

## **Record of Decisions**

### **Sexual Health Prevention Service**

#### **Decision Taker**

Cabinet on 15 June 2021.

#### **Decision**

That Northern Devon Healthcare Trust and The Eddystone Trust be directly awarded the contract to deliver a sexual health prevention service, from 1 July 2021.

#### **Reason for the Decision**

Due to an ongoing delay which was beyond the Council's control the Council had to adopt a Torbay-led solution. By making a direct award to the local providers, it enables a high degree of value for money by not having to launch a full procurement for what would only be a 12-18 month service delivery period.

#### **Implementation**

The decision in respect of the Sexual Health Prevention Service will come into force immediately as the decision maker has decided that any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would prejudice the Public' and Council's interest. The Overview and Scrutiny Co-ordinator was consulted on 14 June 2021.

#### **Information**

A full procurement for the Sexual Health Prevention Service had been attempted in partnership with Devon County Council but for a range of reasons beyond the control of Torbay Council, a full procurement had failed since 2017-18. Since that time, services had been continuing but were unfit for purpose. Current contracts all expired on 30 June 2021, after which time there would be no prevention or HIV support services for any Torbay resident unless a direct contract award could be made.

The decision to direct award would support renewing and refreshing this service and make it fit for the future, including immediate COVID recovery. It would also bring the timing of the contracts in line with the main clinical contract, allowing for smarter re-procurement in 2023.

At the meeting Councillor Stockman proposed and Councillor Long seconded a motion that was agreed unanimously by the Cabinet, as set out above.

#### **Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision**

A wide range of options had been considered, as reflected in the three consultations delivered during 2017, 2019 and 2021. The alternative options to a full procurement process were to either cease the services completely or to direct award. No further contract extensions could be granted, and the specifications underpinning these were outdated.

If a full procurement process was initiated by Devon County Council and Torbay Council now, it would take 6-18 months. This was disproportionate to both the contract value and the time available – a full re-procurement was planned for 2023.

The preferred option, to direct award, accounts for the time available, builds on existing partnerships and willingness of providers as well as enabling some stability in terms of recruitment, future planning and consistency.

**Is this a Key Decision?**

No

**Does the call-in procedure apply?**

No

**Declarations of interest** (including details of any relevant dispensations issued by the Standards Committee)

None.

**Published**

18 June 2021

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet