

### Record of operational decision

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| <b>Decision title:</b>                   | Decision to approve contract variation for the provision of coils for non-contraceptive use in Herefordshire Sexual Health Service.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Date of decision:</b>                 | 07/08/2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Decision maker:</b>                   | Zoe Clifford – Director of Public Health                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Authority for delegated decision:</b> | <p>The Chief Executive Scheme of Delegation.</p> <p>Delegation to the Director of Public Health under CW-02 Public Health and CW-03 <i>to discharge any functions in relation to the corporate public health duties of the council authorised to the director of public health under the NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012, including responsibility for improving public health including commissioning sexual health services.</i></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Ward:</b>                             | Countywide                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Consultation:</b>                     | <p>This has been brought about following discussions with Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB in order to improve patient care. The ICB already commissions primary and secondary care to deliver this element of service provision. By offering this service in sexual health services, patients will have access to earlier interventions, appropriate referrals, and ultimately improve their access, care and choice.</p> <p>The current sexual health service provider has been approached and has agreed in principle to the changes.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| <b>Decision made:</b>                    | <p>To vary the current sexual health contract to include the provision of coils (52mg Levonorgestrel-releasing Intrauterine Device) for non-contraceptive use.</p> <p>Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB will transfer up to £10,034.64 per annum to the Local Authority to pay for this specific element of service delivery. The service would be capped at a total of 56 procedures per annum (£179.19 per procedure).</p> <p>Service provision will remain for the duration of the contract.</p> <p>Where clinically appropriate the service would be available to female patients who are either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. residents in Herefordshire or</li> <li>b. those registered with a Herefordshire GP (this inc. transmen who have retained their womb and require appropriate treatment).</li> </ul> |
| <b>Reasons for decision:</b>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This amendment and variation have been brought about following discussions with Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB in order to improve patient care. The ICB already commissions primary and secondary care to deliver this element of service provision. By offering this service in sexual health services, patients will have</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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|                                | <p>access to earlier interventions, appropriate referrals, and ultimately improve their access, care and choice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated sexual health service can include GU medicine / Contraception and gynecology services – increasingly non-contraceptive coils are offered through sexual health services in a number of areas. The ICB recently have worked with Worcestershire public health team to amend their contract and include this service offer.</li> <li>• Coils for non-contraceptive LARC is not covered in the current specification as public health does not receive funding directly hence the need for a variation.</li> <li>• Costs related to this specific service element will be covered by Herefordshire &amp; Worcestershire ICB. Activity will be capped. Funds will be transferred to the Local Authority so no additional costs will be incurred.</li> <li>• S4H are the only sexual health provider commissioned in Herefordshire for level three sexual health services so there is no competition between providers.</li> <li>• Offering this service as part of integrated sexual health service opens up an additional venue that is faster and less costly than additional GP clinics or secondary care referrals.</li> <li>• Activity is also estimated to be very small in the wider service context so would have little disruption / impact.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Equality Considerations</b> | <p>Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the ‘general duty’ on public authorities is set out as follows:</p> <p>A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;</li> <li>b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;</li> <li>c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.</li> </ul> <p>This service works with some vulnerable individuals, many of whom will share a Protected characteristic. This report supports the council in delivering its equality duty by ensuring that the service offered can fulfil the three aims of the equality duty as stated above. A continually improving service will have a significant positive impact on sexual health outcomes for the individuals accessing the service.</p> <p>The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying ‘due regard’ in our decision</p>                                                                                       |

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|                                                                              | <p>making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. An Equality Impact Assessment is attached to this report.</p> <p><a href="#"><u>Decision - Commissioning of the Herefordshire integrated sexual health service - Herefordshire Council</u></a></p> <p>By varying the contract patients will have access to earlier interventions, appropriate referrals, and ultimately improve their access, care and choice.</p>                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</b> | <p>Discussions have taken place with Commerical services, governance and legal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The inclusion of coils for non-contraceptive use does not constitute a substantial modification under PSR regulation 13.</li> <li>• A funding agreement will be developed and in place between the ICB and Herefordshire Council.</li> <li>• The contract variation between Herefordshire Council and the sexual health provider will emphasise that funding and associated activity is based on funding solely from the ICB.</li> </ul> |
| <b>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</b>           | <p>Not to amend the contract and offer service provision.</p> <p>Herefordshire and Worcestershire ICB already commission primary care to deliver this, they wish to expand the offer in order to improve patient care and pathway options for patients. At the moment any patient requiring coils for non-contraceptive purposes would need to be referred back to their GP practice for the procedure which increases wait time, affects patient journey, continuity of care etc.</p>                                                                                |
| <b>Details of any declarations of interest made:</b>                         | <p>If any officers or members involved or consulted in the decision-making have declared an interest you should include the declaration here.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

Signed:

Date: 07/08/26