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Dear Colleague,

A consultation exercise took place in spring 2017 to look at the future configuration of immunisation services for school aged children in the South West. In scope were the Local Authority areas of South Gloucestershire, Bristol, North Somerset, Somerset, Devon, Torbay, and Plymouth. Vaccination of primary school aged children against seasonal flu was included in all areas, vaccination of secondary school aged children was included in Somerset and Devon, Torbay and Plymouth.

Views from stakeholders were used to inform the decision that there should be one provider for each school aged cohort, i.e. primary or secondary, for each STP, across the South West.

This was to ensure that services were commissioned on scale whereby they could be sustainable on a standalone basis, whilst also maintaining a strong local presence in each area.

The tender for services went out on the basis of separate lot for each STP, and separate lots for each school aged group. This is shown in the table below:

Lot 1	Flu for primary school aged children in Bristol, North Somerset, South Gloucestershire
Lot 2	Flu for primary school aged children in Somerset
Lot 3	Flu for primary school aged children in Devon, Plymouth & Torbay
Lot 4	HPV, MenACWY and Td/IPV (teenage booster) for secondary school aged children in Somerset
Lot 5	HPV, MenACWY and Td/IPV (teenage booster) for secondary school aged children in Devon

The tender for the school immunisation services received a very positive response from a number of experienced and competent providers. A competitive procurement process was undertaken where bidders were asked to provide written submissions and give a presentation which was followed by questions from the panel. The panel scoring the bids had broad representation from a range of disciplines and organisations. In Somerset we were successful in securing the participation of a panel of young people (year 8) to listen to

bidder presentations and ask questions. We were delighted with the young people's contribution and would like to thank again all those who helped us to make this happen.

Following a thorough review of all tenders, the consensus from evaluators was that the strongest bids were as follows:

Lot 1	North Somerset Community Partnership, in partnership with Sirona and Bristol Community Health
Lots 2 & 4	Somerset Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
Lots 3 & 5	Virgin Care UK

The bids were felt to have the greatest potential for innovation within the lifetime of the contract, and provided a strong model for building relationships with schools and local partners.

The new contracts will commence on 1 April 2018 for the majority of the Devon Local Authority area and 1 June 2018 for the remainder of the South West.

All of the successful providers currently deliver immunisation services in our local area, and have a strong track record of successful delivery into state, special, independent schools and to those who are less likely to engage with school or immunisation programmes.

The next step is for contracts to be agreed and signed, this is anticipated to be completed early in the new year. Please note that until this happens the information contained within this announcement is subject to change. As a key stakeholder in the new service the new providers may contact you in order to introduce themselves and begin discussing how they will interface with existing systems, services and teams. If you have any initial questions regarding this announcement then please don't hesitate to contact us at phcontractssouthwest@nhs.net.

Yours sincerely,



James Bolt
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