

LONDON BOROUGH OF CAMDEN	WARDS: All Wards
REPORT TITLE Contract Extension Report for Camden & Islington HIV Support Service	
REPORT OF: Head of Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Health	
FOR SUBMISSION TO: Director of Health and Wellbeing	DATE: 22 January 2025
SUMMARY OF REPORT: <p>This report seeks agreement to extend the Camden & Islington’s HIV Support Service contract for the two one-year options permissible under the terms and conditions. The service is delivered under a network of providers in which Living Well Community Interest Company are the lead. The service operates under the ‘candiNetwork’.</p> <p>Support available under the candiNetwork includes;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Living Well CIC; providing psychological, psychosocial and behavioural changes services • Positively UK; peer led support, outdoor activities, workshops and benefits support. • Bloomsbury Network; peer led wellbeing with a focus on reducing stigma and isolation. • YMCA; positive health programme to promote increase activity levels in HIV positive individuals. • Terrence Higgins Trust; work and skills training sessions and access to mentors. • Food Chain; deliver ‘Eating Positively’ a bespoke nutritional cooking course. <p>The service is designed to improve outcomes and remove inequalities through co-produced care planning tailored to individuals’ needs to better manage their health and wellbeing.</p> <p>The London Borough of Islington led the original tender for these services under one contract which started in April 2022 for an initial term of three years. The annual contract value for this service is £164,990 of which Camden contributes 50% (£82,495).</p> <p>This report is being presented to the Director of Health and Wellbeing in accordance with Contract Standing Order E1.</p> <p>Local Government Act 1972 – Access to Information</p> <p>No documents that require listing were used in the preparation of this report.</p>	

Contact Officer(s)	
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RECOMMENDATIONS	
That the Director of Health and Wellbeing:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Notes the performance of the contract. 2. Approves the extension of the contract for a period of 2 years for the sum of £82,495 per annum (£164,990 in total) 	



Signed:

Emma Stubbs, Head of Service – Drugs, Alcohol and Sexual Health

Date: 22 January 2025

1. Purpose of the Report

Name of contract(s)	Camden & Islington HIV Support Service
Responsible Directorate	Health & Wellbeing
Description of service / contract	Holistic support service for people living with and affected by HIV
When was the contract awarded and by whom?	Director of Public Health on 28 th January 2022
Contract start date	1st April 2022
Length of contract (including extension options)	Three (3) years (plus a further optional two (2) contract extensions of one (1) year each)
Key deliverables and outcomes of the contract	<p>The following are the key deliverables and outcomes of the contract:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide comprehensive 'holistic support', that impacts across service users' physical, mental and emotional health and well-being • Provide a safe, understanding and non-judgemental service to people living with or affected by HIV • Support service users to better manage the direct and indirect effects of HIV on their day-to-day lives • Ensure all the elements of the provision are delivered collaboratively between commissioned service Providers • Ensure close partnership working with community-based services are embedded within the functioning of the service • Ensure services offer a variety of accessibility i.e. via face-to-face and online, as well as support availability outside of core hours <p>Ensure coproduction and engagement processes are embedded</p>

2. Proposals and Reasons

- 2.1. The provider has fully utilised the resources available and delivering the service as per the specification. The service is performing well against its targets and has remained responsive to service user need.
- 2.2. There have been on contract compliance issues.
- 2.3. Whilst there were no specific social value requirements in the original contract, the candiNetwork have delivered a number of social value outcomes including;
 - Volunteers – 16 Camden residents working as volunteers within services with opportunities onto paid/sessional work.
 - Staff - 1 Camden resident employed full time in the service.
 - Supply chain - Food Chain service purchase food twice weekly for their meal service from a local butchers in Camden (McKanna Meats);

- Living Well purchase sessional counsellor time from a local practice.

In addition to this the service provides a Local Innovation Fund in which service users bid for money to spend on a project of their choice. This initiative has been successful in supporting service users to have ownership of the care and support they receive as well as encouraging spending with local suppliers.

In the extension period of the contract commissioners will work with Living Well CIC to formally agree targets and KPIs for the delivery of social value outcomes.

2.4. Living Well CIC is a not for profit organisation that delivers a wide range of health and wellbeing support to marginalised groups. Camden residents are able to tap into wider support services offered by their national teams, including increased counselling capacity. This has all been met within the existing budget envelope.

2.5. The contract is being delivered within budget.

2.6. The service undertakes annual satisfaction surveys with their service users. In the most recent survey (2023/24) 100% (57 respondents) were 'extremely satisfied' or 'very satisfied' with the service. In addition each provider within the network seeks regular feedback from service users on specific areas of service delivery. This feedback informs any changes or developments in operations. The service works well with other delivery partners in Sexual Health who regularly provide positive feedback to commissioners on the quality of care provided by the candiNetwork.

3. Options

3.1. The options available are summarised below.

Options (for extension)	Recommended option (✓)
Option 1 – extend the contract by the two one-year extension options permissible up until 31 st March 2027	✓
Option 2 – do not extend and let the contract end (decommission)	
Option 3 – do not extend and retender the services via a competitive process.	

4. What the Key Impacts and Risks of the Intended Options Are and How They Will Be Addressed?

4.1. The following table the key impacts / risks and how they will be addressed.

Impact / Risk	Mitigation Strategy
Loss of YMCA Positive Health offer	YMCA, the company who provides the Positive Health programme, has been sold with the sale due to complete in February 2025. This has put this part of the programme at risk.

	Commissioners and providers in the network are working collaboratively to work up options for the service going forward including using council leisure facilities and existing staff delivering the programme under another provider within the network.
The provider decides they don't want to continue with the contract	Living well has already communicated they would like a 2 year extension.
Islington Council decides not to extend the contract	Islington's Commissioning Manager for Sexual Health has indicated that they are satisfied with the performance of the contract and there is budget available for the extension. Camden Commissioning Manager to engage with the provider to work up a service offer for Camden residents under a grant agreement if Camden agrees the extension and Islington does not.

5. Timetable for implementation and Next Steps

5.1. The following table below summarises the key tasks and activities.

Key activity date	Key tasks
21 January 2025	Islington Commissioning Manager for Sexual Health to present contract extension report at Islington Public Health Departmental Management Team for approval
22 January 2025	Camden Commissioning Manager for Sexual Health to present contract extension report for approval at Camden Health and Wellbeing Commissioning & Governance Board
22 January 2025	Present contract extension report for approval to Director of Health and Wellbeing
1 February 2025	Notify service provider of the outcome of the contract extension report
1 April 2025	Continue to regularly monitor the performance of the contract throughout extension period
1 December 2026	Review contract performance within extension period in preparation for a decision on the contract post March 2027

5.2. The future commissioning intentions are set out below

What are the future commissioning intentions and timelines for this service / provision of good or works?	Commissioners to undertake a service review in preparation for the re-commissioning of the service post March 2027.
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6. Consultation / Engagement

Was a formal consultation required? If yes, please provide details and outcome.	There was none.
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7. Finance Comments of the Executive Director Corporate Services

7.1. Cost Implications

The report requests approval to extend the existing Camden & Islington HIV Support Service contract for a further two years, covering the financial years 2025/26 at an annual cost of £82,495 and 2026/27 at annual cost of £82,495, respectively.

The proposed extension does not introduce new expenditure but maintains the existing ongoing annual cost of £82,495 for Camden.

The service is currently delivered under the 'CandiNetwork,' led by Living Well CIC.

7.2. This extension follows the original contract award in April 2022, tendered by the London Borough of Islington. The contract has an annual value of £164,990, with Camden contributing 50% (£82,495) per year during the proposed extension period.

7.3. Funding Sources

Camden's contribution of £82,495 is funded from the existing "Sexual Health Advice and Prevention budget", with no requirement for additional budgetary allocation or reserve drawdowns. There are sufficient funds available.

7.4. Future Financial Risks

There are no Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) savings targets associated with this contract, and the extension does not introduce new financial risks to the Council.

7.5. Inflationary Uplifts

The contract does not include any inflationary adjustments, and therefore no additional financial pressures are anticipated from inflation during the extension period.

8. Legal Comments of the Borough Solicitor

8.1. Legal Services have reviewed this report in light of the Council's Contract Standing Orders (CSOs) and the Public Contracts Regulations (PCR) 2015 as amended as well as the Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 ("PSR")

- 8.2. This report is being presented to the Director of Health and Wellbeing in accordance with Contract Standing Order E1 where such changes are provided for within the terms of the contract.
- 8.3. Legal Services have assessed the report and that the recommended option is in compliance with the CSO's and public procurement law.

9. Environmental Implications

- 9.1. This proposal has no specific environmental impacts however the delivery of the service can have a wider impact the environment in various ways, including resource consumption, such as water, energy, transport, and materials like paper and plastic.
- 9.2. The service operates as paperless and delivers services remotely via Zoom and telephone (where appropriate) that reducing the need to travel between sites. Each provider in the network is committed to reducing their environmental impact and commissioners will keep this as an open discussion at contract monitoring meetings going forward.

10. Appendices

There are none.

REPORT ENDS