

Record of Decisions

Condom Distribution Service - Award of Contract

Decision Taker

Cabinet on 11 July 2023.

Decision

That the contract for the provision of the condom distribution service be awarded to the preferred bidder as set out in Exempt Appendix 1 to the submitted report.

Reason for the Decision

To award the contract to the preferred provider following the submission and evaluation of the high quality of the bid, including the social value commitment to Torbay populations and organisations.

Implementation

This decision will come into force and may be implemented on 24 July 2023 unless the call-in procedure is triggered (as set out in the Standing Orders in relation to Overview and Scrutiny).

Information

A condom distribution scheme has existed in Torbay for over 15 years. This has supported a reduction in the teenage conception rate and been delivered via local NHS Trusts. The current contract has reached a natural end, which presents an opportunity to redesign the service, in response to changing needs of the target population (13–25-year-olds).

The new service will take a digital first approach, refocussing on supporting sexually active 16–24-year-old young adults to manage their sexual and reproductive health by ordering condoms and safer sex supplies to be directly delivered to them. Young people aged 13-18 will still be able to receive one to one advice, information and a safeguarding and competency assessment.

Torbay Council has worked alongside Devon County Council and has jointly procured sexual health services for over 5 years. The benefit of jointly procuring is that services achieve a consistency of service delivery for residents who may work or study in Devon, but also a financial benefit in terms of economies of scale.

At the meeting, Councillor Tranter proposed and Councillor Chris Lewis seconded the motion that was agreed unanimously, as set out above.

Alternative Options considered and rejected at the time of the decision

The following alternative options were considered and discounted:

- Given the current delivery, availability of extensions and range of other contracts delivered by the incumbent provider to date, a direct award was considered, but this was not permissible to Devon County Council colleagues. In addition, due to the changing nature of 16- to 24-year-old needs and behaviours, it was concluded that a refreshed

specification and service model was desirable.

- Not awarding a contract was considered, but this course of action would result in a failure to meet the prevention needs of a significant group of residents who bear the burden of unintended conceptions and new Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) diagnosis.
- A limited or reduced scope was considered but would not achieve the ambitions and scale of need for Torbay residents.

Is this a Key Decision?

No

Does the call-in procedure apply?

Yes

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

None.

Published

14 July 2023

Signed: _____ Date: _____
Leader of Torbay Council on behalf of the Cabinet