

## Report to the Cabinet

Meeting to be held on Thursday, 5 October 2023

## Report of the Director of Public Health

### Part I

Electoral Division affected:  
(All Divisions);

**Corporate Priorities:**  
Delivering better services;

## Healthy Weight Services (Appendices 'A' - 'C' refer)

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### Brief Summary

This report outlines a proposal to work collaboratively with district councils in delivering a whole system approach to obesity. It includes the future delivery of healthy weight services and the development of collaboration agreements with each of the 12 district councils in Lancashire from 1 April 2024 for a minimum of 5 years with the right to extend the agreements for up to a further 3 years.

### Recommendation

Cabinet is asked to:

- (i) Approve the establishment and development of collaboration agreements for the delivery of healthy weight services with all 12 district councils and, if necessary, to enter a procurement exercise post 1 January 2024 in respect of any districts where agreement has not been reached on a formal collaboration.
- (ii) Authorise the Director of Public Health to approve the collaboration agreements and, in conjunction with the Head of Service - Procurement, to determine the lotting of the remaining districts if procurement is needed.

This is deemed to be a Key Decision and the requirements of Standing Order C19 have been complied with.



## Detail

Healthy Weight services are currently delivered as two separate services for adults and children. Existing service contracts are in place for both Adult Weight Management and Play And Skills at Teatime Activities (PASTA), with both these contracts ending on 31 March 2024. There are currently 12 providers for services for adults and 12 providers for services for children across Lancashire. There are 23 grant agreements in place and one service contract. The current providers are a combination of district councils, leisure trusts, charities, and third-party organisations. The services are currently delivered on a district footprint. The current arrangements are complex and result in a range of delivery standards. The proposal will reduce these complexities whilst enabling more collaborative working with the district councils.

The national evidence informs that obesity is a complex issue (see "Whole systems approach to obesity: a guide to support local approaches", July 2019). There is no one solution, and it requires a coordinated collaborative approach to support change. By establishing and developing a collaboration with each district, this will support a move towards place-based partnerships across health, local authorities, and the wider community. There will be a focus on a whole system approach to healthy weight enabling collective responsibility for improving the health and wellbeing of residents within a place.

In Lancashire current data shows that there are 651,533 overweight or obese adults (aged 16 and over). 323,027 of those reside in the areas of highest deprivation. The most recent National Child Measurement Programme data shows that across Lancashire, 23.8% of reception age children are overweight or obese, increasing to 35.8% of children in year 6 and although this is similar to the England average, the number is increasing.

An intended key component of the model will be acknowledging that individuals exist within a family and community context. In order to adopt and sustain behaviour change the focus of the collaboration will be on identifying strengths and assets rather than barriers. This will in turn enable residents to build relationships and connections with their own community, empowering the family unit to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

A recent review of the evidence suggests combining the two services to create a holistic family approach to healthy weight services with an option for adults to access healthy weight support independently. This is also supported by market and public engagement that has taken place.

The following additional engagement has taken place to understand the district council's current positions in relation to healthy weight collaboration:

- i. An initial meeting with district council Chief Executives or representatives was completed on 1 August 2023.
- ii. Following the offer to have individual conversations with the district councils, the Lancashire County Council, Public Health commissioning team has now met with all 12 district councils.



- iii. District councils were invited to submit formal expressions of interest by 11 August 2023.
- iv. All 12 district councils submitted expressions of interest and indicated a wish to collaborate with Lancashire County Council. The submitted expressions of interest contained varying levels of detail and commitment.
- v. The Health Improvement team alongside the district councils will co-design core components of the healthy weight specification that will enable consistency and evidence-based support for residents of Lancashire. There are a series of initial meeting with districts proposed for 21 September 2023.

It is anticipated that a firm decision will be made as to the feasibility of progressing with a formal collaboration agreement with each individual district council no later than 31 December 2023.

The annual contract value is £850,000 across Lancashire funded from Public Health Grant. The indicative finance allocations for districts have been calculated based on the percentage of overweight and obese adults, the National Child Measurement Programme data and Index of Multiple Deprivation deciles. This is supported by the analysis of the wider market testing survey in which 70% of respondents agreed with this approach.

**Table 1:** Indicative Year 1 annual financial allocations calculated based on the methodology described above.

<b>District</b>	<b>Budget allocation £</b>
Burnley	<b>80,626</b>
Chorley	<b>72,793</b>
Fylde	<b>47,981</b>
Hyndburn	<b>66,770</b>
Lancaster	<b>93,401</b>
Pendle	<b>74,554</b>
Preston	<b>106,566</b>
Ribble Valley	<b>35,718</b>
Rossendale	<b>49,002</b>
South Ribble	<b>69,015</b>
West Lancashire	<b>79,027</b>
Wyre	<b>74,547</b>
<b>Lancashire-12</b>	<b>850,000</b>

## Appendices

Additional contextual information is provided in Appendices 'A' - 'C' which are attached to this report. For clarification they are summarised below and referenced at relevant points within this report.

<b>Appendix</b>	<b>Title</b>
Appendix 'A'	Adult Healthy Weight Key Findings
Appendix 'B'	Play And Skills at Teatime Activities Key Findings
Appendix 'C'	Healthy Weight Market Testing Summary



## Consultations

As referenced in Appendices 'A' and 'B', extensive consultation has taken place with current providers, wider stakeholders, and the public. A wider market testing survey was published in July 2023 which particularly sought district council feedback on current services and future potential opportunities for the healthy weight services (Appendix 'C' refers).

## Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

- i. There is a risk that one or more of the district councils which have expressed an interest in a collaboration choose not to proceed.
- ii. The route of collaboration may result in a plurality of models of delivery across the county and a "library of service specifications" which may result in significant variations in coverage and/or effectiveness of the service model.

## Risk management

- i. The range of mitigations to implication i. include:
  - If collaboration agreements are not in place with district councils by 1 January 2024, a formal procurement exercise will commence for those districts.
  - To direct award the existing provider a short term (3 month) contract to prevent a gap in service delivery whilst the formal procurement exercise is completed.
  - To accept a gap in service delivery in those districts where collaboration has not been agreed.
- ii. The mitigation to implication ii is:
  - The joint development of core components of the service through the district collaborations will help mitigate (but not eliminate) this risk.

## Procurement

Procurement may become a requirement if any district councils chose not to formally collaborate with Lancashire County Council by 1 January 2024 (see Risk management).

## Equality and Cohesion

An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed (which described no detriment to groups with protected characteristics accessing the service) and the Health Equity Audit will continue to be monitored in the establishment and development of the collaboration agreements and service delivery.

The service will be accessible to residents irrespective of their protected characteristics. The family element of the service will be accessible for families with



children who live in targeted wards across Lancashire. Adults who do not have children accessing the service will be aged 18 and over.

## **Legal**

It is suggested that the proposed collaborations would satisfy the criteria contained within Regulation 12(7) of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 such that the arrangement is exempt from the aforementioned regulations.

## **List of Background Papers**

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A

