

	<p style="text-align: center;">Barnet Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p> <p style="text-align: center;">6 July 2022</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Healthy Child Programme by Solutions 4 Health</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Director of Public Health and Prevention</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Key</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Enclosures</p>	<p>None</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Clare Slater-Robins clare.slater-robins@barnet.gov.uk Emma Waters emma.waters@barnet.gov.uk</p>
<h2>Summary</h2>	
<p>Public Health and Family Services commissions the Healthy Child Programme services (Health visiting, school nursing, oral health promotion, healthy weight nurses and breastfeeding peer support service) and they are delivered by Solutions 4 Health from 1 April 2022 for the next 3 years.</p> <p>The Healthy Child Programme (HCP, 2009) 0 – 5 and 5 – 19 is the early intervention and prevention public health programme that lies at the heart of our universal service for children and families at a crucial stage of life. The HCP’s universal reach provides an invaluable opportunity to identify families that are in need of additional support and children who are at risk of poor outcomes.</p> <p>The HCP offers every family a programme of screening tests, immunisations, developmental reviews, and information and guidance to support parenting and healthy choices – all services that children and families need to receive if they are to achieve their optimum health and wellbeing. Effective implementation of the HCP should lead to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong parent–child attachment and positive parenting, resulting in better social and emotional wellbeing among children; 	

- Care that helps to keep children healthy and safe;
- Healthy eating and increased activity, leading to a reduction in obesity;
- Prevention of some serious and communicable diseases;
- Increased rates of initiation and continuation of breastfeeding;
- Readiness for school and improved learning;
- Early recognition of growth disorders and risk factors for obesity;
- Early detection of – and action to address – developmental delay, abnormalities and ill health, and concerns about safety;
- Identification of factors that could influence health and wellbeing in families; and
- Better short- and long-term outcomes for children who are at risk of social exclusion.

Health visitors and school nurses as leaders and key deliverers of the HCP have a fundamental role to play in establishing good working relationships with all local key partners. Aligning with wider prevention and community based programmes and services e.g. health promotion, contraception, sexual health, reducing obesity, smoking cessation and breastfeeding provides a whole system approach to prevention and supports the provision of early universal access to information for health issues.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Committee note the report and update regarding the Healthy Child Programme in Barnet.**
- 2. That the committee hear from Solutions4Health about the organisation, their progress so far, the opportunities and challenges.**

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

Following the successful procurement process the contract was awarded by Barnet Council to a public health CQC registered provider, Solutions4Health. There was a long transition period so little disruption was experienced by the residents in Barnet and the services became live with S4H on 1 April 2022.

Since the 1 April the new provider has been settling staff into the organisation and recruiting to the vacancies in the services, predominantly health visiting, oral health and school nursing. This is against a backdrop of national shortages of health visitors and school nurses.

2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The report provides the Committee with the opportunity to be briefed on this matter. They are empowered to make further recommendations should they wish.

3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

3.1 Not applicable.

4. POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

4.1 The Healthy Child Programme Board, Contract and Strategic Update meeting will continue to monitor progress in Barnet.

5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance

5.1.1 Following the May 5th Elections, the council has a new Labour administration. On the 24th May 2022 Annual Council appointed a new Leader of the Council. The Leader and the new administration have set out the priorities including working in partnership with our local communities to help residents to lead healthier lives and tackling these health inequalities highlighted by the Covid-19 pandemic and to review Council strategies to ensure a clear link with public health outcomes.

5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

5.2.1 The Healthy Child Programme is a mandatory service funded via the Public Health grant and there are no other financial implications for the Council.

5.3 Social Value

5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires people who commission certain public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits.

5.3.2 The Healthy Child Programme ensures an efficient health and wellbeing service for children and families whilst delivering benefits to individuals in a coordinated fashion. The programme also includes supporting parents and young people when they need it and providing the right amount of advice to individuals to develop the skills they need to make choices for their own well-being in the future. Services working together derive social capital from each other and this in turn supports a collaborative approach towards sustainability within an ever-changing economy.

5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

5.4.1 Section 244 of the National Health Service Act 2006 and Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013/218; Part 4 Health Scrutiny by Local Authorities provides for the

establishment of Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees by local authorities.

5.4.2 The Council's Constitution (Article 7) sets out the terms of reference of the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee as having the following responsibilities:

“To perform the overview and scrutiny role in relation to health issues which impact upon the residents of the London Borough of Barnet and the functions services and activities of the National Health Service (NHS) and NHS bodies located within the London Borough of Barnet and in other areas.”

5.5 Risk Management

5.5.1 The Mobilisation project plan had a comprehensive risk register which was monitored at the Healthy Child Programme board on a monthly basis and mitigation actions discussed.

5.5.2 Solutions4Health have a Barnet specific risk register which includes staffing and recruitment, Blood Spot sustainability and New Birth visits.

5.6 Equalities and Diversity

5.6.1 Equality and Diversity issues are a mandatory consideration in decision making in the Council pursuant to the Equality Act 2010. This means the Council and all other organisations acting on its behalf must fulfil its equality duty when exercising a public function. The broad purpose of this duty is to integrate considerations of equality and good relations into day to day business, requiring equality considerations to be reflected into the design of policies and the delivery of services and for these to be kept under review.

5.6.2 The specific duty set out in s149 of the Equality Act is to have due regard to need to:

Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act; Advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it; Foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

5.6.3 The relevant protected characteristics are – age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex; sexual orientation. Health partners as relevant public bodies must similarly discharge their duties under the Equality Act 2010 and consideration of equalities issues should therefore form part of their reports.

5.7 Consultation and Engagement

5.7.1 A commissioner led service user and stakeholder feedback exercise

closed in July 2021 and while its responses did not inform the reprocurement exercise they are part of the mobilisation phase and are helping to determine any amendments to the service delivery 'To be' model going forward.

5.7.2 Solutions4Health commissioned an external consultant to conduct a review of the 'As is' model of service delivery which is now in the dissemination phase and is informing, along with the service user and stakeholder feedback, the new 'To be' model to deliver the Barnet service specification.

5.8 **Corporate Parenting:**

5.8.1 There are no implications for the London Borough of Barnet's corporate parenting responsibilities with this contract.

5.8.2 The health visiting and school nursing services have safeguarding responsibilities as part of their overall health and development surveillance supporting children who have been placed in care with their health needs.

6. **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None.