

**Decision Maker:** PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CARE SERVICES

**Date:** For Pre-Decision Scrutiny by the Care Services Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017

**Decision Type:** Non-Urgent Executive Key

**Title:** NATIONAL CHILD MEASUREMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

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**Ward:** Borough-wide

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1. Reason for report

- 1.1 The Council currently contracts Bromley Healthcare (BHC) for National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP), a statutory programme, and vision screening through a joint block contract with Bromley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG). The contract with the BHC is due to expire on 31 September 2017.
- 1.2 This report is seeking approval to procure a new contract for NCMP and vision screening to start 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

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2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1. The Care Services PDS Committee is asked to note and comment on the contents of this report prior to the Portfolio Holder for Care Services being requested to:
  - i) Agree that Option 3, to procure the National Child Measurement Programme and vision screening as a standalone service is the best option for procurement.
  - ii) Agree to procure a contract for the National Child Measurement Programme and vision screening as a standalone service to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017.

### Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: These programmes will disproportionately benefit vulnerable groups who are not only more likely to be overweight and have vision problems but are also less likely than the general population to have these issues detected and treated.
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### Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy:
  2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People:
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### Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Estimated Cost: £495,000
  2. Ongoing costs: Recurring Cost: £165,000
  3. Budget head/performance centre: Public Health
  4. Total current budget for this head: £13,935,160
  5. Source of funding: Public Health Grant
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### Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional): n/a
  2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours: n/a
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### Legal

1. Legal Requirement: Statutory Requirement:
  2. Call-in: Applicable:
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### Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications: It is recommended to procure NCMP and vision screening as a standalone service
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### Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected): 45,000 (population of 0-10 year olds)
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### Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments: None

### 3. COMMENTARY

3.1 This report follows the Gateway Review in March 2016 to extend the NCMP service to October 2017. The current contractual arrangements are detailed in the Table 1 below:

**Table 1. Current commissioning arrangements 2016-17**

<b>Contract</b>	<b>Annual Value £000</b>	<b>Contract period</b>
NCMP	120	April 2013 to September 2017
Vision screening	45	April 2013 to March 2017
<b>Total</b>	<b>165</b>	

#### 3.2 National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) and vision screening

3.2.1 NCMP is delivered by BHC and has an annual budget of £120,000. Vision screening is also delivered by BHC and has an annual budget of £45,000.

##### 3.2.2 Background

###### **General description of NCMP**

3.2.3 This mandated programme measures height and weight in reception year and year 6 in all children in Bromley in maintained schools and academies. The measurements are fed into a national NCMP programme. This programme also requires the local NCMP team to write to parents of the children measured.

3.2.4 This service has been delivered by BHC as part of a childhood obesity service. The other parts of the childhood obesity service are being decommissioned from April 2017.

###### **General description of vision screening**

3.2.5 Children in reception year currently have their vision screened by members of the school nurse team. 4.2% of children screened in 2015/16 were identified by this process as needing further investigation, and the majority of this 4.2% were found to have conditions requiring treatment.

3.2.6 The staff delivering the service, who are not nurses, are trained by Orthoptists in the Princess Royal University Hospital Eye Centre and their referrals for further investigation and treatment are monitored by the Orthoptists to ensure they are appropriate. Plans are in place to complete all vision screening of children in 2016/17 reception year by end March 2017. This would mean that there will not be a gap in the service as the new service would be in place to screen the 17/18 reception year cohort early in the 17/18 academic year.

3.2.7 Bromley CCG commission the Orthoptist training and oversight of the service, but not the initial vision screening.

3.2.8 The UK National Screening Committee recommends that screening of children's eyes should be offered to all children aged 4 – 5 years. This service should be organised and led by orthoptists.

3.2.9 A national review of this programme found that the main problem found by screening in this age group is Amblyopia (when the eye doesn't work properly even though it appears normal). Treatment by covering the good eye with a patch has been shown to help correct sight in the affected eye. Amblyopia can be a very mild problem but can become more serious if left untreated or if sight in the other eye is lost or damaged. Other problems commonly found at screening include refractive error (short or long sight) and strabismus (squint).

### 3.3.1 Outcomes

3.3.2 The national target for NCMP is to measure at least 85% of children in Year R and Year 6 in maintained or academy primary schools in Bromley. In the last year 91% of children were measured in Bromley.

3.3.3 There are no national targets for vision screening.

**Table 2. Obesity and Overweight in Bromley children compared to London and England**

Indicator	Period	England	London	Bromley
Obese children (4-5 years)	2014/15	9.1	10.1 <i>(Red)</i>	7.7 <i>(Green)</i>
Obese children (10-11 years)	2014/15	19.1	22.6 <i>(Red)</i>	16.5 <i>(Green)</i>
Excess weight in 4-5 year olds	2013/14	22.5	23.1 <i>(Red)</i>	21.3 <i>(Yellow)</i>
Excess weight in 10-11 year olds	2013/14	33.5	37.6 <i>(Red)</i>	29.9 <i>(Green)</i>

3.3.4 In 2015/16 93% of children in reception year in Bromley schools had their vision screened. Of these, 4.2% needed further assessment and 58% of this 4.2% required treatment.

## 4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

4.1 NCMP is offered to all children in Bromley schools in reception and year 6. This service is offered to more than 4,000 children in each of these year groups as Bromley is a net importer of children into Bromley schools.

4.2 Vision screening is offered to all children in Bromley schools in reception year.

4.3 These programmes will disproportionately benefit vulnerable groups who are not only more likely to be overweight and have vision problems but are also less likely than the general population to have these issues detected and treated.

## 5. POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The proposal set out in this report is consistent with current policy and is in line with the proposal for the Council's Public Health budget for 2017/18.

## 6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Current expenditure on NCMP and vision screening is £165k annually. The proposed procurement of this contract for 3 years will cost £495k.

6.2 These services are funded by Public Health Grant which is a central government grant which is ring-fenced until 2017/18. In the next few years Bromley will see a reduction in grant as outlined in Table 3.

**Table 3. Changes to the Public Health Grant**

	16/17 BUDGET	17/18 BUDGET
	£000	£000
Grant income	-12,954	-12,954
Additional Health Visiting Grant	-3,802	-3,802
2015/16 in year grant reduction	919	919
Grant reductions announced	358	740
<b>Total Grant</b>	<b>-15,479</b>	<b>-15,097</b>

6.3 The 2016/17 Budget includes further losses on public health funding over the period 2016/17 to 2019/20. Recently announced grants reductions in the settlement show a loss of £358k in 2016/17 and an additional reduction in 2017/18 of £382k (cumulative £740k).

## 7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Local Authority has a statutory responsibility to commission NCMP under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

## 8. PROCUREMENT IMPLICATIONS

8.1 **Option 1.** Do nothing.  
This is not an option as NCMP is mandated.

**Option 2.** Recommission the service as it is now  
This is not an option as the block contract with BHC ends in September 2017.

**Option 3.**  
Procure NCMP and vision screening as a standalone service.

8.2 The proposed timetable for the tendering process is outlined in Table 4.

**Table 4. Proposed Timetable for Tendering Process**

January 2017	Service Model Developed National Specification Localised with Specific Local Metrics and KPIs
January to May 2017	Tendering process from advertisement to award contract
June to September 2017	Mobilisation
1 <sup>st</sup> October 2017	Commence new service

<b>Non-Applicable Sections:</b>	Personnel Implications
Background Documents: (Access via Contact Officer)	23 June 2015 Care Services PDS. "Transfer of Health Visitors to the Local Authority" CS15916  10 February 2016. Executive. Council's Proposal for the Public Health Budget 2016/17 and 2017-18.  28 June 2016. PDS. Procurement strategy – National Child Measurement Programme. CS17021.