



## Committee report

Committee	<b>HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD</b>
Date	<b>17 SEPTEMBER 2015</b>
Title	<b>TRANSFER OF COMMISSIONING RESPONSIBILITY FOR 0-5 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES</b>
Report of	<b>DR RIDA ELKHEIR, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH</b>

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### EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The commissioning responsibility for health visiting services (0-5 public health services) is transferring to local authorities from NHS England on 1 October 2015. This will enable a more local focus to ensure the service is meeting local need and is part of the whole public health provision which has not happened since health visiting was commissioned by Primary Care Trusts.

### BACKGROUND

2. The transfer of 0-5 services is the final stage of the transfer of public health services from NHS to Local Authorities which was set out in Healthy Lives, Healthy People (2010).
3. In 2011 the government committed to growing the health visiting workforce and to provide NHS England with sufficient time to achieve this it was decided that the health visiting service would transfer in October 2015. The promised increase in health visitor numbers on the Isle of Wight from 16 at the start of the process to the target of 34 was achieved in March 2015.

### FINANCIAL / BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

4. The Department of Health will allocate grants to local authorities with responsibility for 0-5 public health commissioning. For the financial year 2016/17 the Isle of Wight Council will receive £2,362,000. The majority will be used to pay Isle of Wight NHS Trust for the delivery of the health visiting contract with a small amount contributing to public health department costs for taking on the commissioning and monitoring responsibilities.
5. The contract novates on 1 October 2015 therefore for 2015/16 Isle of Wight Council have been allocated a grant for 6 months (half of the annual value).
6. From 2017/18 a formula will be applied to determine the value of the grant therefore the amount is likely to change and is currently unknown.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

7. The contract is in the process of being novated to Isle of Wight Council from NHS England. The contract has been examined by the Council's legal team and been found to meet all legal requirements of the Isle of Wight Council.

## THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTING THE CHANGES

8. Only the contract for the service, the grant and the responsibility for commissioning transfers. The staff will continue to be employed by the existing provider, the Isle of Wight NHS Trust.
9. Although the service will continue under the same contract we are aware that any change can be destabilising and are working with service managers to reduce the impact of change to staff and their patients. All staff in the service have been kept up to date with information about the changes and given the opportunity to discuss their concerns, and will be fully involved in developing the service in the future.
10. To ensure further stability the universal child development checks will continue to be a mandated/statutory element of the service until April 2017 and Isle of Wight Council will be required to make national data returns.

## EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY

11. The service is initially being 'lifted and shifted' and therefore there will be no change to a service which already fully considered equality and diversity and aims to reduce inequalities by offering a universal service and targeted aspects. Future developments of the service will ensure equality and diversity is considered carefully.

## RISK MANAGEMENT

12. A risk log has been maintained and the only significant risk was associated with legal and financial processes which have now been resolved. The risk of staff retention was considered and is being managed by a communication strategy to ensure all staff are informed of changes and feel included in future developments of the service.

## RECOMMENDATION

13. To note the forthcoming change to commissioning responsibilities for the Isle of Wight Council and the opportunity for developing this service to better meet local need with all partners.

Contact Point: Eleanor Bell, Public Health Principal Children, young people and maternal health, ☎ 821000 x 9970 e-mail: [eleanor.bell@iow.gov.uk](mailto:eleanor.bell@iow.gov.uk)