



**Agenda item: 9**

**Paper no: 6**

<b>Title of Report:</b>	<b>Community Connections – Approval of the Final +1 year Contract Term</b>	
<b>Status:</b>	<b>TO APPROVE</b>	
<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Surrey-wide Commissioning Committees in Common</b>	<b>Date: 09/12/2020</b>
<b>Venue:</b>	Virtual meeting	
<b>Presented by:</b>	Professor Helen Rostill, Executive Director of Mental Health Surrey Heartlands	
<b>Author(s)/ Lead Officer(s):</b>	Diane Woods, Deputy Director Adult Mental Health Commissioning; Gillian Barnes, Head of Collaborative Contracts	

### Executive Summary:

The community connections contracts are currently in the first +1 year of a 3+1+1 contract term. The contracts are led by Surrey County Council (SCC) with the Clinical Commissioning Groups as associates. SCC Cabinet signed off the option for the full 5 year contractual term at start of contracts with delegated authority for officer decision on invoking the +1 years extension periods. This paper is seeking approval from the Committee, to fulfil the CCG's governance, in supporting the second +1 year from 1 April 2021 that has been agreed within SCC.

### Governance:

<b>Conflict of Interest:</b> The Author considers:	None identified	✓
<b>Previous Reporting:</b> (relevant committees report has previously been presented to)	Committee name: N/A Meeting date: N/A Outcome: N/A	
<b>Freedom of Information:</b> The Author considers:	Open – no exemption applies. Part I paper suitable for publication.	✓

### Decision Applicable to:

Decision applicable to the following Committee/s:	NHS North East Hants and Farnham CCG	✓
	NHS Surrey Heartlands CCG	✓
	NHS Surrey Heath CCG	✓
	Surrey County Council	

### **Recommendation(s):**

The above Surrey-wide Commissioning Committee/s are asked to:

- (1) **TO APPROVE** invoking the second +1 year term of all the Community Connections contracts from 1 April 2021 that has been agreed within SCC.

### **Reason for recommendation(s):**

Mental health is a local and national priority area. Surrey Heartlands and Frimley Health integrated care systems (ICSs) have robust programmes of work to deliver the mental health priorities as set out in the NHS long term plan. Community connections services are a key partner in delivering these priorities. Continuation of these contracts will enable the services to continue their delivery and prevent destabilizing or loss of continuity to service delivery.

Community connection services also enable Surrey County Council to fulfil its statutory duties under the Care Act 2014 to prevent, reduce and delay the care and support needs of those with mental health needs.

### **Next Steps**

- (1) Providers will be formally notified by SCC that the second +1 year will be invoked from 1 April 2021.
- (2) Planning on future re-procurement to take place and come to the Committee at a future date.

## **1. Details:**

- 1.1 Surrey-wide community connections services are funded through the Better Care Fund and the Mental Health CCG budgets. They offer value for money, high quality services that improve the outcomes of people with mental health needs. They deliver open access services to enable people with mental health needs to stay well in their communities by promoting social inclusion, community participation, mental well-being and recovery by connecting people to 'mainstream' activities in their community by offering a variety of group activity and one to one support.
- 1.2 Alongside this core offer, they play an integral part in the mental health system, delivering safe havens in partnership with Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust, and being part of the community mental health services transformation delivering primary care mental health services.
- 1.3 To enable the providers to continue to develop and provide key contribution to the transformational work within the mental health system, outlined above, and the expected surge for mental health support that will come from the Covid pandemic, we are seeking approval from the CCG's in the Committee's in Common to invoking the second plus one year of the contract term to all the community connections contracts. This has already received approval through the Surrey County Council governance channels.

## **2. Consultation/ Public Engagement:**

- 2.1 No further consultation is required at this point. A large number of stakeholders were involved throughout the commissioning and procurement process in 2016/17.

## **3. Risk Management and Implications:**

- 3.1 There is a risk of destabilising service delivery from a core part of the mental health service at a time of significant pressure due to the pandemic on mental health services if the contract is not continued.
- 3.2 The main risk is not agreeing the contracts extension, which would then require re-procurement in a very short space of time. Currently five contracts are in place across three providers, so will be complex and time-consuming.
- 3.3 Given that services are delivering well and in the key area of mental health at a time of pandemic, the low risk option is to ratify invoking the second +1 year for 1 April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
- 3.4 It is to note that discussions are being initiated around planning on future re-procurement which will come to the Committee at a future date.

## **4. Financial and 'Value For Money' Implications**

- 4.1 N/A

## **5. Section 151 Officer Commentary**

- 5.1 N/A

## **6. Legal Implications – Monitoring Officer**

6.1 N/A

## **7. Equalities and Diversity**

7.1 An equality analysis is not required; when the contracts were awarded they were subject to a full equality analysis. Surrey County Council Cabinet signed off the contract awards at Cabinet on 31 January 2017

[https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0008/110015/EIA-community-connections-FINAL.pdf](https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0008/110015/EIA-community-connections-FINAL.pdf)

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### **Consulted:**

Jane Bremner, Head of Mental Health, Surrey County Council

Anna Gavrilov, Associate Director Finance, Surrey Heartlands CCG

Niki Baier, Deputy Director of Contracts

Michael Scammell, MH/LD Commissioning Manager, Blackwater MH Alliance