central Bedfordshire Council in which the Council is obligated to lead on the commissioning and management of contracts relating to the NHS health check services across the three authorities.
- (iii) It is anticipated that the procurement of this contract will follow a light touch regime tender process given the nature of the services. This allows the Council flexibility in how to run the procurement process, but the Council has to comply with the principles of fairness, transparency and equal treatment of all the providers involved.
- (iv) Delegation of authority to award the contracts as requested is permissible.

- (v) Appropriate provisions must be included in the tender and the contracts to ensure that the delivery of the contract will be compliant with General Data Protection Regulations.

(c) Equality Implications

An Equality Impact Assessment will be completed to identify existing or potential inequalities in the promotion and completion of NHS Health Checks.

The contracts recognise the need to focus and incentivise NHS Health Checks for those most at risk of cardiovascular disease. The cardiovascular risk calculation also incorporates postcode to prioritise those living in deprived areas and ethnicity, recognising that these are risk factors for cardiovascular disease.

4. Alternatives

- 4.1 Local authorities have a statutory responsibility to deliver an NHS Health Check programme. Not procuring NHS Health Checks is not an option.
- 4.2 Whilst delivery of NHS Health Checks by general practice is currently challenging because of the pandemic and competing pressures on primary care, it is the only viable option in the short-term for their delivery. Other options are being scoped, notably digital delivery and a community outreach provider, but these will take time to mobilise and would not fully replace General Practice delivery. Alternative models will be most effective if introduced alongside General Practice provision, strengthening the overall offer and supporting uptake amongst hard-to-reach groups.

5. Timetable for Implementation

Delegated Decision to approve this paper	11 January 2022
Call-in Expires	21 January 2022
Tender opens for sign-up	1 February 2022
Contract start date	1 April 2022

List of Annexes and Background Papers - None