



Subject: TIER 2 ADULT WEIGHT MANGEMENT CONTRACTS
EXTENSION REQUEST 2022-23

Report of: Dr Justin Varney
Director of Public Health

Relevant Cabinet Member: Cllr Mariam Khan - Health & Social Care
Cllr Karen McCarthy - Children, Young People & Families
Cllr Yvonne Mosquito - Finance & Resources

Relevant O &S Chair(s): Cllr Mick Brown - Health & Social Care
Cllr Kerry Jenkins - Education & Children's Social Care
Cllr Akhlaq Ahmed - Resources

Report author: Juliet Grainger
Public Health 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	No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: No. 010260/2022		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	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 Birmingham City Council Public Health has commissioned twelve services that provide community-based diet, nutrition, lifestyle, and behaviour change advice to support adults who are overweight. These services, referred to as Tier 2 Adult Weight Management (T2AWM) services are funded by a £931,552 Adult Weight Management grant from the

Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) for a period of 9 months (October 2021 to June 2022). See grant breakdown by service and contract at Appendix 1

- 1.2 For T2AWM, time was required for the tendering process, award of contract and service mobilization (venue acquisition, staff recruitment, pathway development from/to relevant NHS and voluntary services). Most of the services began delivery after October 2021.
- 1.3 Contrary to the expectation of additional grant funding, in a letter dated 1st April 2022 to Directors of Public Health, OHID advised that additional funding for local authority commissioned adult tier 2 behavioural weight management services and pilots of child tier 2 services, will not be available in the financial year 2022-23. This is a result of the government's decision to commit significant additional funding to the ongoing cost of resilience and contingency measures required for pandemic recovery.
- 1.4 Birmingham Council must therefore decide to either permit these T2 AWM services be discontinued when the OHID grant funds are exhausted, which based on the contract terms will be at the end of June 2022, this would require providers to immediately cease enrolment of clients for the arranged courses or use the public health grant funding to extend one or more of Birmingham's T2 WM services beyond June 2022.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the following contract extensions:
 - 2.1.1 Shape4Life App – Solutions4Health. Extend the contract from August 2022 to March 2023, an increase of £35,000. Total contract value August 2021 – March 2023 £95,000
 - 2.1.2 Weight Management visual impairment, weight management physical impairment and weight management learning disability services – Beezee Bodies. Extend the three contracts from June 2022 to March 2023, an increase of £110,000 for each of the three services. Total contract value for each of the three services October 2021-March 2023 £220,000
 - 2.1.3 Weight Management 55+ - Momenta Health. Extend the contract from June 2022 to March 2023, an increase of £85,000. Total contract value October 2021-March 2023 £170,000
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the option to extend and vary the following contracts within their existing financial envelopes from June 2022 to March 2023 where providers have not met their agreed, projected completions as set out in sections 3.9 – 3.13:
 - 2.2.1 South Birmingham Football service – Solutions4Health
 - 2.2.2 North Birmingham Football and Central Birmingham Cricket service – Momenta Newcastle
 - 2.2.3 Weight Management targeted ethnic minority groups (Black African, Black Caribbean or mixed origin and people of a Chinese, Vietnamese, or Korean origin) – WeightWatchers GBR
 - 2.2.4 Weight Management targeted ethnic minority groups (South Asian, Polish or Eastern European origin) – Momenta Newcastle
 - 2.2.5 Weight management programme for new parents - MoreLife

3 Background

- 3.1 Each of the T2AWM services (except a Mobil App service) is tailored to meet the needs of different weight management priority groups. Three of the services target individuals with disability conditions (Physical Impairment, Learning Disabilities or Visual Impairment) that impact on their health and access to health care. The prevalence of obesity is significantly higher in individuals with disabilities and there is very little provision of accessible and tailored tier two weight management for these citizens.
- 3.2 Six of the T2AWM services are tailored to the needs of individuals from communities that the evidence shows have high rates of obesity and conditions linked to obesity. These include Black African & Caribbean, Chinese, Vietnamese & Koreans, South Asians, Polish and Eastern European Origin.
- 3.3 The provider of the T2AWM disability services, has provided important insights about the challenges and resource requirements to ensure that people in these groups access T2AWM, and that the services are evidence based. Their progress to date has been significant, building coherent partnerships and co-producing interventions to work for disabled citizens, their carers and their multi-disciplinary support teams.
- 3.4 To assist in making decision regarding the future of the T2 AWM services a review of the performance of each service provider and their service outputs has been conducted which show the following:
- 3.5 **Solutions4Health is the provider of the Weight Management Mobile (ShapeUp4Life).** The service is performing well and is on track to achieve the agreed projected number of completions (1000) for a total cost of £60,000. (Unit cost =£60/completion). This contract ends in August and will require investment of £35,000 to extend to the end of March 2023. The Mobile App-based can be downloaded on any apple or android mobile phone (providing it has the appropriate software). It has been designed to help user to improve their health and wellbeing by helping them lose 5% of your body weight in 12 weeks by making positive lifestyle changes.
- 3.6 **BeeZee Bodies Ltd is the provider of 3 disability Services** (one service for supporting people with Learning Disabilities, another for people with visual impairment and the third for people with Physical impairment) although initially enrolled relatively few clients are found to be now on track to deliver the agreed number of completions (190) for a total cost of £330K. (Unit cost = £1736.84/ completion). The low enrolment at end of the March 2022 (six months after the contract was signed) was due the first sessions for each service beginning in February 2022 when it was possible to obtain the full complement of required skilled staff. Feedback from participants so far has been positive.
- 3.7 There are compelling reasons for seeking to continue disability T2 WM provided by BeeZee Bodies Ltd beyond June 2022 when the OHID grant is exhausted. The model that is now operational has been co-produced with disabled people, support organisations and the Council. BeeZee Bodies is providing learning that will be essential to the national ambition to ensure people with disabilities who have weight challenges are not left behind.
- 3.8 **Momenta Newcastle is the provider of the service for adults aged 55+ years.** The number enrolled in this service as of end of March 2022 indicates that the provider is likely to exceed the agreed projected completion of 217 at a total cost of £84.9K (Unit

cost below £391/completion). The service provides a 12-week weight management programme in venues around Central Birmingham. Participants must be willing and able to attend group sessions. Client referrals and enrolments in this service have continued to rise rapidly making its performance satisfactory and with projected completion likely to be met by June 2022.

- 3.9 **Solutions4Health is the provider of the South Birmingham Football service**, this is one of the three services for people with interest in sports in different parts of Birmingham. If the total agreed completion numbers (130) are achieved, it would be at a total cost of £40K. (Unit costs of £307 /completion). This 12-week weight management programme aims to achieve the physical activities elements weight management using football and located in venues in the south of the city. The service has achieved enrolment of 30% of the agreed numbers of completion, this sports service is performing inadequately.
- 3.10 **Momenta Newcastle is the provider of North Birmingham Football and Central Birmingham Cricket services**. The two services are performing below expected levels. If the total agreed completion numbers for the two (190) are achieved, it would at a total cost of £80K. (Unit costs of £420/completion). These 12-week weight management programmes aim to achieve the physical activities elements weight management using either football or cricket and are in venues in the respective parts of the city. As the north football service had enrolment of 2 clients and central cricket none as of the end of March 2022, these two sports services are performing inadequately.
- 3.11 **WW GBR** is the provider of a service for people Black African, Black Caribbean or mixed origin and a service for people of a Chinese, Vietnamese, or Korean origin. These are two of the four services targeting people from minority ethnic communities. If the total agreed completion numbers for two (1000) are achieved, it would be at a total cost of £83K. (Unit costs of £83/completion). These are 12-week weight management programmes delivered weekly group in sessions, either face-to-face or virtually. As less than 10% of the agreed completion number has been enrolled these are underperforming significantly.
- 3.12 **Momenta Newcastle** is the provider of a service for people of a South Asian origin and a service for people of a Polish or Eastern European origin. If the total agreed completion numbers for two (192) are achieved, it would at a total cost of £82.9K. (Unit costs of £432/completion). These services are not providing reasonable returns on the investment – as of end of March 2022 only 12 people had been enrolled.
- 3.13 **MoreLife** is the provider of a service for new parents. This service commenced in March 2022 and will run as a pilot until June 2022 with capacity for 80 participants at a cost of £72k. 15 referrals have been received since March, 6 are eligible and have actively started the programme.

4 Options considered and Recommended Proposal

- 4.1 Do nothing – this has been discounted because this would lead to an inability to provide services to groups we have identified with significant health inequalities and at high risk of disease exacerbation from being overweight or obese.
- 4.2 Procure a new set of arrangements – this has been discounted due to the urgent need to use grant funding to achieve citizen outcomes in a short period of time. The nature is such that an individual undertakes a 12-week programme followed by a 26-week

outcome review. To procure a new service would take an anticipated 12-weeks, without considering any mobilisation lead-in for potential new providers.

- 4.3 Use of the national framework – this will similarly reduce the amount of time that potential providers would have to deliver these and will be considered as an option for the arrangements that will need to be in place post April 2023.
- 4.4 Based on the performance information for T2 AWM services above, (using client enrolment, unit costs and service design) it is proposed that £450K (£35K +£330K +£85K) be allocated from Public Health Grant to extend the provision of the Mobile App service, the three disability services and the for Adults aged 55+ years to the end of 2022/2023 financial year (this provides the required additional 7 months (Solutions4Health) and 9 months (BeeZee Bodies Ltd and Momenta Newcastle 55+ service) funding of these contracts.
- 4.5 It is proposed that the contracts are funded by public health grant funds that have been carried forward from 21/22 financial year to 22/23 and supplemented by 22/23 funds. The relevant budgets are Workplace Health & Wellbeing and GP Health Checks, which had underspends of approximately £100K and £295K respectively in 2021/2022. The older people budget would provide a supplement of £50K from 22/23 allocation.

5 Consultation

- 5.1 Prior to the funding application deadline, a report was presented to the Council Leadership Team (CLT) and the application was signed off with approval

6 Risk Management

- 6.1 Continuation of the contracts funded via the public health grant will mitigate the loss of provider staff, capacity shortage and work pressures.
 - 6.1.1 As above this will prevent the loss of service for clients already enrolled
 - 6.1.2 These actions will also mitigate the ongoing uncertainty around the availability of national grants and the late notice of the withdrawal of OHID T2 WM funding 22/23 on 1 April 2022

7 Compliance Issues:

- 7.1 **How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?**
 - 7.1.1 The recommended decision supports the Vision and Priorities in the Council Plan 2018-2022: Birmingham, a great city to live in
 - 7.1.2 The recommended decision is consistent with Creating a Bolder, Healthier City: Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy 2022 – 2030

7.2 Legal Implications

- 7.2.1 The procurement of these services is within the Council's general power of competence conferred upon it under Sec1 Localism Act 2011.

7.3 Financial Implications

- 7.3.1 It is proposed to carry forward public health underspend totalling £450,000 from

2021/22 into 2022/23. Should the appropriate permissions be agreed during closure of the 2021/22 accounts, this will contribute to the continued funding of the commissioned providers through to the end of March 2023.

- 7.3.2 Additional funding of £50,000 may also be required from the Public Health Grant for 2022/23, there will be a review of any efficiencies that could be made in the service from July 2022 through to March 2023.

7.4 Procurement Implications (if required)

- 7.4.1 Regulation 72. (1) of the Public Contract Regulations provides that “Contracts and framework agreements may be modified without a new procurement procedure...in any of the following cases...(b) for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor that have become necessary and were not included in the initial procurement, where a change of contractor... (ii) would cause significant inconvenience or substantial duplication of costs for the contracting authority, provided that any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract.”
- 7.4.2 These circumstances comply with Regulation 72(1)(b)(ii) as set out above, the costs of the extension as detailed in the recommendations do not exceed the 50% tolerance. There is also a significant amount of uncertainty surrounding the national strategic direction and funding for adult weight management. To go to market in advance of this being resolved would present the Council with a real potential that services would be procured that do not align with the national priorities and outcomes.
- 7.4.3 In addition, a Voluntary Ante Ex-Transparency Notice (VEAT) would be issued to the market to inform them of the decision and proposed timeline for any future commissioning/procurement.
- 7.4.4 With respect to the providers that are reporting enrolment numbers that are significantly below those needed to meet the agreed projected completions by end of June 2022 the intention is to negotiate for a mutually agreed contract variation. The variation will specify a revised end date to allow for completion of the agreed activity and remain within existing the contract envelope.

7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)

- 7.5.1 N/A

7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty

- 7.6.1 The Tier 2 weight management services increase equality of opportunity for groups with protected characteristics to access weight management provision tailored to their needs. The offer also recognises and responds to disabled people's needs, that may be different from those of non-disabled people.
- 7.6.2 Extending these contracts does not revise, amend, or review Council policies or functions and therefore an Equality Impact Needs Assessment is not required.

8 Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Weight Management OHID Grant allocation

9 Background Documents

9.1 N/A