

# Finance and Resources Committee

10am, Thursday, 5 March 2020

## Extension of contract for Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Step Up/Step Down, Care and Treatment Support Service

Executive/routine  
Wards All  
Council Commitments

### 1. Recommendations

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It is recommended that the Finance and Resources Committee:

- 1.1 Approve the extension of the contract from 1 April 2020 for two years for the provision of the Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Step Up/Step Down, Care and Treatment Support Service provided by Waverley Care at Milestone House. The current value of this contract is £555,977 per annum.

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## Extension of contract for Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Step Up/Step Down, Care and Treatment Support Service

### 2. Executive Summary

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- 2.1 This report seeks approval for an extension to the block contract for two years to allow adequate time for a commissioning exercise to be undertaken for this service to meet the current and future needs of people who require it. The existing service is meeting the complex needs of service users and is a unique residential service. However, with other opportunities happening elsewhere, this now provides the platform to look in depth at what is required, how it might be delivered and then how that will be commissioned.
- 2.2 The service is delivered by Waverley Care at Milestone House, Oxcgangs, Edinburgh. It provides ten specialist BBV Step Up/Step Down beds and a care and treatment support service. The current contract ends on 31 March 2020.

### 3. Background

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- 3.1 This residential and specialist support service is aimed to provide support to people affected by BBV with additional complex needs including gay men, injecting drug users and people from sub-Saharan South Africa. The contract was also in response to the increasing number of people from Eastern Europe who were testing with a BBV and accessing services in Edinburgh and Lothians.
- 3.2 In Scotland, as of 30 June 2019, a total of 5,484 individuals have been diagnosed and are living with HIV, of whom almost three quarters (73%, 4,024) identify as male and the remaining 27% (1,460) as female<sup>1</sup>. As at 31 December 2018 there were 1,501 people in Lothian diagnosed and living with HIV. This represents 27% of people diagnosed and living with HIV in Scotland.
- 3.3 The Scottish Government has committed to increase the number of people treated for the potentially fatal blood borne virus, hepatitis C to at least 2,500 in 2019-20 and to at least 3,000 annually from 2020-21. In Scotland there are an estimated 21,000 people living with hepatitis C, which causes progressive damage to the liver.

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<sup>1</sup> Health Protection Scotland (2019) Implementation of HIV PrEP in Scotland: Second Year Report  
Finance and Resources Committee 5 March 2020

By increasing the number of people treated annually, NHS Scotland will be able to effectively eliminate the condition by 2024. At 31 December 2018, there were 6,058 people diagnosed and living with hepatitis C in Lothian, which is about 29% of the number of people living with hepatitis C in Scotland<sup>2</sup>.

- 3.4 The service provides 10 specialist BBV Step Up/Step Down beds and a care and treatment support service. All places provided in the service are available to Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership (EHSCP). The service is expected to work with 100 individuals per year, who often will also have other complex needs including substance misuse and mental health issues.
- 3.5 The purpose of the service is to provide a short-term care and support service in a place where people can have time to recover instead of a hospital setting and supported to achieve their outcomes. It also gives time for people to be assessed through multidisciplinary working.
- 3.6 The service provided aims to meet the needs of older service users including; men who have sex with men, older people who are prescribed substitute medication and women who have acquired a blood borne virus. This is delivered in a stigma free environment.
- 3.7 The service provides 24-hour care and support for an average length of stay up to four weeks (unless agreed at the Referral Panel for purposes of Hepatitis C treatment support, adult protection or significant changes to health and wellbeing).

## 4. Main report

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- 4.1 Waverley Care are a key provider of this type of residential and specialist support service in Edinburgh. The contract for this service with the City of Edinburgh Council (the Council) had a contract variation agreed to its current value of £555,977 per annum in June 2015.
- 4.2 Waverley Care delivers services which target vulnerable populations, helping people to change their behaviour to improve their health. Waverley Care views people who use their services as the experts in their own lives and works with them in a personalised way to enable change and achieve their personal outcomes. This leads to people developing a sense of worth and social belonging. Waverley Care aims to support people living with a BBV to lead fulfilling lives.
- 4.3 Waverley Care own the building named 'Milestone House' that they provide the service from in the Oxfgangs area of the city. The land that the building sits on is owned by NHS Lothian and leased to Waverley Care. In turn, Waverley Care lease part of the building to Penumbra and NHS Lothian to provide an alcohol related brain disease service.

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<sup>2</sup> Health Protection Scotland (2019) Surveillance of Hepatitis C testing, diagnosis and treatment in Scotland, 2019 update

- 4.4 With the contract coming to an end in March 2020, there is a requirement to extend it for a period of two years to allow adequate time for a commissioning exercise to take place, which will lead to a procurement process. This situation has arisen due to a previous lack of commissioning resource to take this work forward.

## **5. Next Steps**

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- 5.1 If the extension is approved, then a procurement request will be made to Corporate Procurement for their involvement with the future commissioning and procurement exercise.
- 5.2 If the extension is not approved, there would be no alternative specialist provision for people who use this service. This in turn would increase demand to non-specialist services and hospital provision, increasing delayed discharges. It would also have a detrimental impact on infection management.
- 5.3 The commissioning exercise will ensure that adequate time is given for consultation and engagement to allow for a coproduction approach with the community, the provider, service users, carers and stakeholders.

## **6. Financial impact**

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- 6.1 The total value of the contract if approved for this extension over two years is £1,111,954.
- 6.2 Funding associated with the extension of this contract will be delegated by EIJB to the Council.

## **7. Stakeholder/Community Impact**

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- 7.1 If approved, there will be adequate time given to consultation and engagement with the community, the provider, service users, carers and stakeholders during the commissioning phase.
- 7.2 There are no adverse equalities or sustainability impacts arising from this report.

## **8. Background reading/external references**

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N/A

## **9. Appendices**

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N/A