

**Committee Name and Date of Committee Meeting**

Delegated Officer Decision – 18 July 2023

**Report Title**

Officer Decision Record for the award of the contract variation to the 0-19s Integrated Public Health Nursing Service (IPHNS) with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) for the provision of Family Hub activity.

**Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?**

No, but it has been included on the Forward Plan

**Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report**

Ian Spicer, Strategic Director of Adult Care, Housing and Public Health

**Report Author(s)**

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**Ward(s) Affected**

Borough-Wide

**Report Summary**

This report outlines the decision to vary the 0-19s Integrated Public Health Nursing Service (IPHNS) contract with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) for the provision of Family Hub activity. Error! Reference source not found.

**Recommendations**

1. To award the contract variation to the 0-19 Integrated Public Health Nursing Service with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust as per the Cabinet paper of 13 February 2023.

**List of Appendices Included**

**Background Papers**

[RMBC Cabinet Report](#) – 22 March 2021

[RMBC Cabinet Report](#) – 13 February 2023

**Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel**

Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.

Name of Committee – Click here to enter a date.

**Council Approval Required**

No

**Exempt from the Press and Public**

No

## **Decision to vary the 0-19s Integrated Public Health Nursing Service (IPHNS) contract with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) for the provision of Family Hub activity.**

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### **1. Background**

1.1 As described in the Cabinet Paper of 13 February 2023 ([link](#)), Rotherham has been awarded the Family Hubs and Start for Life Grant. The grant was made available to Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council by the Department of Education (DfE) and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) as one of the 75 Local Authorities that were selected.

1.2 At the meeting, Cabinet accepted the grant funding and approved the approach to the governance and management of the grant. The reporting specifically covered that the grant would fund the following:

- The 0-19 Integrated Public Health Nursing Service (IPHNS) to introduce a new universal 3–4-month review where families can be supported by a Nursery Nurse to encourage the development of play, language and social interaction as well as provide advice on weaning and mobility.
- Three new Nursery Nurses are to be based at each of the three hubs across the borough to work alongside the Early Help teams in offering direct support to families. These posts will support the 0-19 Service in delivering the new 3–4-month universal review to families across the borough.
- A specialist Breastfeeding Lead will allow a larger capacity within the peer support offer in place and will support the 0-19 Service to embed the infant feeding service within the Family Hubs offer.

The first 1001 days of a child's life is the stage where there is the greatest capacity for the long-term benefit if everything is done to make sure that every child gets the best possible start and is not at a disadvantage based on the circumstances and conditions into which they are born.

The introduction of the 3-4-month universal review will ensure that advice, guidance, and assessment are not only offered to families who are identified as needing targeted or specialist support (less than 5% of the population) but are available to all families across the borough which can only have a positive impact on the first 1001 days of a Rotherham child's life.

The review will include the following:

- Weaning advice and ensuring that the child is ready to start on solid food at six months.
- Completion of the ASQ alongside information on growth and development.
- Home safety and safe sleep advice.

- How to manage minor illnesses, and when to visit a doctor.
- Immunisation advice
- Discussing how to encourage speech and language skills from a young age
- Assess the emotional well-being of parents and household members.
- Ensure that information is provided about the Family Hub offer, which includes details of groups and activities.

1.3 On 22 March 2021, Cabinet agreed to the recommissioning of the Children's Public Health Nursing services for the 0-19 population ([link](#)). Subsequently, the contract for the Children's Public Health Nursing Service (reference 20-154) was successfully awarded to The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust following an open tender process. The 0-19's Integrated Public Health Nursing Service contract commenced on 1 April 2023 and will run until 31 March 2028 (5 years) with an option to extend for up to a further five years.

1.4 Following the contract award and the Family Hubs and Start for Life Grant being received, a contract variation to the 0-19's Integrated Public Health Nursing Service contract is proposed. It is worth noting that due to the new contract (reference 20-154) starting in April 2023, the variation could not be agreed upon until this point.

## 2. Key Issues

2.1 Following Cabinet approval on 13 February 2023 ([link](#)) the Family Hubs Operational group and Children and Young People's Services DLT approved the allocation of £327,068 to fund the 0-19 Service in delivering the provision described in this report.

	2023/24	2024/25
Infant Feeding Lead	38,476	39,246
Three x Nursery Nurses	123,438	125,907
<b>Total</b>	<b>161,915</b>	<b>165,153</b>

2.2 The Officer Decision confirms the decision to award the contract variation to the 0-19 Integrated Public Health Nursing Service with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust as the Council's sole provider of 0-19s Children's Nursing Services. The Service is to deliver the activities described in this report using the Family Hubs Grant for up to one month, from 1 July 2023 until 31 March 2025.

## 3. Options considered and recommended proposal

3.1 There are no options to be included. The recommendation is to award the contract variation to the 0-19 Integrated Public Health Nursing Service with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust as per the Cabinet paper of 13

February 2023 ([link](#)). This is to be directly awarded to the Service as Health Visitors are already delivering the activities above as part of the current contract on a targeted basis. Therefore, the universal provision can only be provided by this Service.

#### **4. Consultation on proposal**

4.1 At the meeting on 13 February 2023 ([link](#)) Cabinet accepted the grant funding and approved the approach to the governance and management of the grant. The Cabinet report linked above details the consultation on the Family Hubs grant.

#### **5. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision**

5.1 The 0-19 Integrated Public Health Nursing Service with TRFT will deliver activities using the Family Hubs Grant (£327,068) for up to 21 months. This period commenced on 1 July 2023 and will expire on 31 March 2025.

#### **6. Financial and Procurement Advice and Implications (to be written by the relevant Head of Finance and the Head of Procurement on behalf of s151 Officer)**

6.1 The posts have funding allocated in the Family Hubs & Start for Life funding model.

6.2 Family Hubs & Start for Life funding is in place until 31 March 2025, which covers the period referred to in this report.

6.3 The services described in this report would be defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations") (as amended) as Social and Other Specific Services ("SOSS") with a specified threshold of £552,950 net of VAT.

6.4 The variation must be conducted in compliance with the Regulations and the Council's Financial and Procurement Procedure Rules.

A modification of this contract is permitted under Regulation 72 (Modification of Contracts during their Term) subject to satisfying certain conditions. For the purposes of the variation detailed in this report, the Council would be relying on 72(5), which sets out the following: This paragraph applies where the value of the modification is below both of the following values: -  
(a) the relevant threshold mentioned in regulation 5 (£552,950) (the value of the modification is below the threshold for SOSS)  
(b) 10% of the initial contract value for service and supply contracts .....  
provided that the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract (the modification equates to 0.6%, and the nature of the contract is not subject to change)

#### **7. Legal Advice and Implications (to be written by Legal Officer on behalf of Assistant Director Legal Services)**

- 7.1 Paragraph 6.4 of this Officer Decision Report accurately describes the procurement law implications of the proposed modification to this contract. The proposed modification would appear to be compliant with regulation 72(5), allowing the Council to modify this contract without being required to conduct a new procurement.
- 7.2 The contract with The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust will contain a clause setting out the formalities regarding contract amendments. The parties must comply with those requirements precisely. Officers may wish to consult with Legal Services if they require assistance.

## **8. Human Resources Advice and Implications**

- 8.1 There are no HR implications in relation to the contract variation in respect of RMBC.
- 8.2 Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) does not apply.

## **9. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults**

- 9.1 The implication on care continuity will be minimal as there is no requirement to transfer care to a new provider.

The Service forms part of the Children and Young People's pathway and will be universal in its reach. Therefore, reducing health inequalities across the borough and addressing any specific needs, risks or vulnerabilities identified.

- 9.2 Health Visiting and School Nursing is a universal service that every family will have some level of engagement. However, the additional funding will allow for a further offer from this provision. The level of engagement will vary according to the need of both the child/children in the family and the needs of the parents/carers.
- 9.3 A collaborative approach has been undertaken, with views being sought from various stakeholders, including Children and Young People's Services and Public Health.

## **10. Equalities and Human Rights Advice and Implications**

- 10.1 Equality and needs assessments were carried out as part of the procurement process that awarded the Children's Public Health Nursing Service (reference 20-154) to The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust. It is important to note that although the Service is referred to as 0-19, the Service offers support to young people with complex health needs up to the age of 24 years old.
- 10.2 The Service is a Universal Service in Rotherham. It is known that poor physical and mental health is disproportionately experienced by some of the most vulnerable members of our local communities. This decision to vary the 0-19's Integrated Public Health Nursing Service (IPHNS) contract for the delivery of intervention as part of the Family Hub Grant will aim to address

inequality in health as a general principle and prioritise target groups through enhancement of engagement and outreach.

- 10.3 This variation to the contract must ensure equal access and outcomes across all of Rotherham's communities whilst providing no protected equalities group is being excluded or unintentionally disadvantaged.

## **11. Implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change**

- 11.1 A Carbon Impact Assessment Form was completed as part of the procurement process that awarded the Children's Public Health Nursing Service (reference 20-154) to The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust.
- 11.2 The Service is already in place, and no new premises are being sought. There will be no additional implications for CO2 Emissions and Climate Change, and the changes within this report do not highlight any further impact on CO2 Emissions.

## **12. Implications for Partners**

- 12.1. The implication on partners is expected to be minimal as the provider already has established partnerships and pathways in place.
- 12.2 The Service is an essential part of the C & YP system and has established relationships and pathways. The decision to vary the 0-19's Integrated Public Health Nursing Service (IPHNS) with the Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust (TRFT) contract for the delivery of intervention as part of the Family Hub Grant is unlikely to impact this but potentially improve it.

## **13. Risks and Mitigation**

- 13.1 Unspent Grant funding is lost to Rotherham as the grant must be spent in the same financial year. This variation with TRFT mitigates this risk as not all the spending risk sits with the Council, and the Trust are better placed to recruit to these posts.

## **14. Accountable Officers**

Ben Anderson, Director of Public Health