

Report to Cabinet

17 March 2021

Subject:	Sexual Health Spend at University Hospitals Birmingham
Cabinet Member:	Cabinet Member for Living Healthy Lives, Cllr Farut Shaeen
Director:	Director of Public Health Dr Lisa McNally
Key Decision:	Yes
Contact Officer:	Service Manager – Health Protection, Valerie Unsworth valerie_unsworth@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations


- 1.1 That approval be given to make an exemption to clause 20.6 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules in relation to the provision of Genito -Urinary Medicine (GUM) and Contraception and Sexual Health (CaSH) services provided by University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UHB), removing the requirement to aim to enter into a contract with the organisation.
- 1.2 That the Director – Public Health be authorised to process payments in line with existing budgets for any validated Genito -Urinary Medicine (GUM) and Contraception and Sexual Health (CaSH) services provided by University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust (UHB), without a contract.



2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Analysis of the attendance numbers by Sandwell residents at UHB clinics for CaSH services in 2019/2020 demonstrates that the current CaSH fixed fee with UHB is too high.
- 2.2 Additionally, changes in the way residents are accessing sexual health services, due to the pandemic, indicate that the number of residents going out-of-area to access UHB CaSH services is likely to decline; creating uncertainty about the appropriate value of future payments to UHB for CaSH provision.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>People live well and age well: Reducing over-spending by eliminating the UHB CaSH fixed payment will make more money available to provide sexual health services locally.</p>
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4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) and CaSH services are open access services. This means Sandwell patients can choose to attend services in any part of the country, the cost of which will be met by the Public Health budget of Sandwell MBC. University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) is Sandwell's second largest provider of these out-of-area (OOA) services.
- 4.2 On 18 October 2017, cabinet approved an exemption to clause 20.8 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules in relation to University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust (UHB) in the provision of Genito-Urinary Medicine (GUM) and Contraceptive and Sexual Health (CaSH) services, removing the requirement to aim to enter into a contract with the organisation. Please see background papers.



- 4.3 The Council currently has a Co-operative working agreement with Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. Included within this agreement is the provision of the Integrated Sexual Health Service. This has a risk-share arrangement that aims to reduce attendances in out-of-area GUM and CaSH provision. If we were to enter into a contract with UHB for GUM and CaSH provision, this would essentially contradict what we are aiming to achieve under the Co-operative working agreement
- 4.4 The council currently pays UBH a fixed fee for CaSH attendances. UHB also charges the council for GUM attendances (on a quarterly basis) and there are no plans to alter this part of the arrangement. GUM attendances are charged on a Tariff basis for First Appointments, Follow-Up appointments and telephone appointments.
- 4.5 The estimated value of the CaSH fixed fee for the financial year 2019/2020 is £105,069.60.
- 4.6 Analysis of the attendance numbers by Sandwell residents at UHB clinics for CaSH in the year 2019/2020 demonstrates that the current CaSH fixed payment agreed with UHB is too high and represents an overpayment of approximately £21,000 per annum. Additionally, changes in the way residents are accessing sexual health services, due to the pandemic, indicate that the number of residents going out-of-area to access UHB CaSH services is likely to decline, creating uncertainty about the appropriate value of future payments to UHB (as stated in paragraph 2.1).
- 4.7 This report seeks approval to end the CaSH fixed payment to UHB and move to payment-by-activity for CaSH attendances, requiring UHB to invoice the council for attendances by Sandwell residents. This brings CaSH payments to UHB in line with GUM payments. It is anticipated that moving to payment-by-activity for CaSH will save the council approximately £21,000 per annum.



5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Continue to pay UHB a fixed payment for CaSH services and aim to renegotiate a lower fixed payment. This is not the preferred option as we have already identified cost savings on payment by activity. This is also in keeping with the overall aim to reduce all OOA activity through continued improvements in the Cooperative arrangement.

6 Implications

<p>Resources:</p>	<p>The estimated cost for the Genito-Urinary Medicine and Contraceptive and Sexual Health services, provided by UHB, is approximately £555,258.79 per annum. It is not possible to stipulate the exact cost per financial year as the services are demand led by patient choice. Current demand and costs are used to estimate the future value of these services.</p> <p>The council has the option to refuse to pay UHB for CaSH services if deemed necessary by the commissioning team, so there is no risk to requesting to cancel the fixed payment.</p> <p>The proposal will be resourced through the government funding for Public Health that became the responsibility of the Council from 1 April 2013. The costs of this service will be met from the Public Health budget, as it has been in previous years.</p> <p>No specific workforce implication for SMBC's staff as the proposal for the Genito-Urinary Medicine and Contraceptive and Sexual Health service is to be delivered by UHB staff.</p>
<p>Legal and Governance:</p>	<p>None</p>
<p>Risk:</p>	<p>Increase in user activity will increase costs and this could potentially be beyond the current fixed payment.</p>



Equality:	There are no implications for equality as service provision is unaffected by this decision.
Health and Wellbeing:	Reducing overspend on the CaSH fixed payment will make more money available to invest in Sexual Health services, or other public health priorities in Sandwell.
Social Value	Reducing spend at UHB means more money can be invested in the services provided locally by Sandwell & West Birmingham hospitals and potentially employing more people in the borough.

7. Appendices

N/A

8. Background Papers



SMBC04_10_2017
EIA - UHB.DOCX



15 - University
Hospital Birmingham



Minutes of the
Cabinet held on 18 Oc

