

Report to Cabinet

16 October 2024

Subject:	Variation of the Collaboration Agreement with Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
Cabinet Member:	Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing Cllr Taylor
Director:	Interim Director of Public Health Liann Brookes-Smith
Key Decision:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Interim Director of Public Health Liann Brookes-Smith Liann_brookesmith@sandwell.gov.uk Anna Blennerhassett Consultant in Public Health Anna_blennerhassett@sandwell.gov.uk Sophie Pagett Service Manager Health Protection Sophie_pagett@sandwell.gov.uk Eilish James Children, Young People and Families Programme Manager Eilish_james@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

For the reasons set out in the report, it is recommended that Cabinet -

- 1.1 consider and approve the proposal to vary the Collaboration Agreement with Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust;
- 1.2 give authorisation to the Interim Director of Public Health to:
 - Increase the budget for existing services specified within the Collaboration Agreement as detailed in the report.
 - Vary the services specified within the Collaboration Agreement to include the Child Vision Screening service, additional Early Help

administrative support, breastfeeding enhanced support and remove the infection control doctor contribution.

- Increase the Council's financial contribution under the Agreement in line with current inflation to a maximum of 10% of the contract value.
- Extend the Agreement for an additional 6 month period – beyond the current term, from October 2026 until March 31st 2027.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 The Collaborative Working Agreement is a way to work with a provider jointly to achieve the best service for Sandwell residents. The Collaborative Working Agreement covers a range of Public Health services including:

- Health Visiting (within current agreement)
- Sexual Health Services (within current agreement)
- Best start in life Health visitors (within current agreement)

Adding into the agreement following cabinet agreement:

- Enhanced Breastfeeding support (running following Cabinet; October 24– March 27)
- Infant Feeding support (running following Cabinet; October 24– March 27)
- Early help Administration (running following Cabinet; October 24– March 27)
- School aged Child Vision Screening (running following Cabinet; October 24– March 27)

The Collaborative working agreement allows local partners to utilise the benefits of collaborative working which positively impacts delivery for our residents. As such we wish to benefit further and ensure good quality outcomes from the agreement by procuring services aligned with current need and priority areas.

2.2 The Collaborative Working Agreement is due a review of provision and costs, this agreement this has not been updated since its inception almost 8 years ago in 2016. Following staffing increased in the NHS nationally, an increase in cost is necessary as we operate transparently regarding expenses and understand the outlay for the service is going beyond its budget.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Council Plan?

Growing Up in Sandwell	Evidence shows that the Healthy Child Programme - Health visiting, best start, breastfeeding support and child vision screening are all imperative for children's development. They will all enable the council to achieve outcomes for growing up well in Sandwell. This give children the best start in life. The Health visiting programme is the only service which sets out to visiting and support all children across Sandwell.
Healthy in Sandwell	Having a healthy start in life enables children to develop into healthy adults, with good educational achievement and employment.
Healthy in Sandwell	Sexual Health Services provide advice and support for contraception, Sexual Health Infections (STIs) and treatment. through prevention and early detection this will reduce the number of unplanned pregnancies and sexual transmitted infections, therefore reducing the burden on the local system and NHS.

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Purpose of the report

- 4.1.1 The first Collaborative working agreement between Sandwell Council and Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Hospitals Trust commenced 1 October 2016.
- 4.1.2 The current agreement started February 2022 and following an enaction of extension is due to end 30 September 2026.
- 4.1.3 We will enact the change control procedure to affect an increase in funding for services, additional services, and extend for 6 months beyond the current term of the agreement.
- 4.1.4 When the agreement was renewed, a future projection of costs was requested due to the agreement receiving the same financial contribution from 2016 – 2026, also due to the increase in NHS salaries Nationally which have meant that all Local Authorities are having to revisit and rebase the finance in their Health visiting Contracts.
- 4.1.5 It has been proposed nationally that some of this uplift will be provided into the Public Health Grant, however, these details have not been confirmed Nationally.

4.2 Financial resources

CWA service	Current annual cost	Revised annual costs Oct24 - Sept25	Revised annual costs Oct25 - Sept26	Revised annual costs Sept26 - Mar27
Health visiting	£5,876,442	£6,592,565	£6,826,171	£7,030,956.13
Health visiting: Best Start	£507,625	£522,854	£538,539	£554,695.54
Breastfeeding support enhancement	£0	£65,000	£65,000	£66,950.00
Infant feeding posts x2	£0	£66,000	£66,000	£67,980.00
Early help admin, band 4	£0	£33,000	£33,000	£33,990.00
Sexual Health Service	£1,702,944	£1,917,144	£1,974,658	£2,033,898
Health Protection ICD	£43,000	£43,000	£0	£0.00
Child Vision Screening	£55,396	£57,058	£58,770	£60,533
Total	£8,185,407	£9,296,621	£9,562,138	£9,849,002

4.2.1 This service uplift is being supported by re-profiling Public Health Grant across the department, the directorate is reducing team costs, reassigning underutilised budget from other agreements (out of Area Sexual health costs), changing commissioning in areas to be more efficient. We are also expecting a national grant uplift to cover the National NHS pay rises, however the reprofiling has enabled us to afford the contract without being reliant on this funding should it not arrive.

4.2.2 The services within the collaborative agreement will also need to use attrition; whereby there is a gradual but deliberate reduction in staff numbers that occurs as employees leave a company and are not replaced. This will ensure that the service meets the budget envelope as agreed with the Public Health team, whilst maintaining high service standards.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Addition of the Children vision screening to the agreement would be beneficial rather than retendering the child vision screening programme, as all previous commissioning cycles this has been awarded to and provided by SWBHT.
- 5.2 Retender all elements separately, which would not be able to be completed immediately and could take as long as 18 months to complete. However, the provider market is not strong currently for NHS organisation to provide outside of their own area currently.
- 5.3 Do nothing. This would result is Sandwell Local Authority not meeting its statutory requirements to provide prescribed children’s 0-5 services and sexual health services, STI testing & treatment and Contraception. This would result in a loss of grant funding and negatively affecting the health and wellbeing of Sandwell residents.

6 Implications

Resources:	Financial implications are highlighted in section 4.2
Legal and Governance:	<p>This agreement was initially procured under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015), pursuant to Regulation 12(7), which states that a contract concluded exclusively between two or more contracting authorities falls outside the scope of the regulations where all of the following conditions are fulfilled:—</p> <p>(a)the contract establishes or implements a co-operation between the participating contracting authorities with the aim of ensuring that public services they have to perform are provided with a view to achieving objectives they have in common;</p> <p>(b)the implementation of that co-operation is governed solely by considerations relating to the public interest; and</p> <p>(c)the participating contracting authorities perform on the open market less than 20% of the activities concerned by the co-operation.</p> <p>Under S.1(1) of the Local Authorities (Goods and Services) Act 1970, public bodies and local authorities are permitted enter into agreements for the provision</p>

	of any administrative, professional or technical services. Any agreement made in pursuance this section may contain such terms as to payment or otherwise as the parties consider appropriate.
Risk:	As this is a Collaborative Agreement, we are able to work with the provider to mitigate risks.
Equality:	Please see Equality Impact Assessment; Appendix 2
Health and Wellbeing:	This is a health and wellbeing service that will contribute to a wide range of outcomes for adults, children and young people (see section 3).
Social Value:	SWBHT will be required to identify how their organisation creates social value as part of the procurement process, (for example local volunteering and employment opportunities) and this will be one of the criteria for assessing the bids.
Climate Change:	The CWA will support the delivery of Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust's Green Plan to cut 1M tonnes of CO2 emissions in Sandwell. Supporting a local anchor institution to deliver these services may reduce travel emissions as it is more likely to employ staff who live in the area.
Corporate Parenting:	Commissioning the Prescribed children's 0-5 services ensures we will meet our statutory requirement to promote the health and wellbeing of looked after children.

7. Appendices

- Appendix 1 Collaborative Working Agreement Risk Register 2024
- Appendix 2 Collaborative Working Agreement Equality Impact Assessment 2024

8. Background Papers

- 9th December 2020 Cabinet Meeting – Permission to extend the agreement
- 29th September 2021 Cabinet Meeting – further approvals due to legal advice