

WalsallHealth Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 8th April 2021

Agenda item: 8

Diabetic Eye Screening Procurement – Birmingham, Solihull and Black Country

Report by: Karen Davis Interim Head of Commissioning NHSE/IMidlands-West

Purpose:

For decision ☐
For discussion ☐
For information ☒

1. Introduction & purpose of the paper

- 1.1 The current provider contract for the provision of Diabetic Eye Screening for Birmingham, Solihull and Black Country expires in June 2021.
- 1.2 Under the 2015 Procurement Contract Regulations – It is necessary to re procure for this service.
- 1.3 An invitation to Tender was published in January 2021. Three bidders, including the current provider have submitted proposals for consideration.
- 1.4 It is possible that the service model could change, either as a result of a different provider winning the contract award, or due to the impact of Covid-19 Infection prevention and control measures.
- 1.5 The current procurement process has been paused to allow time for NHSE/I to assess the impact on access for patients of these changes.
- 1.6 The purpose of this paper is to update the Committee on the procurement for DESP in Birmingham Solihull and Black Country

2 Context/Background

2.1 The current provider for DESP in BSBC is University Hospital Birmingham. Their contract commenced July 2014 for 5 years and was subsequently extended by a further 2 years as per contract to end June 2021. There is no further scope within the contract for further extensions.

2.2 In order to gauge market interest a Prior Information Notice(PIN) was issued in November 2020 and showed significant market interest in providing the service. This included the current provider and others already providing services in Midlands Region.

2.3 An Invitation to Tender was issued on 14th December and closed on 13th January.

2.4 A Task and Finish Group involving NHSE/I contract managers working with colleagues from PHE Screening and Immunisation Teams has been convened to undertake the procurement and is supported by expertise from Arden and GEM CSU.

2.5 The Senior Responsible Officer for this procurement is Trish Thompson – Director of Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning.

2.6 As it is likely that the current service model will change, either due to the impact of Covid19 IPC measures, or a change of provider, further work is required to assess the impact on accessibility for patient.

2.7 Our proposal is to work with Diabetes UK to ensure both service users and the wider diabetic community have the opportunity to input into the procurement process. In addition to sending out a questionnaire via the existing provider.

2.8 The outcome of the user and patient engagement exercise will be used to inform the procurement process going forward.

3Next Steps

3.1The Committee should note the contents of this report

3.2 The Committee should indicate whether they wish to be directly involved in the patient engagement exercise

3.3. The Committee should note that further updates will be provided regarding the procurement process.

Recommendations

4.1The Committee is asked to:

- Note the update provided in this paper
- Confirm whether members wish to be directly involved in patient engagement exercise.

Karen Davis

March 2021