

Report to Cabinet

13 April 2022

Subject:	Procurement of adult weight management service
Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care and Health Cllr Hartwell
Director:	Director of Public Health Lisa McNally
Key Decision:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Ricky Byrnes- physical activity project manager- ricky_byrnes@sandwell.gov.uk Katie Deeley- Communities and Partnerships Manager- katie_deeley@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That approval be given to re-commission the Tier 2 Weight Management Service for Adults ensuring future delivery of support for Sandwell residents.
- 1.2 That the Director of Public Health be authorised, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to procure a two plus one-year behavioural (tier 2) weight management service for adults using either the public health budget, or external funding provided by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities to commence on 1st July 2022 for a period of two years to 30th June 2024 with the option to extend up to a further year until 30th June 2025 at a cost of £200,000 per year.



- 1.3 That the Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into and execute, under seal as may be required, any contracts or ancillary documentation in relation to the award of contract referred to in recommendation 1.2 above.
- 1.4 That any necessary exemption be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to allow a contract to be awarded to enable the course of action referred to in 1.2 above to proceed.
- 1.5 That the Director – Public Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care and Health, be authorised to approve Variations to the Contract up to a maximum of 10% of the Contract value, should they be necessitated.

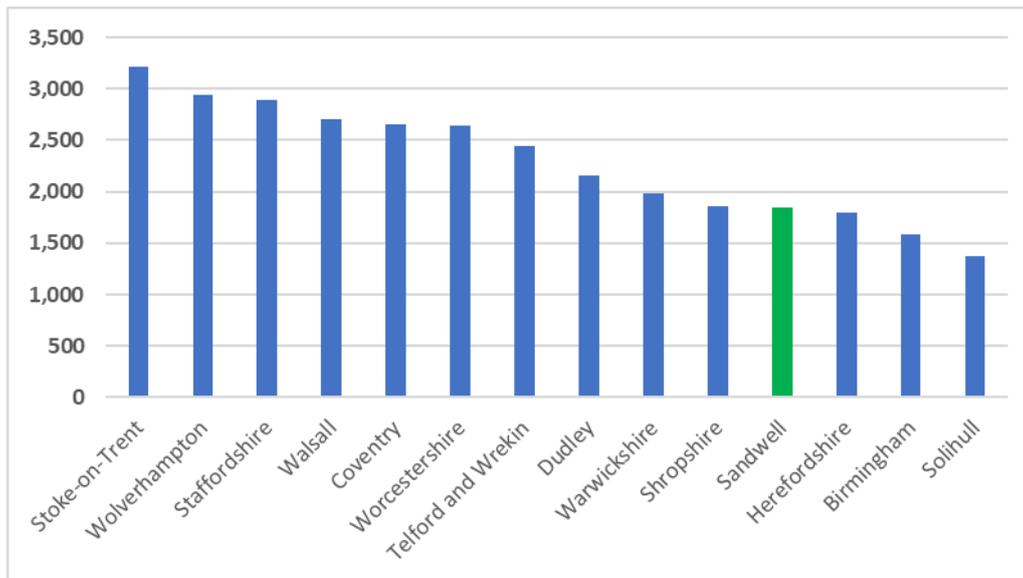
2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Obesity causes problems at both an individual and societal level, in that it is a significant driver of ill health and demand on health services. The extent to which obesity is a challenge for any given area can be gaged in the routine data on hospital admissions in which obesity is judged by the clinician to be a primary or secondary factor in the patient's ill health.

In Sandwell last year the rate of admissions with obesity as a factor was 1842 per 100k population (see Table One below). This equates to over 5585 individual admissions, which while by no means the highest in our region, still represents a significant impact on both individuals and healthcare resources.



Table One: Rate of admissions with obesity as a factor (NHS Digital 2020)



- 2.2 The public health team would like to take the opportunity to expand on some previous short-term funding provided by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). We would like to commission a service that will continue to improve levels of physical activity, healthy eating and support people to adopt healthier behaviours beyond the initially funded period.
- 2.3 We would also like to take advantage of the unique learning opportunity provided by this previous funding which has highlighted a significant level of need and demand for weight management services in Sandwell.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>This programme is likely to impact positively on children’s levels of physical activity and healthy eating as parents adopt and encourage healthier behaviours within the home.</p>
	<p>People live well and age well in Sandwell</p> <p>The behavioural (tier 2) adult weight management service is defined as multi component programmes addressing diet, physical activity and behaviour change.</p>



	<p>This programme will increase levels of physical activity, improve healthy eating and behaviour change. This programme recognises the benefits from exercising at the right level and maintaining healthy weight on health and wellbeing, reducing the risk of disease and illness and improving mental health; and improving physical and psychological quality of life for individuals, families and communities.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 On the 26th March 2021, OHID published information about the adult weight management services grant for local authorities. This is funding to support local authorities to commission weight management services in 2021 to 2022. ([Adult weight management services grant 2021/ 2022 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adult-weight-management-services-grant-2021-2022))
- 4.2 OHID have provided funding to local authorities to commission adult weight management services for active delivery up until the end of June 2022. The current adult weight management service contract ends on the 30th September 2022 to ensure that the 26 weeks follow up of service completers can take place. The current provider will stop active delivery of the service at the end of June 2022 but will continue to follow-up to collect data from participants until the end of September 2022. We have been informed that further funding could be made available to continue adult weight management services, however this has not been confirmed and there has been no indication of when a decision is likely to be made.
- 4.3 The early data provided for the current adult weight management service indicates that there was a latent demand and unmet need. This is showing through referral numbers coming through to the current service (200 referrals have been made in the first month).
- 4.4 The procurement of a longer service will ensure that local demand and need is addressed, and residents continue to receive support with adopting healthier behaviours which will improve levels of physical activity, diet and levels of self-esteem.



4.5 Consultation

The Director of Public Health will brief Cabinet Member for Living and Ageing Well on 8th March 2022. We have also consulted with the adult social care health and wellbeing commissioning support unit on the timescales of procuring a service of this value.

4.6 Sustainability

Public Health are committed to funding this programme over a longer period, which will include a contract for a minimum of two years with an option to extend for a further year. We will also work with the local community voluntary sector to capacity build and upskill during the period of delivery of this programme to ensure they are able to support residents utilising local grants such as Vision 2030 community grants.

4.7 Timescales

The current adult weight management service active delivery is due to end on the 30th June 2022. Between 1st July 2022 and 30th September 2022, the existing provider will continue to follow-up to collect data from participants until the end of September 2022 detailed in section 4.2. Pending approval by Cabinet, the new service will be commissioned with the aim of starting in July 2022 to avoid disruption in service delivery.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There is an option to wait until there is confirmation of further funding from OHID to seek approval to commission future adult weight management services. However, there has been no confirmation on the extension of the adult weight management services grant, or any timescales on when a decision might be made. If we wait on confirmation of further funding, there will be a significant gap in service delivery and we won't know how long the funding will be for.
- 5.2 We don't commission a future adult weight management service. This will have implications for people locally that could widen health inequalities.



6 Implications

<p>Resources:</p>	<p>Funding has been identified through the public health budget to cover the overall costs of the service (£200,000 per year). However, if further funding from OHID is confirmed, this will be used to cover the cost of the service.</p>
<p>Legal and Governance:</p>	<p>Local authorities' statutory responsibilities for public health services are set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012</p> <p>Local authority public health teams have, since 1 April 2013, been responsible for improving the health of their local population and for public health services.</p> <p>Services should be commissioned based on evidence of need using the key indicators set out in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.</p> <p>Due to the total value of the contract (namely £600,000, which includes the optional extension period of one year), it constitutes a below threshold procurement under the Light Touch regime. As a result, the procurement process would not be caught by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.</p> <p>However, the contract will be procured and awarded in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>In view of the value of the contract, Rule 8.7 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules states that a minimum of three tender submissions would be required. In the event that the required minimum number of tenders are not received, an exemption to Rule 8.7 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules would need to be secured to waive the requirement to obtain a minimum of three tender submissions and to proceed with the award of the contract to a successful tenderer.</p>



	Should variations to the contract up to a maximum of 10% of the contract value be necessitated, an appropriate assessment would need to be undertaken to ensure compliance with relevant procurement rules, including the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.
Risk:	<p>Risks to health of residents: The highest risk relates to doing nothing – which is likely to lead to adverse impact on the long-term health of residents.</p> <p>Financial risk: if further adult weight management funding is made available from OHID, we will need to ensure we meet the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.</p>
Equality:	Evidence suggest that certain social groups experience greater barriers to accessing weight management services. These include families from certain minority ethnic groups, low socio-economic communities and those living with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. The service specification will outline the need to engage marginalised groups in Sandwell to ensure the service is accessible and equitable.
Health and Wellbeing:	This service will support interventions that are designed to improve health outcomes for adults in Sandwell by encouraging regular physical activity, healthy eating and general wellbeing.
Social Value	The service specification will include criteria based on social value. Any provider will need to evidence how their service will meet the principles of social value. Local providers will be given the opportunity to be included in the dynamic purchasing system.

