

Report title: Healthy Child Programme (HCP) 0-19 service

Meeting	Health, Children's and Adults Social Care Scrutiny Panel
Date	Wednesday 26th February
Cabinet Member (if applicable)	Cllr Beverley Addy
Key Decision Eligible for Call In	N/A N/A
Purpose of Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide an overview of the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and the background to the HCP contract. • To present and seek feedback on the vision for the HCP contract, effective from 1st April 2026. • To update the Scrutiny on the key milestones for the competitive tender process for the HCP. • To outline the governance flight path. 	
Recommendations <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To continue with the proposed flight path for the Healthy Child Programme tender process. 2. To provide feedback as Scrutiny panel members on the content of this report, specifically the vision for the Healthy Child Programme 	
Resource Implication <p>The value of the new contact will be £8.1 million per annum. The Service will be funded from the Public Health Grant and budget has been allocated for this. The total duration of the new contract will be 5 years with an option to extend for a further 5 years. The total over the 10-year period will be, £81,000,000.</p>	
Date signed off by <u>Executive Director</u> & name	Rachel Spencer-Henshall Signed off: 14/02/2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Finance?	Kevin Mulvaney Signed off: 14/02/2025
Is it also signed off by the Service Director for Legal Governance and Commissioning (Monitoring Officer)?	Samantha Lawton Signed off: 14/02/2025

Electoral wards affected: All

Ward councillors consulted: N/A

Public or private: Public

Has GDPR been considered? Not appropriate for this report.

1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this item is to inform Scrutiny about the upcoming Healthy Child Programme (HCP) tender and to update the panel on the following:

- The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) and the background to the HCP contract.
- To present and seek feedback on the vision for the HCP contract, effective from 1st April 2026.
- The key milestones for the competitive tender process for the HCP.
- The governance flight path.

2. Information required to take a decision

2.1 Overview of the Healthy Child Programme

The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) is a national, evidence-based public health initiative aimed at improving the health and well-being of children and young people from the antenatal period to age 19, and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Also known as the 0-19 service, the HCP aims to improve the health and well-being of children through;

- Health and development reviews,
- Health promotion,
- Parenting support,
- Screening and immunisation programmes.

The programme integrates health, education, and other key partners to provide comprehensive support for children and their families and is a mandated service as part of the Public Health Grant conditions.

The HCP is a mandated service to provide. Guidance outlines essential standards and mandated elements that local authorities must adhere to, ensuring consistent and comprehensive support for children's health and development across all regions.

There are five mandated health visiting contacts for children from pregnancy to age 2.5 years. These are;

1. Antenatal Visit: Around 28 weeks of pregnancy.
2. New Baby Review: 10-14 days after birth.
3. 6-8 Week Review: When the baby is 6-8 weeks old.
4. 1 Year Review: Around the child's first birthday.
5. 2-2.5 Year Review: Between the ages of 2 and 2.5 years.

2.2 Healthy Child Programme in Kirklees

The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) was initially commissioned by Public Health on behalf of Kirklees Council (Public Health and Children's Services) and the Kirklees Integrated Care Board (ICB), previously known as Kirklees CCG.

The service began on 1st April 2017 and was commissioned for a five-year term, with an option to extend for an additional five years. The contract followed a lead provider model, with Locala as the lead provider, subcontracting services to South West Yorkshire Foundation Trust, Northorpe Hall, Home Start, and Yorkshire Children's Centre (now Fresh Futures). In October 2023, it was decided to disperse the lead provider model. Starting from 1st April 2024, for a two-year period Public Health has directly commissioned Locala to deliver the 0-19 service, encompassing Health Visiting and School Nursing, under a revised service specification. Locala's contract remains valid until 31st March 2026.

Between the 7th and 11th February 2022, Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC), conducted a joint inspection of the Kirklees local area to judge the effectiveness of the area in implementing the special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) reforms as set out in the Children and Families Act 2014.

The published inspection report highlighted the requirement for a Written Statement of Action (WSOA) because of two significant areas of weakness in the local area's delivery of services in relation to special educational needs and disabilities.

One of the identified areas of weakness was the poor delivery of the HCP which did not support the identification of SEND in children at the earliest opportunity consistently.

Since this time, Public Health has worked closely with Locala in order to improve the performance of the mandated contacts. This work has involved a range of interventions and systems changes including improved governance and oversight, increased resource and capacity dedicated to the programme and closer collaboration with Children's colleagues and partners across the ICB system. The current performance of the Healthy Child Programme is as follows:

Mandated contact	Data at time of inspection Q4 21/22	Data for Q3 24/25
Antenatal visit face to face at 28 weeks and above	36%	41%
New birth visits within 14 days	8%	77%
6 - 8-week reviews	66%	82%
12 month reviews by 12 months of age	69%	85%
2.5 yr reviews by 2.5 yrs of age	43%	82%

In February 2024 a Provider Selection Regime Decision Report was approved at the Public Health and Corporate Resources SLT to commence a competitive tender process for the re-procurement of the HCP 0-19 Service. Following this, in February 2024 a Key Decision Notice was published to approve the two-year extension for Locala and to commence the re-

procurement exercise for the new service which will commence on 01 April 2026. A subsequent delegated decision by lead cabinet member was done in March 2024.

The decision report and subsequent conversation agreed to increase the contract value for the two-year extension by £800,000 per annum from the previous contract value. It was also agreed that the value of the new contract envelope commencing 01 April 2026 will be £8.1m per annum (an increase of £423,000). Increases were agreed mid contract and to the new contract envelope to ensure that the successful provider will be able to deliver the service as effectively as possible and to bring the funding envelope in line with neighbouring Local Authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region.

2.3 Vision for the future Healthy Child Programme in Kirklees

The vision for the Healthy Child Programme (HCP) has been influenced by several key factors:

- **National HCP Commissioning Guidance:** Recommendations and guidelines provided at the national level for commissioning HCP services.
- **Local Insight and Engagement Results:** Feedback and data gathered from local stakeholders and communities.
- **2022 Yorkshire and Humber (Y&H) HCP Mapping Exercise:** A comprehensive review conducted by all 15 local authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region which evaluated the HCP delivery models. This exercise has helped us understand and design an HCP model based on regional delivery.

The vision for the future HCP model is to:

- Fully deliver the mandated contacts for the HCP.
- Employ qualified staff while utilising a skills mix approach for delivery.
- Provide an equitable, flexible, and graduated approach according to need.
- Improve health and wellbeing outcomes and reduce inequalities for children and families across Kirklees, especially the most vulnerable.
- Ensure full integration and partnership working across the Kirklees system (including Families Together service, early years, and the voluntary sector).
- Address the needs of the 0-19 local population (up to 25 years for those with SEND).
- Focus on public health prevention and early intervention.
- Collaborate with local communities and understand the importance of place-based working.
- Be led by intelligence, including feedback from local communities.

Achieving the vision will ensure we have a more responsive, inclusive, and effective Healthy Child Programme that supports the overall health and development of children and families in Kirklees.

3. Implications for the Council

The Healthy Child Programme (HCP) is a vital commissioned service for Kirklees Council for several reasons:

- **Strategic Alignment:** It directly supports the delivery of the Kirklees Health and Care Plan, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, and the SEND Transformation Plan.
- **Health Improvement and Reduction in Inequalities:** The HCP enhances the health and wellbeing of children and young people from the antenatal period to age 19, and up to 25 for those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Its universal reach and additional support for vulnerable families help reduce health inequalities.
- **Statutory Compliance:** It ensures the local authority meets its statutory duties, as certain elements of the HCP are mandated for delivery.

Overall, the HCP is essential for fostering a healthy start in life for children in Kirklees, leading to long-term health and wellbeing benefits for the entire population.

3.1 Council Plan

There are also clear links to the delivery of the Council Plan:

- Supporting the delivery of the Best Start and Well Shared Outcomes.
- Working to ensure that council services (and the services we commission) can become more modern, efficient and effective.
- Working with partners. We are working with a range of system partners in order to deliver a new Healthy Child Programme.

3.2 Financial Implications

The total financial implication will be £81,000,000 over a period of ten years.

3.3 Legal Implications

The procurement will adhere to and be conducted in accordance with The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2003

3.4 Climate Change and Air Quality

- We are not expecting the new Healthy Child Programme to negatively impact on climate change or air quality.

3.5 Other (e.g. Risk, Integrated Impact Assessment or Human Resources)

- **No specific implications**
- **Integrated Impact Assessment (IIA)**

As part of this process, council officers will complete a full Integrated Impact Assessment in order to ensure that the new service is as equitable as possible and that we do not inadvertently negatively impact on any protected characteristic groups.

4 Consultation and Engagement

Engagement and consultation process to date has included:

- **Portfolio Holders:** Engagement with portfolio holders for Health and Social Care, Children's, and Education.
- **Internal and External Engagement:** Worked with a range of internal colleagues and external system partners, including ICB colleagues, Children's Services, Families Together Service, Procurement, Schools, Primary Care, and Safeguarding. This

engagement aimed to gather feedback on the current delivery model and gather thoughts/ideas on what should be delivered in a future model.

- **Public Engagement:** Direct engagement with parents and carers via a targeted survey. Engagement with Children and Young People via the Our Voice team across schools in North and South Kirklees.

5 Options

5.1 Options Considered

As part of the Provider Selection regime and the options available under the regulations, all options were considered alongside colleagues in procurement, and it was decided to pursue with the competitive process. This will allow the Local Authority to run a clear, transparent and competitive process to appoint the best provider for the delivery of this contract.

5.2 Reasons for recommended Option

Running a competitive process allows the authority to make substantial changes to the service specification and Contract Particulars, to reduce future risks associated with cost increases and under performance of KPI's. This process also allows the authority to undertake benchmarking and market engagement prior to the tender exercise to ensure the new service is in line with current legislation, the latest operational practices and is fit for the future.

6 Next steps and timelines

To continue working on the service specification and associated procurement documents ready for Cabinet on 6th May.

7 Contact officer

Lucy Wearmouth, Head of Improving Population Health. lucy.wearmouth@kirklees.gov.uk.

8 Background Papers and History of Decisions

Not applicable

9 Appendices

Not applicable

10 Service Director responsible

Rachel Spencer Henshall - Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director for Public Health and Corporate Resources