**Wednesday 7th May 2025**

**MS Teams**

1. **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS:**

* Introductions:
  + Anna McDougall, Commissioning Manager
  + Leanne Dykes, Commissioning and Contracts Officer
  + Laura Thompson, Service Manager, Whole Life Commissioning, Early Intervention and Prevention
  + Jackie McMenamy, Public Health Programme Manager
  + Annette Mercer, Public Health Programme Manager
  + Eloise Pattern, STAR Procurement Officer

1. **HEALTHY KNOWSLEY SERVICE ENGAGEMENT PRESENTATION:**

* About Knowsley:
  + Knowsley is one of six Local Authorities that comprise the Liverpool City Region
  + Located in the heart of the North-West, between Liverpool and Manchester
  + Large suburban towns and villages: Huyton, Kirkby, Prescot, Whiston, and Halewood
  + Knowsley is ranked as the second most deprived area in England
* Excess Weight:
  + Overweight and obesity is a significant public health challenge
  + 64% of adults in England are living with overweight or obesity
  + 22.1% of children in reception (aged 4 to 5 years) are living with overweight or obesity
  + Rising to 35.8% of children in year 6 (aged 10 to 11 years) living with overweight or obesity
  + Strong relationship between deprivation and obesity
  + Clear association between parental and childhood excess weight
  + Overweight and obesity increase people's risks of developing various health problems, such as Type 2 diabetes and cardiovascular disease
* Excess Weight in Knowsley:
  + Significantly higher and faster rising excess weight prevalence than both nationally and regionally
  + Highest levels of overweight and obesity in the country - 73.9% of adults in Knowsley are living with overweight or obesity
  + Highest levels in the country of children living with overweight and obesity - 28.8% of children in reception (aged 4 to 5 years) are living with overweight or obesity
  + Rising to 45.5% of children in year 6 (age 10 to 11 years) are living with overweight or obesity (NCMP, 2022/23)
* Oral Health:
  + Tooth decay is a significant, yet largely preventable, public health problem
  + 22.4% of 5-year-old children have experience of visually obvious dental decay
  + Children in deprived communities have poorer oral health than those living in more affluent areas
  + More than half of older adults who live in care homes have tooth decay, compared to 40% of over-75s who do not live in care homes
  + Prevalence of dental decay is also significantly higher in Asian or Asian British ethnic groups
  + Dental decay remains the most common reason for hospital admissions in children aged 5 to 9, with 19,381 being admitted to hospital in 2023/24
  + Access to NHS dentistry can be challenging
* Oral Health in Knowsley:
  + Oral Health of children living in Knowsley remains a concern
  + The level of tooth decay is significantly worse than both the North West and England
  + 35.8% of 5-year-olds in Knowsley are experiencing visually obvious dental decay
  + Almost 1 in 3 adults in Knowsley has active decay
  + Good progress has been made locally, particularly for groups which need additional support (such as children and older people)
  + 210,000 dental care packs have been distributed across Cheshire and Merseyside
* Deprivation:
  + Deprivation remains a significant challenge
  + Ranked as the 2nd most deprived area in England
  + A high proportion of Knowsley residents reside in the 10% most deprived areas
  + Significant inequalities in oral health continue to exist, with children in deprived communities having poorer oral health
  + The latest NCMP data illustrates there are differences in areas of deprivation, particularly in year 6
  + Cherryfield (53.2%), Northwood (53.5%), Prescot South (52.4%) and Stockbridge (52%)
  + Here, more than half of the children and young people in year 6 are overweight or obese
  + Compared to the Knowsley average of 47.4% (NCMP, 2023/24)
* Current Healthy Knowsley Service:
  + Integrated Healthy Lifestyle Service
  + Covers 7 Key Areas:
    - 1. Healthy Knowsley Hub
      2. Health Trainers
      3. MECC
      4. Children and Families Programme
      5. Adult Weight Management
      6. Health Check Support Service
      7. Oral Health
* Healthy Knowsley Service 2026-2023:
  1. Seeking to commission experienced and high-quality service providers (s)
  2. To deliver an integrated healthy lifestyle service
  3. Which supports the prevention and management of excess weight and improves the oral health of our residents
  4. Evidence-based and NICE-compliant
  5. A key element of success will be the ability to forge and maintain partnerships
  6. 3 Lots
  7. 4-year contract with a possible 2-year extension
  8. The aim is that one provider will lead and coordinate each allotted contract
  9. The council will, however, welcome a collaborative approach to delivery across the different lots, i.e. subcontracting arrangements and partnerships
* Services in Scope:
  1. Healthy Knowsley for Adults and Pregnant Women
  2. Healthy Knowsley for Children, Young People and their Families
  3. Oral Health Improvement Service
* Indicative Finances:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Service:** | **Annual Budget:** | **Total Budget:** |
| Lot 1: Healthy Knowsley Service for Adults and Pregnant Women | £658,000 | £3,948,000 |
| Lot 2: Healthy Knowsley Service for Children, Young People and Families | £414,000 | £2,484,000 |
| Lot 3: Oral Health Improvement | £65,000 | £390,000 |
| **TOTAL:** | **£1,137,000** | **£6,822,000** |

* Indicative Timescales:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Activity:** | **Date:** |
| Tender to be Published | Mid-June |
| Closing Date: | Mid-July |
| Contract Award: | Mid-November |
| Mobilisation: | December – March 2026 |
| Start Date: | April 2026 |
| End Date: | March 3032 |

* STAR Procurement
  + Run under the new regulations, like the previous, new notices
  + Pre-market engagement notice issued
  + Issued on the Find a Tender Platform
  + Urge you to register on the central digital platform
  + Aim to go out on the 16th of June (indicative timescale)
  + 4–5-week opportunity to respond, opportunity to ask clarifications, access ITT documents

**3. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:**

**1. Are the current service providers in the current arranged service model, or is it an integrated model?**

A: The service is currently run as an integrated healthy lifestyle service, with one lead provider, which includes Healthy Knowsley Hub, Health Trainers, MECC, Children and Families Programme, Adult Weight Management, Health Check Support Service, and Oral Health.

We are now looking to move to 3 allotted contracts going forward.

**2. Please can you run through the indicative times again please?**

A: Please see below. A more detailed timeline will be provided as we go out to tender.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
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**3. Are the financial envelopes including or excluding VAT?**

A: Including

**4. Would small businesses or startups be considered as well?**

A: Yes, we see many opportunities for smaller businesses and the third sector in this contract, adding value at every opportunity.

The ITT will include a financial standing, and if you can prove you meet that standard, you will be able to take part.

SMES are welcome to bid, and we hope you do apply, as we see lots of opportunities for small businesses and our wider key stakeholders through this contract.

**5. Assuming providers can bid for more than one lot?**

A: Yes, that would be very much welcomed

**6. Please can you clarify how the lots will work for this procurement, if there is a requirement for a lead provider, and are you looking for one provider for all three lots, or can organisations submit a bid for one individual lot?**

A: We are very much open to one provider delivering all three lots, or submitting for one lot, or submitting collaborative/partnership bids.

**7.** **For Eloise – Note the ITT etc. will be published on FTC, but which platform will be used for raising clarifications, uploading docs etc. Will it be the Chest?**

A: Everything will be issued on the Chest, that’s our portal, all messages will go through here. We will issue the notice on FTS. Currently, our Chest portal is not linked to FTS. So, currently we are trying our best to link notices for easy access.

**8. Will the Oral Health Improvement Service be dentist-led or DCP (nurse/therapist) led?**

A: Not necessarily looking for a DCP to lead the service, we are looking for a provider with the knowledge and expertise to run and deliver an oral health improvement service.

**9. If providers are keen to explore partnerships, would the authority be able to facilitate the sharing of provider contact details to support collaboration?**

A: Yes, a message will be put on the portal, and if you can reply to say you are happy for your details to be shared, a spreadsheet will be created.

**10. On FTS, the estimated value was £13,000,000, and the finance slide was just over £6,000,000. There’s quite a difference.**

A: Likely to be an oversight on the FTS

**11. Are you able to share a breakdown of the individual lot values, please?**

Please see below. We can provide more details around how this has been calculated by commissioners, if required.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
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**12. Can you explain the rationale for splitting the service into different lots in the new contract?**

A:Knowsley has significantly higher and faster rising rates of excess weight in both adults and children and following a large-scale review of our healthy weight and lifestyle services, we felt our current approach was very segmented and delivered by various providers.

We felt we needed a more integrated and aligned approach, taking a more proactive and whole systems approach.

Due to the prevalence of both deprivation, tooth decay and excess weight, it was clear we needed to commission 3 separate alloted contracts.

Our current service is primarily an adult service, historically, this is how it has been set out. The children’s service was more of an add-on a few years ago. Considering our numbers, particularly in children, children’s needs need to be a central part of this service.

Also, healthy weight is a key priority of the service, with a new healthier weight strategy across the next 5 years, and the new service will contribute to some of the key outcomes, focusing on priority areas, which has also helped inform the decision.

**13. Does specialist weight management (tier 3) sit within this contract or separately?**

A: Currently, our Specialist Adult Weight Management Service sits within the current Healthy Knowsley Service. So, we are looking to take that out of the contract, and it will move over to the ICB once the new contract starts.

**14. Are we able to advise at this stage if TUPE does apply?**

A: Yes, we are currently working with our incumbent provider to identify any staff eligible for TUPE. Any successful providers will be expected to work collaboratively with our incumbent provider to create a smooth and positive TUPE process for staff.