

Joint Public Health Board

5 November 2020

Renewal of the shared service agreement for Public Health Dorset

For Decision

Portfolio Holder: Cllr L Miller, Adult Social Care and Health, Dorset Council
Cllr N Greene, Covid Resilience, Schools and Skills,
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole (BCP) Council

Local Councillor(s): All

Executive Director: Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health

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Report Status: Public

Recommendations:

- To accept the renewal of the shared service agreement governing the public health service across both Councils
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- To support the development of a financial annex each year that sets the service budget requirements, and respective contributions from partner councils

Reason for Recommendation: To enable the continuation of the shared service for public health in the two councils, and have a clearer forward look at the financial requirements of the service, to support effective use of the public health Grant.

1. Executive Summary

Since 2013 Public Health Dorset has provided a range of public health services, advice and expertise to local councils, under a shared service arrangement.

During local government re-organisation the Joint Public Health Board undertook a review of the shared service model, and agreed to continue the arrangements under the two new unitary councils.

In the past year, the terms of reference have been updated and agreed by the Board, to ensure a clearer separation between the work of the Joint Public Health Board, and respective Councils' health and wellbeing work.

The shared service agreement was also reviewed by Councils in January 2020. Although there was a delay in finalising a new agreement due to COVID-19, both Councils are now in a position to agree a new shared service agreement to support delivery of public health.

2. Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications arising from the shared services agreement. However, it has been agreed that a financial annex will be developed and agreed by the Joint Public Health Board in advance of each financial year, setting out the agreed contributions to the public health service. This will support better financial planning, and use of the public health Grant to improve outcomes in partner Councils, as well as through the shared service.

3. Climate implications

No direct implications.

4. Other Implications

N/A

5. Risk Assessment

Having considered the risks associated with this decision, the level of risk has been identified as:

Current Risk: LOW
Residual Risk: LOW

6. Equalities Impact Assessment

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not considered necessary for this agreement.

7. Appendices

Shared services agreement for the public health service.

8. Background Papers

None

1. Background

1.1 Public Health Dorset has provided a range of public health services, advice and expertise to local councils, under a shared service arrangement. This arrangement has been in place ever since 2013, on the transfer of public health responsibility to councils, under the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

1.2 During local government re-organisation the Joint Public Health Board undertook a review of the shared service model, and agreed to continue the arrangements under the two new unitary councils. A minimum 12 month agreement was reached, which was reviewed in November 2019.

During 2019, the terms of reference were also updated and agreed by the Board, to ensure a clearer separation between the work of the Joint Public Health Board, and respective Councils' health and wellbeing work.

The Board supported an outline work plan and timeline for renewing the partnership agreement at the November 2019 board meeting. This is shown below.

Date	Action	Comments
25 November – Joint Public Health Board	Review background and context to the shared service, and progress made against recommendations	Assume that Board wishes to continue the current model, with a chance to make additional recommendations
November / December 2019	Meet with Monitoring officers to review and refresh a draft partnership agreement	Technical refresh of the legal agreement

3 February 2020	Share draft partnership agreement, with recommendation to Board for a continuation of the partnership	Final decision by Joint Public Health Board to renew agreement, including timescales.
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2. Current position

- 2.1 The first two stages of work were completed, with the board agreeing in November to support the refreshed partnership agreement. The existing agreement was also considered, and refreshed following a meeting between the Monitoring officers, and Section 151 officers of each Council.
- 2.2 However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the February Board meeting was unable to consider and agree the final shared services agreement.
- 2.3 The shared services agreement has now been finalised. Following discussions with each Section 151 officer about how the Public Health Grant contribution to the shared service could be made clearer in the agreement, it is proposed to develop a finance annex each year, setting out the contributions to be made to the partnership by each Council.
- 2.4 This will support better financial planning, and use of the public health Grant to improve outcomes in partner Councils, as well as through the shared service. It is proposed that this should be agreed in advance of each financial year.

3. Conclusion and recommendations

- 3.1 The renewed shared services agreement and finance agreement is presented for agreement to the Joint Public Health Board. Renewal of the agreement will enable the continued functioning of the shared service, as well as providing more certainty over use of the Public Health Grant, both within the shared service, and partner Councils.
- 3.2 It is also recommended that a report summarising the performance of the shared services is taken to the Joint public Health board each year, as part of the continued assurance around provision of public health services within each Council.

Sam Crowe
Director of Public Health