

## **TRAFFORD COUNCIL**

**Report to:** Health & Well Being Board  
**Date:** 6<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
**Report for:** Information  
**Report of:** Abdul Razzaq, DPH

### **Report Title**

Early Years - Transfer of 0-5 commissioning responsibilities

### **Purpose**

To update the Health & Well Being Board on the planned transfer of 0-5 commissioning responsibilities from NHS England to Trafford Council in October 2015.

### **Recommendations**

The Board is asked to note the contents of the report.

### **Contact person for access to background papers and further information:**

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1. Guidance has now been received on the contracting and commissioning of services for 0-5 year olds in 2015/16, which will transfer to local councils in October 2015. The central principle is that safe and effective services must be available across the period of transition. Securing new contracting arrangements for 2015/16 in advance of April 2015 will enable NHS service providers to plan properly for the provision of this service once it becomes part of local government, ensuring a safe and effective transfer.

2. Services for 0-5 year olds are principally made up of health visiting services and family nurse practitioners. These services transferred to the NHS England local area team in April 2013. Since that time the services have been tasked with delivering a significant expansion in health visitor numbers as part of a national initiative. The value of services commissioned in Greater Manchester in 2015/16 is expected to be around £49m.

3. Health visitor and family nurse practitioner services are therefore currently commissioned on a national basis by NHSE from a national service specification. This is a significant change from previous years, which saw a variety of different approaches from different PCTs and great variation in investment between local areas as a result. Much progress has been made since April 2013 to secure a common contracting framework and a common price tariff.

4. The draft Health Visiting service specification, for 2015/16, is heavily based on the early years work piloted within Greater Manchester, which has been partially implemented in Trafford in the South locality, to be further rolled out in the North locality in April 2015 as part of the Go Faster Go Further work on the new delivery model.

5. The services that transfer across will be referred to as 'mandated'. This is similar to a range of other public health services defined within the Health and Social Care Act 2013. It means that local authorities will be required to commission those services as a 'mandated public health step'. LAs will be able to determine how local health needs are to be met, but the overall framework will remain the Healthy Child Programme and the National Service Specification for Health Visiting.

It is expected that LAs will work towards delivering 100% of the mandated services, including 5 key checks:

- i. Antenatal health promoting visits;
- ii. New baby review;
- iii. 6-8 week assessment.
- iv. 1 year assessment
- v. 2-2½ review.

The Trafford Health Visiting service, provided by Pennine NHSFT, achieves between 93-98% on these indicators, with the exception of (i) which they cannot achieve timescales for currently due to poor performance by midwifery providers on ante-natal notification information sharing.

6. A successful transition for these services will be characterised by a smooth change in commissioning responsibilities with no break in service coverage or scope. It will safeguard the existing improvements already achieved and secure further advantages that can be used to drive further improvements in the future. A key starting point is agreement of contracts for 2015/16.

7. Planning for the transfer was started some months ago and has been undertaken by the 0-5 services Transition Board chaired by Steven Pleasant. The board includes representatives from Councils (legal, finance, public health and children's services are represented) as well as NHSE GM Area Team. Representatives from Public Health England and Health Education England have also been involved.

8. The proposed joint intention from NHSE and Trafford Council, is that, in the period from December 2014 to February 2015, the contracting team from NHS England, working closely with Trafford Council, will update the existing contract for 2015/16, applying the National Variation to contract terms (to be published by NHS England in December 2015). At the same time, it is proposed to agree a deed of novation, to be approved by all three parties, so that rights and responsibilities under the contract will transfer from NHS England to the Council with effect from 1 October 2015.

9. The intention is that the contract variation will be signed, and the deed of novation approved, by the end of February 2015, thus giving the provider full clarity before the start of the year about funding and expected service levels for the full year. Trafford Council is leading a range of meetings with Pennine NHSFT and internal colleagues to ensure due diligence is undertaken prior to transfer which includes agreeing the financial value, the contract terms, and any local amendments to the national specification.

10. The timeline for final agreement is late February, when contracts will be ready for sign off, and statutory responsibilities will transfer from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015.