



MAYOR & CABINET

Report title: Extension Approval for Lewisham Community Wellbeing

Date: 15/12/2021

Key decision: No.

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All wards

Contributors:

Director of Integrated Commissioning – Dee Carlin

Integrated Commissioning Manager (Mental Health Pathways) – Polly Pascoe

Outline and recommendations

Our Lewisham Community Wellbeing service offers community-based interventions and support for those with common mental illnesses.

The contract for this service was awarded by Mayor & Cabinet in 2018, went live in February 2019 and was intended to run for three years initially, with the option to extend the contract for a further two years where required.

Mayor & Cabinet are recommended to give approval for officers to extend the current contract with BLG Mind for the period of March 2022 to February 2023.

The total cost of the extension would be £560,345. This extension would enable the continuation of our integrated community offer for the residents of Lewisham at a time when both demand and acuity is rising.

A breakdown of this cost is provided in the table below:

Service	Contributor	Contribution	2022/23 Extension Cost
Lewisham Community Wellbeing	Lewisham Borough Council	£190,517	£560,345
	South East London CCG	£369,828	

1. Summary

- 1.1. This report seeks approval to extend the current contract with BLG Mind for the delivery of the Lewisham Community Wellbeing service.

- 1.2. Lewisham Community Wellbeing offers guidance, advice and support to help residents prevent or recover from episodes of mental ill health.
- 1.3. Funding for this service is managed by the Council, with majority costs claimed back from South East London Clinical Commissioning Group.
- 1.4. A three year contract with the option to extend for a total of 24 months was initially awarded by Mayor & Cabinet in 2018 and the contract has been in place since February 2019.
- 1.5. There have been no quality or delivery concerns throughout the life of the services and they have been remained an integral component of mental health provision during the COVID19 lockdown period.
- 1.6. A contract extension of 12 months is requested in order to ensure continuity of service as the borough manages the impact of COVID19 and related lockdowns on the emotional wellbeing of our residents.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. Mayor and Cabinet are recommended to give approval for officers to extend the contract held with BLG Mind, for the delivery of the Lewisham Community Wellbeing service for the period of March 2022 to February 2023 at a cost of £560,345.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. National statutes and policy guidance related to the council and CCGs duty to commissioned and/or provide the service are as follows;

National

- Mental Capacity Act 2005
- Mental Health Act 2007
- Care Act 2014
- No Health Without Mental Health
- NHS Long Term Plan
- Mental Health Forward View
- Advancing Mental Health Equalities Strategy
- Improving Access to Mental Health Services by 2020

Local

- Corporate Strategy 2018/22
- Lewisham Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013/23
- Sustainable Community Strategy

4. Lewisham Community Wellbeing

- 4.1. Lewisham has a higher estimated rate of common mental illness amongst its working population (19.8%) than London and England (18.2% and 16.6% respectively)¹. Lewisham Community Wellbeing offers support, advice and interventions to those experiencing poor mental health, acting as a point for preventative work and a space for those recovering from a period of mental ill health.
- 4.2. Lewisham Community Wellbeing provides a single point of access to a range of support

¹

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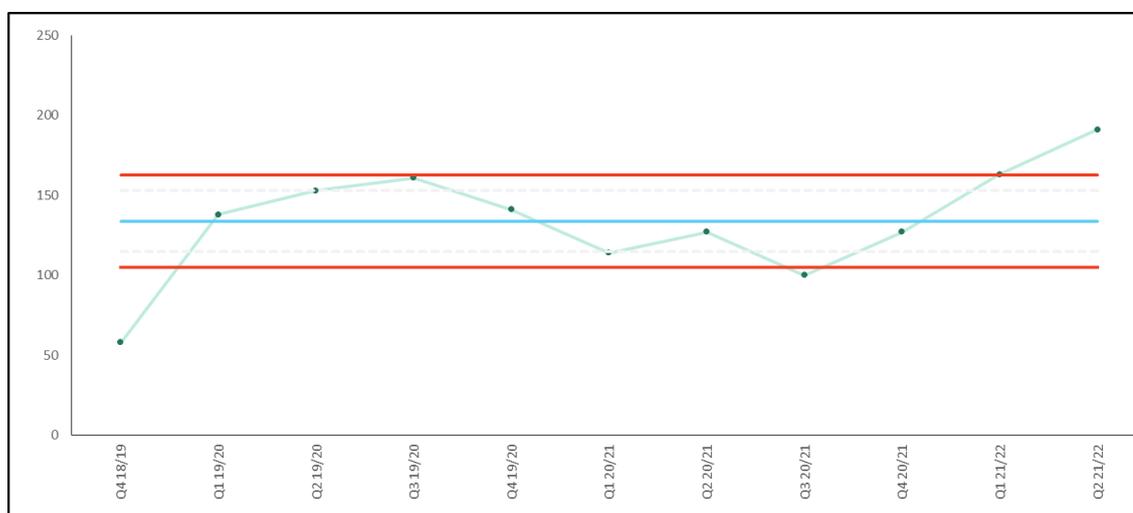
available across Lewisham, including:

- One to one support, information and advice regarding mental health and local services;
- Workshops and courses to support those experiencing mental ill health to explore their experiences and learn more about their condition(s);
- Peer support groups run by people with their own experiences of mental health difficulties and recovery; and
- Culturally specific wellbeing support for our BAME residents.

4.3. Lewisham Community Wellbeing have also delivered the borough's Service User Engagement Forum, bringing together members of our community to discuss service development and improvements in the borough. The group have recently provided feedback related to Lewisham's Autism Strategy, Crisis Cafes and Carers Support.

4.4. Following a significant dip in referrals during the start of the COVID19 lockdown, numbers are now exceeding pre-Covid levels (Chart 2).

Chart 2: Lewisham Community Wellbeing Referrals



5. Contract extension

5.1. The total cost of the 2022/23 extension would be £560,345. A breakdown of this cost is provided in the table below:

Service	Contributor	Contribution	2022/23 Extension Cost
Lewisham Community Wellbeing	Lewisham Borough Council	£190,517	£560,345
	South East London CCG	£369,828	

5.2. A three year contract with the option to extend for a total of 24 months was initially awarded by Mayor & Cabinet in 2018 and the contract has been in place since February 2019. The initial 3 years expires in February 2022 and this report is recommending we extend for a further period in line with the initial contract award.

5.3. Growing numbers of referrals highlight the continued need the service and heightened

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acuity due to COVID19 requires continuity of service that would not be achieved if the contract were to be recommissioned at this time

- 5.4. Commissioners have met with the provider quarterly throughout the life of the contract and have a good working relationship with service managers, enabling effective flex during these uncertain times. There are no delivery, performance or quality concerns with the provider and service user feedback related to experience has been positive throughout.
- 5.5. Officers therefore recommend that Mayor & Cabinet agrees to extend the current contract for a further 12 months to ensure service continuity during the COVID19 recovery period.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1. The extension of the current Community Mental Health Service contract will continue to be jointly funded by LBL and SELCCG.
- 6.2. Under the S256 agreement LBL's contribution towards the overall cost of £560,345 for one year April22-March23 will be £190,517 and is within budget.
- 6.3. The remaining spend (£369,828) will be claimed back by LBL from SEL CCG.

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1. The Council's Constitution contains requirements about how to procure and manage contracts. These are in the Contract Procedure Rules (Constitution Part IV), some of which are requirements based on the procurement Regulations (Public Contracts Regulations 2015) with which the Council must comply. Those requirements were complied with when the contract was awarded.
- 7.2. The current contract was procured on the basis of a 3 year contract with the option to extend for 2 years. The recommendation in the report is to extend the contract with the extension period. This is a 'Permitted Extension' under the Contract Procedure Rules, being one which was clearly provided for in the original procurement and contract documents (as set out in Rule 17 of the Contracts Procedure Rules, and Regulation 72 of the Procurement Regulations 2015).
- 7.3. The report sets out the reasons why this extension is proposed. It notes that the performance of the incumbent provider is satisfactory.
- 7.4. The extension of this contract is not a Key Decision under the Constitution because the approval to award the contract on the basis of the extension was approved at the point the contract was awarded. However, where the value of an extension to a services contract is more than £500,000, the decision on the extension is reserved to Mayor and Cabinet.
- 7.5. The Equality Act 2012 (the Act) places on the Council a public sector equality duty (the equality duty or the duty). It covers the following nine protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.6. In summary, the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act; advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not; and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- 7.7. The duty is a "have regard duty", and the weight to be attached to it is a matter for the decision maker, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity or foster good relations.

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- 7.8. The Equality and Human Rights Commission has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance entitled “Equality Act 2010 Services, Public Functions & Associations Statutory Code of Practice”. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the duty and attention is drawn to Chapter 11 which deals particularly with the equality duty. The Technical Guidance also covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty. This includes steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The guidance does not have statutory force but nonetheless regard should be had to it, as failure to do so without compelling reason would be of evidential value. The statutory code and the technical guidance can be found at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/legal-and-policy/equality-act/equality-act-codes-of-practice-and-technical-guidance/>.
- 7.9. The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has issued guides for public authorities in England giving advice on the equality duty. The ‘Essential’ guide provides an overview of the equality duty requirements including the general equality duty, the specific duties and who they apply to. It covers what public authorities should do to meet the duty including steps that are legally required, as well as recommended actions. The other four documents provide more detailed guidance on key areas and advice on good practice.

8. Climate change and environmental implications

- 8.1. The Council has made a commitment to making the borough carbon neutral by 2030.
- 8.2. The contracts set out in this report will not have any negative impact on the rate of energy consumption or increase of carbon admissions.
- 8.3. Buildings are maintained by various landlords and RSL’s and the energy efficiency of services including numbers of transitions to SMART meters etc will be discussed in contract monitoring meetings and assessed during Quality Assurance visits.
- 8.4. Recycling should be proactively promoted within the contracts and will be monitored during scheme visits and will be discussed with residents.

9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1. There are no crime or disorder implications.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1. The services in this report will have a positive impact on health, mental health, and wellbeing by providing shelter, housing and support to rough sleepers in the borough.
- 10.2. The services in this report will have a positive impact on social, economic and environmental living conditions that indirectly affect health by providing good quality accommodation with support to address health issues early on and to ensure wrap around services are in place.

11. Social Value implications

- 11.1. BLG Mind is an organisation delivering support to vulnerable residents in the borough independently of local authority funding, promoting a range of social value in the borough.
- 11.2. The council is an officially accredited London Living Wage (LLW) Employer and is committed to ensuring that, where appropriate, contractors and subcontractors engaged by the council to provide works or services within Lewisham pay their staff at a minimum rate equivalent to the LLW rate. Successful contractors will be expected to

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meet LLW requirements and contract conditions requiring the payment of LLW will be included in the service specification and contract documents

- 11.3. The incorporation of Social Value into Lewisham contracts will significantly help the Council to deliver on its strategic corporate and Mayoral priorities and deliver added value for the borough as a whole.

Background papers

n/a

12. Glossary

In-house	Services delivered by the Council instead of commissioning third parties.
Innovative	New; pioneering. Delivering services in ways which use imagination and new ideas about delivering services. Innovation is at the core of the Council's aspiration to deliver better services to local communities
In-Source	The process from delivering a service by a third party to delivering a service by the Council.
Integrated Care System (ICS)	Joined up, coordinated health and social care that is planned and organised around the needs and preferences of the individual, their carer and family. This may also involve integration with other services for example housing.

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Integrated Community Based Care	Coordination of care services for defined groups of people, e.g. older people, people with learning disabilities, etc. (King's Fund)
Lay Visitors	Citizens taking part in the contract monitoring process with an aim to give an independent perspective of how services are run. They are usually volunteers with an interest in local services and communities. Their views are valued and included in the monitoring reports produced by Council officers
Lead Providers	Three homecare providers who were awarded contracts by the Council in 2016 to provide all homecare services in the borough. They are each allocated a geographical area within which they have the sole responsibility to provide home care.
Lewisham Health and Care Partners	Lewisham Health and Care Partners is a partnership of the main health and care commissioners and providers in Lewisham. The partners include NHS Lewisham Commissioning Group, Lewisham Council, One Health Lewisham Ltd GP Federation, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and Lewisham and Greenwich NHS Trust (Lewisham CCG)
Market Shaping	Working together with other partners to encourage services to meet local need and ensuring there is enough supply of different types of services.
Market Sustainability	Ensuring a robust and a varied local market of providers by awarding financially viable contract to a range of providers; avoiding to rely on a small number of providers who may be too 'big to fail'.

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Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)	A Multidisciplinary Team is a group of professionals from one or more clinical disciplines who together make decisions regarding recommended treatment of individual patients/service users. MDTs may include social care professionals and independent providers.
NHS Fully Funded Continuing Healthcare	Ongoing care outside hospital for someone who is ill or disabled, health care arranged and funded by the NHS. This type of care can be provided anywhere, and can include the full cost of a place in a nursing home. It is provided when your need for day to day support is mostly due to your need for health care, rather than social care. The Government has issued guidance to the NHS on how people should be assessed for continuing health care, and who is entitled to receive it.
Options Appraisal	The options appraisal allows a number of different delivery model options to be explored and evaluated against a set of agreed criteria, leading to the selection of the preferred option. This stage can commence once the function of the service has been clearly defined. (www.gov.uk)
Outcome Focussed Care	In social care, an 'outcome' refers to an aim or objective you would like to achieve or need to happen – for example, continuing to live in your own home, or being able to go out and about. You should be able to say which outcomes are the most important to you, and receive support to achieve them.
Personal Budgets	<p>Money that is allocated to you by your local council to pay for care or budget support to meet your assessed needs. The money comes solely from adult social care. You can take your personal budget as a direct payment, or choose to leave the council to arrange services (sometimes known as a managed budget) – or a combination of the two.</p> <p>An alternative is an individual service fund, which is a personal budget that a care provider manages on your behalf. A personal health budget may also be available: it is a plan for your health care that you develop and control, knowing how much NHS money is available.</p>

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Personalisation	<p>The principle behind the current transformation of adult social care services, and also related to health services. Personalisation refers to the process of providing personalised, flexible care that is intended to promote the independence of those who need care.</p>
Primary Care Networks	<p>From 1 July 2019, all patients in England will be covered by a primary care network. They aim to integrate primary care with secondary and community services, and bridge a gap between general practice and other types of healthcare services. Primary Care is health care services provided in the community as the first point of contact, e.g. a GP or an advice clinic (includes GPs, community pharmacists, dental, optometry (eye health)).</p>
Procurement	<p>The process of buying or purchasing goods or services.</p>
Public Health	<p>“Public health is generally thought of as being concerned with the health of the entire population, rather than the health of individuals – and therefore requiring a collective effort – and as being about prevention rather than cure. The three areas of public health are: health improvement; health protection; and health services. Under the Health and Social Care Act, responsibility for public health is to be taken over from the NHS by local government. A national public health service, Public Health England will also be created.</p>
Social Prescribing	<p>Connecting people to community groups and services, for example, a local arts and crafts group. Primary purpose of social prescribing is to combat social isolation and to help people take part in meaningful activities.</p>

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Stakeholder	A person with an interest or concern in something, community services in this case.
Sustainable Community Strategy	The role of the sustainable community strategy is to set out the strategic vision for a place. It provides a vehicle for considering and deciding how to address difficult cross-cutting issues such as the economic future of an area, social exclusion and climate change. (www.local.gov.uk)
Sustainable Provider Operating Costs Tool (SPOCT)	A costing mechanism developed by ADASS, which aims to help commissioners and providers decide on rates that are sustainable and effective
The Care Act	A law passed in Parliament in 2012, bringing together various pieces of legislation and setting out new duties and expectations from local authorities
Time and Task	Care activity delivered at a specific time
Tissue Viability	Tissue viability is a relatively new discipline, which started in the 1980s and has been defined as a growing speciality that primarily considers all aspects of skin and soft tissue wounds, including acute surgical wounds, pressure ulcers and all forms of leg ulceration (Tissue Viability Society, 2014).

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Urgent Community Response Accelerator Scheme	South East London's Integrated Care System (ICS) is to become one of seven new urgent community response accelerator sites across the country. It aims to provide an assessment in a patient's home if they are in a crisis.
Wellbeing	Used by the World Health Organisation (1946) in its definition of health as "a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity". More recently the concept was described as "feeling good and functioning well" (New Economics Foundation, 2008). Creating wellbeing (of which good physical health is a component) requires the mobilisation of the widest assets to ensure community cohesion, safety and so on.
Workforce Development	Support for workers to become capable, skilled and confident.

13. Report author and contact

13.1. Polly pascoe

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14. Comments for and on behalf of the Director of Law, Governance and HR

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