

Birmingham City Council

Report to Cabinet

16th May 2023



Subject: BIRMINGHAM AND SOLIHULL SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH STRATEGY 2023-2030

Report of: Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health

Relevant Cabinet Member: Cllr Mariam Khan - Health and Social Care
Cllr Yvonne Mosquito - Finance and Resource

Relevant O &S Chair(s): Cllr Mick Brown - Health and Social Care
Cllr Akhlaq Ahmed - Resources

Report author: Becky Pollard - Interim Public Health Assistant Director

Email: Becky.Pollard@birmingham.gov.uk

Juliet Grainger – Service Lead Adults

Email: Juliet.Grainger@birmingham.gov.uk

Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 011357/2023		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, state which appendix is exempt, and provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential:		

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Birmingham and Solihull Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2023-2030 is a joint strategy between Birmingham City Council (BCC) and Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), which sets out themes, priorities, and approaches to meeting the sexual health needs of the populations of Birmingham and Solihull. The strategy's content provides a response to tackling increasing rates of sexually transmitted (STIs) and HIV, and inequalities in sexual and reproductive health, which impacts negatively on health and wellbeing.
- 1.2 The strategy reflects the findings of the [Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment](#) carried out in 2021 and the [public and stakeholder consultation](#) on the draft strategy conducted between May 2022 and July 2022.
- 1.3 At Cabinet on the 11 October 2022 the inter dependencies between the Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy and the procurement of the new sexual health service was set out. The [key decisions from Cabinet](#) are on CMIS. We will develop a clear Procurement strategy that corresponds to the Birmingham and Solihull Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2023-2030.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet ratify the Strategy so it can be published and used to inform the Service Specification for the procurement of the Sexual and Reproductive Health service beginning April 2024. If the Strategy is not ratified, we risk not having a strategic approach to the procurement of the service which needs to be complete by March 2024 for the new contract to commence in April 2024.

3 Background

- 3.1 The Birmingham and Solihull Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2023-2030 has been distributed as a separate attachment.
- 3.2 The objectives of the strategy are to:
 - Ensure that every resident has access to sexual health services that meet their individual needs.
 - Enable services that are local, relevant, approachable, confidential, non-judgmental, to provide services to anyone in need, while respecting all human protected characteristics.
 - Enable citizens to have control of their own sexual health with services providing support where needed.
- 3.3 The themes of the strategy are:
 - Theme 1: Priority groups
 - Theme 2: Reducing rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
 - Theme 3: Reducing the number of unplanned pregnancies
 - Theme 4: Healthy sexual behaviours
 - Theme 5: Children and young people

3.4 The BCC Design Team have ensured the Strategy meets accessibility guidelines.

3.5 Timeline for the strategy:

Dates	Activities
2021	Research and write-up of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs Assessment
December 2021 – February 2022	Drafting of the Birmingham & Solihull Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy & consultation questions.
March 2022 – April 2022	Production of the Strategy and questionnaire by the BCC Design Team.
May 2022 – July 2022	Public and stakeholder consultation on the draft strategy. The purpose of this was to provide assurance that the strategy adequately reflected the findings of the Needs Assessment and to incorporate public and stakeholder feedback into the vision and themes of the strategy.
22 nd September 2022	Cabinet Member Briefing (CMB) on the consultation findings.
27 th September 2022	Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board – findings from the public consultation on the draft strategy were presented.
November 2022 – January 2023	Incorporation of changes based on consultation findings and feedback from Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board.
January 2023 – March 2023	Finalisation of the document by the BCC Design Team.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

4.1 The Strategy is ratified by Cabinet and can therefore be published and used to inform the Service Specification for the procurement of the Sexual and Reproductive Health service beginning by April 2024.

4.2 Cabinet recommends amendments to the Strategy prior to publish.

5 Consultation

5.1 The Sexual Health Needs Assessment involved a public and stakeholder engagement piece, which formed the basis of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy.

5.2 In May 2022 – July 2022 there was public and stakeholder consultation on the draft strategy. A summary of the consultation findings can be found in **Appendix 3** and the full consultation responses are attached in **Appendix 4**. The purpose of this was to provide assurance that the strategy adequately reflected the findings of the Needs Assessment and to incorporate public and stakeholder feedback into the vision and themes of the strategy.

- 5.3 Amendments were made to the strategy based on feedback from the public and stakeholder consultation. A full report of 'You said, we did' can be found in **Appendix 5**. In summary we:
- 5.3.1 Changed the term 'unwanted pregnancies' to 'unplanned pregnancies.'
 - 5.3.2 Changed the name of Theme 3 from 'Building Resilience' to 'Healthy Sexual Behaviours'
 - 5.3.3 Made more specific changes and additions to each theme, preponderantly around increasing access to services, provision for more vulnerable groups and consent, safeguarding and confidentiality concerns. These are detailed in **Appendix 5**.
- 5.4 We will further engage and consult with the public and stakeholders on the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service Specification for the service beginning April 2024 to ensure it meets their needs and expectations.

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 If the Strategy is not published, we risk not having a strategic approach to the procurement of the service which needs to be complete by March 2024 for the new contract to commence in April 2024. The likelihood of this is low, however the impact is high.
- 6.2 Actions to manage risk:
- 6.2.1 The Strategy and supporting information have been consulted on, and has been approved by Public Health SMT, Council Leadership Team and the Cabinet Member so it is expected to be suitable for publication.
 - 6.2.2 Work will continue to delivery against all relevant national and local health inequalities and outcomes for citizens targets.
 - 6.2.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board will oversee the delivery of health activity against the ambitions set out in the strategy, supported by a multilevel regional and local governance process and to guide and enable us to deliver an effective Sexual and Reproductive Health Service in Birmingham.

7 Compliance Issues:

7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

- 7.1.1 Birmingham is an aspirational city to grow up in
- 7.1.2 Birmingham is a fulfilling city to age well in

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 and associated regulations transferred the responsibility for public health, including sexual health, from the NHS to local authorities from April 2013. Several key indicators in the Public Health

Outcome Framework relate to these areas and it is likely that they will be assessed in terms of performance.

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 The total value of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Service contract post March 2024 for Birmingham is estimated to be £15,000,000 per year. This has been built into the 4-year projection of spend in the public health grant and is affordable as a fixed amount contribution with a projected annual inflation uplift. The annual NHS pay settlement has an impact on the cost of this contract for the NHS employed staff providing services, as this is set nationally this will be managed within the financial envelope through efficiencies over the length of the contract unless there is additional funding from Government to cover this cost as part of the annual public health grant settlement.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

- 7.4.1 None identified.

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

- 7.5.1 None identified.

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.6.1 See **Appendix 1** Equality Impact Assessment

7.7 Environmental and Sustainability Implications

- 7.7.1 Not applicable because it is a progress report on the Sexual and Reproductive Health strategy, giving an update post statutory consultation.

8 Appendices

- 8.1 **Appendix 1** – Equality Impact Assessment
- 8.2 **Appendix 2** – Birmingham and Solihull Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2023-2030
- 8.3 **Appendix 3** – Consultation findings on the draft strategy
- 8.4 **Appendix 4** – Full consultation responses on the draft strategy
- 8.5 **Appendix 5** – Sexual Health Strategy Consultation: ‘You said, we did’

9 Background Documents

- 9.1 [Sexual Health Needs Assessment](#)
- 9.2 [Key decisions from Sexual Health Service Extension Cabinet \(11th October 2022\)](#)