# 0-19 yrs Integrated Commissioning Project

# Frequently Asked Questions

Why are you undertaking this recommissioning project?

The move of public health services into the local authority has provided us with an opportunity to reflect and review how some of our universal and targeted services for children, young people and families are commissioned and delivered, and how they fit and work together with other specialist provisions of support. This review has been encouraged by both Public Health England (PHE) and the Local Government Association (LGA) as part of the transfer of responsibility.

We know that supporting children and their families from conception, through birth and the early years, and into adulthood will give them the best possible chance to succeed.

We know parents, families and communities are central to a child’s development and wellbeing and we want to help build the capability and capacity of parents and the community to support themselves and others.

Historically, we have too often used an approach that focuses on identifying what is wrong or missing and then try to step in to fix it. We need to build a deeper understanding of people’s strengths and build and grow on them.

Put simply, we want to change the way we support our community to an approach which is strengths based and gives children and young people in Torbay the best start in life.

In order to achieve this change we need to alter the way in which we commission our support services to one that is focused on outcomes. The Council plans to combine a range of Council provided services that meet the needs of children, young people and families in Torbay. We know from our research and discussions, with other local authorities across the country, many areas are looking at (and already are) integrating services with the goals of improving the experience of using universal services and improving outcomes for children and young people.

Torbay Council’s Public Health and Children’s Services are well placed to provide a holistic approach to commissioning services for children and young people that cover all aspects of their lives including the communities they live in, education, social care, safeguarding and healthcare.

What services are included in this commissioning project?

The scope of this commissioning plan includes:

* Health Visiting
* School Nursing
* National Child Measurement Programme
* Children’s Centres
* Early Help Co-ordination
* Team Around the Family Co-ordination
* Family Intervention Team
* Young People’s Substance Misuse Service
* Advocacy and Independent Visitors Service
* Missing and Return Home Interview Service

0-19yrs – Why are some services for this age group included and not all of them?

As part of the development work undertaken, all universal and targeted services (that are the responsibility of the Council) were reviewed and considered in terms of suitability for their inclusion within this new service. The assessment for the range of current services included in this recommissioning programme was based on their suitability as part of the current delivery or commissioning arrangements in place for each service.

Some current services have been identified as being potentially beneficial to the service design and delivery in the future but are not included in this programme. This is due to current contracting, financial or strategic reasons and they will be identified and considered for inclusion as opportunities arise during the life of this contract.

It is strongly anticipated that where services for 0-19yrs are not included within this contract, there will still be a requirement for all services for 0-19yrs to work together closely to provide services, improve the experience of users and improve outcomes for children and young people.

Why is the Council commissioning health services such as Health Visitors and School Nurses rather than the NHS?

From the 1 October 2015 the Council became responsible for commissioning public health services for children and young people aged 0-19yrs. This includes both health visiting and school nursing services.

Immunisation programmes for children and young people **are not** the responsibility of the Council. These services are currently delivered by School Nurses in Torbay but are commissioned by NHS England. Immunisation services will not form part of the new Council contract and will continue to be the responsibility of NHS England.

If you want more information on how and what immunisations services are being commissioned for Torbay then please contact phcontractssouthwest@nhs.net.

What is the current position in Torbay in relation to child health?

Children and young people under the age of 20 make up 21.0% of the population of Torbay.

The recent publication of the Public Health England Child Health Profiles (CHIMAT 2017) identifies that the health and wellbeing of children in Torbay is mixed compared with the England average. It highlights:

* High levels of child poverty
* High levels of child protection cases and children in care
* High levels of smoking in pregnancy
* Low breastfeeding rates
* Better MMR immunisation rates than the national average.
* Average levels of children achieving a good level of development at reception.
* Average levels of obesity
* High levels of dental caries requiring hospital admission
* High levels of hospital admissions for young people for alcohol and substance misuse
* High levels of hospital admissions caused by injuries for children and young people
* High levels of hospital admissions for mental health conditions and as a result of self-harm
* Average levels of children achieving GCSE’s

What are the key changes you expect to see to service delivery as a result of re-commissioning these services in a new way?

* Better outcomes for children, young people and families.
* An improved experience of accessing and using services in Torbay.
* Increased value for money
* Greater understanding of services available to the community
* Clearer pathways of care
* Effective and clear contract management of the service to ensure that an effective, appropriate and supportive service is being delivered.

Why are the council putting this service out to tender?

There are a number of reasons for putting this service out to tender:

* Public Contracts Regulations – as with all council commissioned services, this service needs to be contracted in a way that is fair and transparent and facilitates the Council achieving value for money
* A market need – There is a developing market (including NHS and Non-NHS providers) for the range of services included within this contract. Not procuring this service would expose the Council to challenge and could ultimately risk the provision of services for children and young people in Torbay.

How much do the current services cost?

The current combined budget for the services to be included within this contract is £4.587million for 2018/19.

What will be the budget for the new service?

The funding for the new service has been set at approximately £18.457million for the period of 5yrs (In the region of £3.691million a year)

Why has the budget been reduced for the new service?

As previously mentioned, one of the benefits of recommissioning these services mean increased value for money. The next question further expands on the efficiencies.

In addition, these services cannot be exempt from wider local government funding cuts. The Council is facing wider funding cuts requiring all departments to contribute to the overall financial security of the Council.

Is this project just about reducing money from these services?

No. There is a clear rationale for undertaking this service redesign and recommissioning that stands outside of budget allocations.

There is no doubt that whilst this is the right thing to do, the current financial and economic climate across all public services makes this project more challenging. These services would have experienced similar financial challenges in the absence of this recommissioning programme as public finances become increasingly stretched.

The recommissioning of this service, at this time, allows the opportunity to design and contract services with the knowledge of what future budget allocations are likely to be. It also provides the opportunity to redesign services so that duplication can be reduced and opportunities for efficiencies to be identified and implemented (e.g. overhead costs, management costs etc). This means that we can focus our resources being spent as much as is possible on frontline provision for our community in Torbay.

Regarding the decision for Torbay Children’s Services to partner with Plymouth City Council – how will this impact on this commissioning programme?

Torbay Children's Services is currently working under a statutory direction issued in May 2016, requiring them to cooperate with the Government appointed Commissioner in order to improve services and develop a different governance model for their future delivery. In April, the Commissioner recommended that a partnership with Plymouth City Council would provide the best option for sustainably improved services.

The partnership will not alter the fundamental political and managerial accountability for services which will remain with Torbay Council.  Neither does it involve the pooling of budgets for example, which will remain separate albeit subject to joint oversight. It will however provide Torbay with a greater degree of expertise and leadership capacity and the opportunity to develop shared and integrated services over time, where this supports service improvement and maximises efficiency.

It is not envisaged that this proposal will have an impact on the commissioning process now underway - the partnership is about stability over the longer term and improved outcomes for children. Plymouth City Council is aware of our commissioning intentions and plans.

Who has been involved in the development of this project?

The development of this project to date has included staff from both Children’s Services and Public Health. The Project Board has led the development of the business case and Council report and will oversee the commissioning project for its duration. As the commissioning programme develops a range of stakeholders and service users will be involved in the design and development of the new service.

How are you going to involve people in the design and development of this new service?

The public, other local stakeholders and the workforce will have the opportunity to be involved in the development of the new service through a range of activities including online surveys, focus groups, stakeholder events and direct feedback. Public and Stakeholder consultation will be undertaken throughout the entire process but there will be a period of significant activity between October and December 2017.

Our local stakeholders include Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) colleagues, local NHS providers, GPs, Early Years Services, Education, Torbay Safeguarding Board, NHS England and Public Health England and our local community and voluntary sectors.

We will be looking to recruit a service user representative to our Project Board so that the views of service users will be represented in all decision making processes.

How are you going to ensure that safeguarding arrangements are in place for the new service?

We will ensure that Torbay Safeguarding Children’s Board is involved and kept informed of the development of a specific Safeguarding section within the service specification. There will be clarity in the expectation of the future provider to engage in and with the local safeguarding arrangements.

There will be specific reference to the workforce and safeguarding practices/training/DBS checks.

There will be a section for safeguarding systems and processes within the method statement section of the invitation to tender.

What are the next steps?

The next steps are to work with stakeholders and service users in developing a range of priority areas for this project including:

* Developing a shared sense of vision of what we want from our future service.
* Identifying and agreeing a set of collective ambitions and principles on which we want our new service to be based.
* Identifying what outcomes we want our service to achieve – how will we know we have been successful?
* Identifying how people and partners want to engage with services in the future that best meets their needs and opportunities for achieving positive outcomes.

This activity will inform the development of a service specification for the new service so that we can then go to the market and commence a competitive tender process.

This consultation and development process will take place between October – December 2017.

In January 2018 we will commence development work with the market and service specifications. There will be a period of further stakeholder consultation following this process.

The formal procurement process is anticipated to commence in May 2018.

The new service is anticipated to be in place for commencement in April 2019.

How are you keeping people informed?

We will issue updates to key partners and people who have an interest in the 0-19yrs commissioning project when we have new information to share.