

PUBLIC

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
CABINET MEMBER MEETING – HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

21 January 2014

Report of the Director of Public Health

RE-PROCUREMENT OF RESEARCH SERVICES

1. Purpose of the Report

This report is to request the re-procurement of the provision of a Public Health Research Service for 12 months from April 2014.

2. Information and Analysis

The Research Service, which has always been integral to the Public Health Department, will ensure new and innovative ideas continue to be researched appropriately and effectively in terms of their effectiveness and cost when there is little or no existing research evidence to support their commissioning within Public Health. The team also provides a project evaluation service.

The service forms part of the core offer to the NHS in relation to research in Primary Care.

The Research Services Team was part of Public Health until April 2010 when the team transferred to Derbyshire Community Health Services in preparation for the re-configuration of Health Services locally. The service has been provided to Public Health since that time through an SLA.

The service specification details the requirements of the service which includes direct involvement in project work by Research Team staff, advice to Public Health and CCG Clinical Leads on research management issues and representing Public Health and the CCG Clinical Leads on research bodies such as Trent Comprehensive Local Research network and the East Midlands and South Yorkshire Primary Care Research network. The links to Sheffield University are particularly useful in the analysis of computer based research data and the support from the staff there.

The current service specification is attached.

This service will be beneficial to Derbyshire County Council and the Research Team has already been involved in joint work involving Adult Care. Joint initiatives requiring research facilities could be facilitated through this contract for departments across the County Council.

3. Financial Considerations

The Research Service is currently managed under an SLA with Derbyshire Community Health service and has a value of £38,000 which allows Public Health access to around 30% of the current Research capacity within the Derbyshire Community Health Service. There are 3 members of staff based in the Research team which equates to 1.93 whole time equivalent staff members. Next financial year the contract value will be £32,300.

4. Other Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Key Decision

No

6. Call-in

Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No

7. Background Papers

The service specification for 2013/14 is attached.

7. OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That the Cabinet Member approves the re-procurement of the Research Service for 12 months from April 2014 to the end of March 2015.

Elaine Michel
Director of Public Health

The following Public Health research projects are currently underway:

Financial incentives for smoking cessation in pregnancy: A pilot study (Public Health/DCHS)

This is collaborative pilot research project being undertaken with colleagues from the Centre for the Study of Incentives in Health (CSI). The aim of this pilot study is to assess the potential effectiveness of using financial incentives to achieve smoking cessation in pregnant women who smoke; the results of the study will be used to inform the design of a randomised controlled trial. More than 230 women were recruited to the scheme and analysis of the data is underway.

Using financial incentives to achieve smoking cessation in pregnant women who smoke: experiences of participating in a pilot study (Public Health/DCHS)

This qualitative research project is an extension of the pilot financial incentive study for smoking cessation in pregnancy (outlined above). The study uses depth interviews with women who participated in the incentive scheme and staff responsible for delivering the scheme to explore their experiences of participation and delivery. Recruitment and data collection for the study is underway, with more than 20 participants recruited to date; data collection is due to end in November.

Food health needs assessment - cooking skills and food purchase by recently bereaved elderly men (Public Health)

Screening questionnaires were sent out to 261 men aged 65 and over registered with a Hope Valley practice and 118 have been returned. Four men have been interviewed. In view of the low number eligible to be interviewed. Discussions are taking place on the extension of the study to Sheffield.

Corbar/Darley maternity review (North Derbyshire CCG/Public Health)

To date a total of 13 High Peak and 12 Dales questionnaires have been received. The project is on hold due to information governance issues but a short summary report will be produced by the end of November.

Consultation on changes to eating disorders services in Derbyshire (Public Health)

A report on the pilot questionnaires for the project has been produced and sent to the current sponsor for comment.

SERVICE SPECIFICATION

Service Specification No.	
Service	Research Team
Commissioner Lead	Public Health
Period	1st April 2014 – 31st March 2015
Date of Review	

1. Population Needs

1.1 National/local context and evidence base

Provision of a research and service evaluation support service for Public Health staff and CCG clinical leads within Derbyshire County. This support covers direct involvement in project work by Research Team staff, advice to Public Health and CCG Clinical Leads on research management issues and representing Public Health and CCG Clinical Leads on research bodies such as Trent Comprehensive Local Research Network (CLRN), East Midlands and South Yorkshire Primary Care Research Network (PCRN EM SY).

2. Scope

2.1 Aims and objectives of service

2.1.1 Aims

- 1) To provide a research and service evaluation project service to support decision making in Public Health and Primary Care.
- 2) To advise staff on research management issues and ethics
- 3) To represent Derbyshire County Public Health and CCGs on external bodies such as Trent CLRN and Trent Primary Care Research Leads Group
- 4) To provide a current awareness service on research issues
- 5) To produce updates on research activities and an annual report.
- 6) To maintain and develop links with universities

2.1.2 Objectives

2.2 Service description/care pathway

2.2.1 General Overview

The Research Team provides a comprehensive research and evaluation service in Derbyshire County.

2.2.2 Service Description

- 1) Provision of a research and service evaluation project service to support decision making in Public Health and Primary Care. The level of involvement is agreed on a project by project basis and can vary from giving advice to staff to carry out the work themselves through to the conduct of project work from defining the question, devising the methodology to obtain the necessary information through to the completion of a final report including making recommendations for follow up. In doing this the Team uses a range of techniques for the collection of the data including

interviews, focus groups distribution of questionnaires and secondary analysis of data collected by others. The team has experience of content analysis of interviews and focus groups and the use of various statistical tests on quantitative data.

- 2) Advice to staff on research and research management issues. This can range from giving advice as to whether a project is research, a service evaluation or an audit to help with completing ethics forms.
- 3) Representing Derbyshire County Public Health and CCG Clinical Leads on external bodies such as Trent CLRN and Trent Primary Care Research Leads Group. Role also includes convening a quarterly liaison meeting between PCRN (EMSY) the CLRN and representatives from primary care to follow up progress and issues with portfolio trials.
- 4) Provision of a current awareness service on research issues. Most of this information comes from external sources such as the Research Design Service at the University of Nottingham, the Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care (Nottinghamshire Derbyshire and Lincolnshire) and it is supplied to an email contact list of staff who express an interest in research issues. Some commentary is supplied. Some information such as notification of research talks is generated internally.
- 5) Production of updates on research activities on a quarterly basis which aim to give a comprehensive overview of research and related issues in Derbyshire County and beyond. Information about research governance approvals in both Derbyshire County and Derby City provided by the Derby Hospitals Research Office. It also includes updates from Trent CLRN, PCRN (EMSY) and the Trent Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care. A summary is provided at the front of what is a comprehensive but lengthy document. An annual report is produced in the spring of each year which includes the highlights from the quarterly reports.
- 6) Links have been established with the School of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield for many years. The link is maintained on a project by project basis at no cost to either party. The benefit to the university is the involvement in research projects with a primary and community care purpose. The benefit to local stakeholders is the access to specialist research expertise and support.

2.2.5 Days/Hours of operation

Subject to leave and attendance at meetings staff the Research Team are available 9am to 4pm Mondays to Fridays. Messages can be left at all times. As the teams are small initial contact by email is always advisable.

2.2.6 Referral route

Initially through telephone or email contact with the Research Team. Research Team require a project outline to be provided before they start work so that the question to be answered, timescales and responsibilities are clear. In some cases proposers will also be asked to complete a research prioritisation form or to have the project peer reviewed. This is in recognition that the resources of the team are limited and projects can take quite a time to complete.

2.2.7 Response time & detail and prioritisation

See above; timescales for involvement in project work are negotiated on a project by project basis.

2.3 Population covered

The Research Team covers the Derbyshire County area.

2.4 Any acceptance and exclusion criteria

2.4.3 Exclusion Criteria

The Research Team does not cover the Derby City area but links with Southern Derbyshire CCG will be maintained.

2.5 Interdependencies with other services

2.5.3 Sub-Contractors

3. Applicable Service Standards

3.1 Applicable national standards eg NICE, Royal College

All research project work needs to be approved by the national research ethics process and to have research governance approval from the NHS trust before work can start.

3.2 Applicable local standards

Work activities are discussed with the Director of Public Health and CCG Clinical Leads through the research team attending appropriate meetings within the organisations.

4. Key Service Outcomes

5. Location of Provider Premises

6. Individual Service User Placement

N/A