



Executive Director of Community Services

Report title: NHS Health Checks Contract Extension

Date: 17th December 2021

Key decision: Yes

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: Borough wide

Contributors: Public Health Commissioning Team & Public Health Lewisham

Outline and recommendations

The NHS Health Checks programme aims to prevent cardiovascular morbidity and mortality through the early assessment, awareness and management of individual physiological and behavioural risk factors.

It is recommended that Executive Director of Community Services agree to extend the Council's contract with One Health Lewisham (OHL) for delivery of the NHS Health Checks programme for the total contract value of £341,104 for twelve months (1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023).

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

COVID-19 Related Extensions by Directorate Report - 2nd March 2021

Mayor & Cabinet Award of contract for NHS Health Checks – 5th June 2019

1. Summary

- 1.1 Authority to award this 2 year contract with an option for a 2 year extension was given by Mayor and Cabinet on 1 July 2019, at a value for the total period estimated at £1,400,00 (Background papers).
- 1.2 From September 2019, Lewisham's GP federation 'One Health Lewisham' (OHL) was commissioned to deliver the entire Lewisham NHS Health Check programme. An extension of contract from September 2021 to March 2022 was granted by the Executive Director on 2 March 2021 for Covid related reasons. The programme operates within a statutory framework, under which local authorities are responsible for its delivery.

- 1.3 This report recommends a further 12 month extension of the contract at the total contract value of £341,104 for twelve months (from 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023). (The exercise of this option is within the timeframe governed by the Mayor and Cabinet authorisation).
- 1.4 This would allow the provider to work with Commissioners and Lewisham's Public Health team to return to face to face and invitation based delivery, suspended due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and to realise the intended improvements in the contract in reach, equity of coverage, and targeting of those most at risk. It provides an opportunity for OHL to demonstrate effective management of the programme.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Executive Director of Community Services is recommended to agree to extend the Council's contract with One Health Lewisham (OHL) for delivery of the NHS Health Checks programme for the total contract value of £341,104 for twelve months (1st April 2022 to 31st March 2023).

3. Policy Context

- 3.1 Under the Health and Social Care Act (2012), the NHS Health Check became a statutory public health service in England. The mandated function requires local authorities to provide a number of functions:
 - For each eligible individual aged 40-74 to be offered an NHS Health Check once in every 5 years and for each individual to be recalled every 5 years if they remain eligible
 - For the risk assessment to include specific tests and measurements
 - To ensure the individual having their NHS Health Check is told their cardiovascular risk score, and other results are communicated to them
 - For specific information and data to be recorded and, where the risk assessment is conducted outside the individual's GP practice, for that information to be forwarded to the individual's GP
 - LAs are also required to continuously improve the percentage of eligible people having an NHS Health Check
 - NHS England has recently stated that practices may wish to consider suspending health checks for over 75s if necessary to free up capacity for COVID-19 response. However, these are funded through the GP Contract with NHS England, and NHS Health Checks for 40-74 year olds should continue.
- 3.2 The NHS Health Check programme supports the delivery of the Council's Corporate Strategy 2018-2022 through 'Delivering and defending: health, social care and support', particularly the focus on ensuring that 'Healthy lifestyles are increasingly a way of life across all of our communities'.
- 3.3 The NHS Health Check programme contributes to the delivery of key priorities of Lewisham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy. These include the overarching indicator of Under 75 mortality rate which aims to continue the decrease in the rate of under 75 CVD mortality as well as the Priority Indicators 'Achieving a healthy weight', 'Reducing alcohol harm' and 'Reducing the number of people smoking'

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4. Background

4.1 NHS Health Checks

4.2 The NHS Health Check programme was launched in 2009 and aims to prevent heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease, and raise awareness of dementia across the population with a particular focus on high risk and vulnerable groups.

4.3 Lewisham has high premature mortality rates from circulatory diseases compared with London and England and cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a major contributor to the life expectancy gap between Lewisham and England. However, Lewisham has low levels of detected disease.

Table 1: CVD mortality compared to statistical neighbours

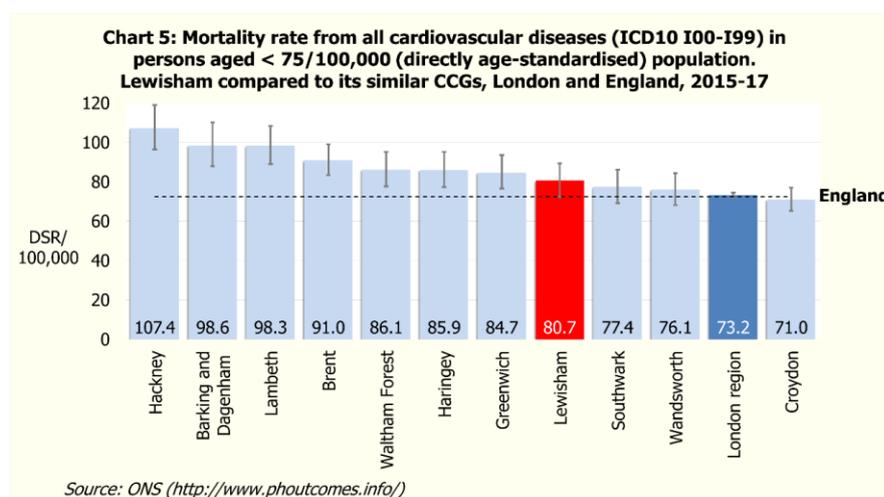
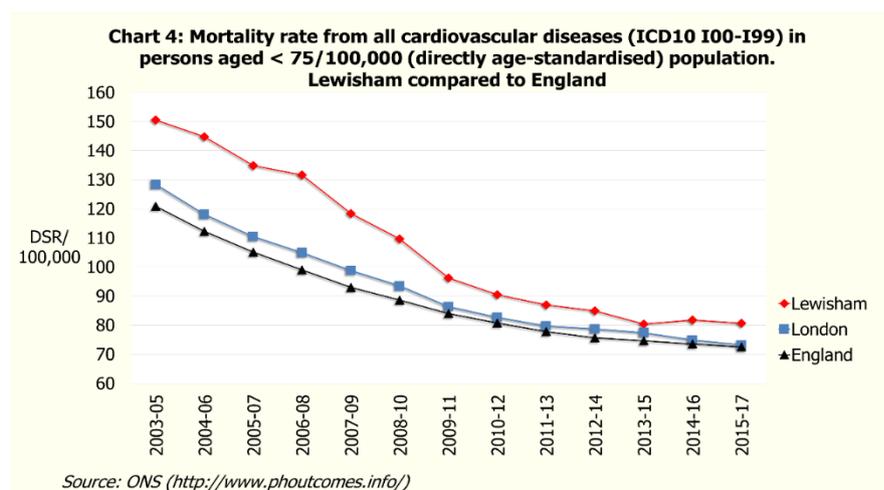


Table 2: CVD mortality compared to London and England



4.4 The NHS Health Check programme systematically targets the top seven causes of preventable mortality: high blood pressure, smoking, cholesterol, obesity, poor diet, physical inactivity and alcohol consumption. The Council has a responsibility to deliver that service.

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- 4.5 The NHS Health Check is made up of three key components: risk assessment, risk awareness and risk management. During the risk assessment, standardised tests are used to measure key risk factors and establish the individual's risk of developing cardiovascular disease. The outcome of the assessment is then used to raise awareness of cardiovascular risk factors, as well as to inform a discussion on, and agreement of, the lifestyle and medical approaches best suited to managing the individual's health risk.
- 4.6 OHL were originally contracted to provide 7,395 Health Checks in the year 2020-21. In October, this was revised to 1,940 delivered remotely. OHL delivered 2,047 Health Checks in 2020-21 and in Q3 and Q4 activity was around three quarters of that seen in the previous year.
- 4.7 OHL has continued to engage all practices to deliver Health Checks, including three practices that have not engaged previously. OHL has established a system for delivering Health Checks via telephone calls from its own health care assistants (HCAs), offering close to 5000 appointments and it has met the revised targets for number of Health Checks to be delivered during 2020-21. However, these Checks were carried out on patients who had already visited the practice and had one or more risk factor recordings. As they are already in touch with practices these patients may be at lower risk, which could increase health inequalities.
- 4.8 IT data systems have prompted healthcare professionals (HCPs) to take the requisite physical observations at any appointment; built searches to identify patients with requisite physical observations; expended considerable resource to address data quality issues owing to compatibility problems; and appointed a new data manager to support its transition to in-house data reporting.
- 4.9 The contract was awarded a 2 year contract by Mayor and Cabinet, with an option to extend for a further 2 years, on 5th June 2019.

5. Current Service Provision

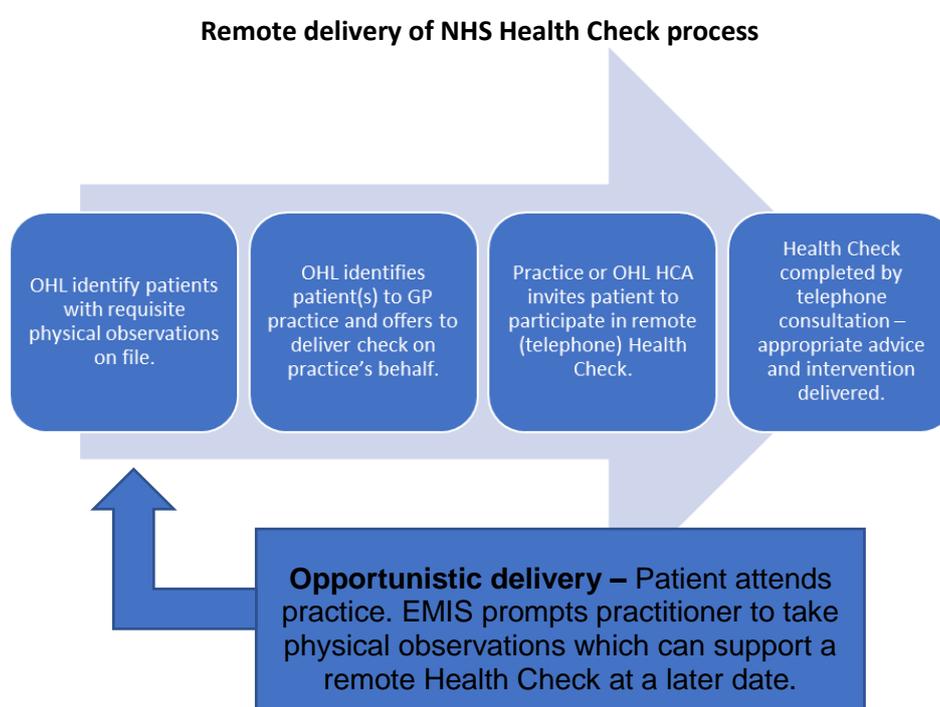
- 5.1 In September 2019, One Health Lewisham was commissioned to deliver the entire Lewisham NHS Health Check programme in a "Prime Provider" role on a 2 year contract with an option for an extension for a further 2 years. Anticipated benefits of One Health Lewisham's delivery included:
- Visibility of all GP sites, providing the opportunity for consistent delivery and improved equity
 - Ability to target those most at risk of CVD, based on visibility of practice data and identification of known risk factors – male sex, BAME ethnicity, smoking status, familial history
 - Centralised reporting potential
 - Improved weekend and evening appointment provision, and access to those not registered with a GP, e.g. refugees or people experiencing homelessness
 - Visibility and opportunities to streamline care pathways, i.e. referrals.
- 5.2 OHL are a group of GPs with unique access to patients, and are uniquely placed to deliver the service and that officers can review the current model in conjunction with an options appraisal document currently being written by Public Health Lewisham with the aim to assess what future commissioning option is the most beneficial for Lewisham residents.

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- 5.3 Due to the Covid pandemic, the NHS Health Check programme was suspended in Lewisham from March 2020. In July Public Health England (PHE) published a Health Check restart preparation document (PHE NHS Health Check Restart July 2020)) which stated that local plans should be in place to restart the programme from 1st August 2020.
- 5.4 Different models of delivery were encouraged as long as they continued to comply with the regulatory requirements and programme standards. An agreement was made that Phase 1 of the programme will be delivered by telephone in line with new National Guidance.
- 5.5 The programme re-launched on 1st October 2020 using a remote delivery model. Monthly delivery targets were agreed and contingency arrangements designed to accommodate service disruption due to heightened COVID restrictions. The delivery model implemented by OHL is broadly described below:



- 5.6 Whilst this switch to remote delivery has enabled Health Checks to be delivered in the context of COVID-19 restrictions, it presents challenges and risks to programme quality, including:
- The cohort of patients with observations on file is reducing.
 - Prioritising delivery to patients with observations on record means the service risks failing to engage patients with lower GP attendance.
 - OHL have advised that they are experiencing higher rates of DNA for telephone Health Check appointments than observed for in-person Health Check appointments. It is not known if indicates a lower level of patient engagement with the Health Check process overall, and / or with healthcare delivered remotely, both of which could affect outcomes.

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- Any difference in outcome(s) of Health Checks delivered remotely vs. in-person is unknown, e.g. engagement with lifestyle advice or recommended clinical intervention.
- 5.7 OHL are in a unique position to continue delivery of the NHS Health Check programme, as there are a number of different benefits. As stated, they uniquely have access to all GP practice lists within the borough, allowing population level screening and targeting to ensure equity across the borough and to target those most at risk. Without access to that information, delivery as described would not be possible.
 - 5.8 Due to the pandemic, the original programme and performance were impacted and there is a need to return to face to face delivery in primary care settings, with OHL (the GP federation) to continue to coordinate delivery across the whole borough's patient population, and ensure clinical follow-up.
 - 5.9 Returning to pre-Covid 19 delivery would reinstate the formal invitation process of face to face assessment with Point of Care Testing (PoCT), targeting those at highest risk of health inequalities. Attendance to gather data, test and discuss risk is the gold standard, and officers are working with OHL and primary care colleagues on a plan to return to this model
 - 5.10 Overall, the benefits intended from the OHL contract have yet to be realised due to the impact of COVID-19. The imminent release of the PHE review into the entire programme may also recommend a different approach. As such, this report recommends the extension provision with OHL, with the view to restart the face-to-face programme, test the benefits intended, request improved reporting, and review PHE's recommendations for the programme.
 - 5.11 Due to the nature of the service provided, a thorough needs based procurement process could not be done sufficiently by Lewisham officers to meet the specialised delivery that is currently being provided by OHL for 1st April 2022. In addition, the resurgence of the Covid pandemic would hinder mobilisation and would negatively influence performance that would subsequently affect those suffering from health inequalities within the borough.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 This report seeks approval to extend the current contract with One Health Lewisham to deliver the NHS Health Checks programme for a further year (April 2022 to March 2023). The annual contract value will be £341,104, which is within current budgets.
- 6.2 Expenditure will be funded from the Public Health Grant, which is currently ring-fenced.

7. Legal implications

- 7.1 Under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules the contract that is the subject of this report is a Category A contract. The contract is a light touch contract and its combined value, taking into account the existing and proposed extended term, is above former OJEU (now Find a Tender) threshold for light touch contracts under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.
- 7.2 Authority to award a 2 year contract with an option for a further 2 year extension was given by Mayor and Cabinet on 1 July 2019 at a value for the total period estimated at

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£1,400,00 (Background papers). The contract was entered into in September 2021. An extension from September 2021 to March 2022 was granted for Covid related reasons by the Executive Director for Community Services on 2 March 2021.

7.3 The option to extend to 2023 was therefore authorised by Mayor and Cabinet in July 2019 and the period of requested extension in this report is covered by that authorisation, being within the four year authorised period.

7.4 Under rule 17 of the CPR a decision to extend an existing contract for a particular period can be taken, provided that such extension is permitted under the terms and conditions of the contract. Under clause B1.2 of the contract the Council may extend the contract under the option for up to an additional period of 2 years. The decision to exercise the option to extend is a key decision.

7.5 The Council has a public sector equality duty (Equality Act 2010, or the Act). It covers the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation. 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.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

7.6 It is not an absolute requirement to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation or other prohibited conduct, or to promote equality of opportunity or foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. It is a duty to have due regard to the need to achieve the goals listed above. The weight to be attached to the duty will be dependent on the nature of the decision and the circumstances in which it is made. This is a matter for Mayor and Cabinet, bearing in mind the issues of relevance and proportionality. Mayor and Cabinet must understand the impact or likely impact of the decision on those with protected characteristics who are potentially affected by the decision. The extent of the duty will necessarily vary from case to case and due regard is such regard as is appropriate in all the circumstances.

The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) has issued Technical Guidance on the Public Sector Equality Duty and statutory guidance. The Council must have regard to the statutory code in so far as it relates to the 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 on the EHRC website. The EHRC has issued five 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.

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8. Equalities implications

- 8.1 The NHS Health Checks programme is designed to detect risk factors for heart disease before symptoms develop. This can improve outcomes particularly for those at highest risk of heart disease, which includes those from lower socio-economic groups and some Black and Minority Ethnic communities. The programme seeks to reduce the risk of heart disease in these groups.
- 8.2 The proposals within this report specifically aim to address improve equity of access across the borough, and improve the reach of the programme.

9. Climate change and environmental implications

- 9.1 There are no environmental implications.

10. Crime and disorder implications

- 10.1 There are no crime and disorder implications

11. Health and wellbeing implications

- 11.1 Lewisham has high premature mortality rates from circulatory diseases compared with London and England and cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a major contributor to the life expectancy gap between Lewisham and England. However Lewisham has low levels of detected disease.
- 11.2 The NHS Health Check programme systematically targets the top seven causes of preventable mortality: high blood pressure, smoking, cholesterol, obesity, poor diet, physical inactivity and alcohol consumption. The Council has a statutory responsibility to deliver that service, and it is a key part of our local approach to addressing health inequalities.
- 11.3 In line with local need the programme aims to prevent heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes and kidney disease, and raise awareness of dementia across the population with a particular focus on high risk and vulnerable groups.
- 11.4 The outcome of the programme is used to raise awareness of cardiovascular and other risk factors, as well as engaging residents to address and reflect on their health needs, their lifestyle and medical approaches best suited to managing the individual's health risk.

12. Social Value implications

- 12.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires that when the Council is procuring services above the EU threshold it must consider, before commencing a procurement process, how the procurement might improve the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the area. It must also consider how the procurement might be conducted so as to secure that improvement. The matters to be considered must only be those relevant to the services to be procured; and it must be proportionate in all the circumstances to take those matters into account. These requirements are part of the Council's Constitution (Part IV.I Contract Procedure Rules).

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12.2 The Council's Sustainable Procurement Code of Practice will be applied to this contract. This sets out various social, environmental and economic considerations to be applied. The purpose is to ensure that products and services are sourced and produced responsibly; to maximise resource and energy efficiency in the manufacturing and supply of goods and services in order to minimise environmental impacts; and to deliver outstanding value for money over the entire lifetime of the contract.

12.3 In addition, the service will ensure minimum pay rates in line with prevailing London Living Wage (LLW) or above where applicable.

13. Background papers

Mayor & Cabinet Award of contract for NHS Health Checks – 5th June 2019



NHS Healthchecks
OHL- M and C repo

COVID-19 Related Extensions by Directorate Report - 2nd March 2021



COVID-19
Extensions - Commu

Award of contract for NHS Health checks programme to One Health Lewisham Ltd



Award of contract
for NHS Health chec

14. Glossary



glossary
standard.pdf

15. Report author(s) and contact

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Comments for and on behalf of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources

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

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16. Decisions

Acting in accordance with Standing Orders (paragraph 13 of Section I), I hereby approve the recommendations set out in this report:

Signed:



Date: 22 December 2022

Name (printed): Tom Brown

Executive Director for Community Services

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