

## **Health, Housing & Adult Social Care Policy & 20 June 2018. Scrutiny Committee**

Report of the Director of Public Health

Portfolio of the Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Health.

### **Commissioned Substance Misuse Services in York**

#### **Summary**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide information to inform scrutiny committee member's consideration of commissioned substance misuse services as a topic for a scrutiny task group.
2. These services play a key role in promoting recovery and reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse which are a significant cause of health inequalities in York. The services also have an important role to play in the reduction of drug-related deaths which is of concern given that the numbers of drug-related deaths have increased in York.
3. The current substance misuse service was commissioned in 2017 with the new contract being awarded to Changing Lives as a strategic partner to the Council. The contract is for an initial 3 years with an option to extend by 2 years plus consideration of a further 2 years extension, subject to performance, up to a maximum of 7 years. Extensions will be based on performance related quality measures and delivery of key outcomes. This is considered to be the option which will lead to the Council obtaining best value for money and will provide a stable and supportive environment for service users.
4. The design of the new service was based on extensive consultation and was based on a recovery model with a focus on building strong recovery capital – building community capacity will be a much stronger feature within the new arrangements than is currently the case. With the strategic partner we will:

- a. Work with local communities to build their capacity to develop resilience and reduce dependency on commissioned services support.
- b. Work with partners to address gaps in available early help interventions. Closely linking with the developing integrated wellness service offer to ensure early help is available for those with addiction.
- c. Work alongside the voluntary and community sector to ensure a truly multi-agency response to addressing the needs of customers and their to build resilience
- d. Improve the volunteering offer. We will look to make better use of the potential offered through volunteers at a local level. This is seen to be a critical feature of sustaining the impact of recovery in communities, securing community networks and working closely with established mutual aid networks. Reducing pressure on the voluntary sector offer.

The commissioned programme incorporates an obligation to “pay back” which enables people to positively contribute to society after spending much of their lives being perceived as a “problem” this is essential not only for the individuals recovery but for assisting the long term abstinence of others.

- e. Provide support and training to local partners in order to ensure they have the skills and knowledge required to effectively support people they are working with.
5. In addition, the proposal was to develop a model for young people’s substance services focused more strongly on early intervention and prevention. £178,000 per annum was specifically ring-fenced in the provider contract for young people’s substance misuse.
  6. As a consequence of Department of Health cuts to local authority Public Health Grant Allocations and projected further Grant reductions, the Council Executive made a decision to award a contract based on a requirement to deliver £550,000 savings to be phased in over the 5 years of the contract.
  7. The establishment of a scrutiny task group would enable members to investigate how well the new service is developing, recognise what is working well and identify any emerging risks requiring further analysis/action.

## **Background**

8. City of York Council became responsible for commissioning substance misuse treatment services when responsibilities for public health functions were transferred to the Council in April 2013.
9. Substance misuse treatment services are funded by the Department of Health local authority ring-fenced Public Health Grant Allocation. The Department of Health sets out a number of conditions for use of the public health grant and in 2015/16 attached a new condition which states that 'a local authority must, in using the grant, have regard to the need to improve the take up of, and outcomes from its drug and alcohol misuse treatment services'. Local authorities are required to submit performance monitoring reports on drug and alcohol misuse treatment outcomes as part of the Public Health Outcomes Framework.
10. In many other local authority areas substance misuse services are jointly funded using a collaborative model with funding being provided by the Council, Public Health Grant, Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), Police and Probation Service. In York the service is funded from the Public Health Grant with a small contribution from the OPCC for specific criminal justice interventions.

## **Drug-Related Deaths**

11. Drug-related deaths are monitored using data published as part of the Public Health Outcomes Framework. York has a higher number of drug-related deaths than we would expect and this is a significant cause for concern. Further information about performance outcomes can be found in the Annex to this report.
12. An investigation into the trends and learning for prevention of further deaths is underway and will be reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board as part of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment in due course.

## **Consultation**

13. This report is for information only to help inform member discussion at HHASC Scrutiny and Policy Committee. No consultation has taken place on this report.

## Options

14. The report is for information only to provide additional information to support the discussion for a scrutiny topic investigation as set out in Annex B. There are no options for members to consider.

## Council Plan

15. The proposal directly relates to the Council Plan 2015-19 priorities:
- **‘A focus on frontline services’** - to ensure all residents, particularly the least advantaged, can access reliable services and community facilities.

## Specialist Implications

16. There are no specialist implications from this report.

## Contact Details

**Author:**  
Leigh Bell  
Public Health Improvement  
Manager  
01904 554373

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**  
Sharon Stoltz  
Director of Public Health

**Report  
Approved**

**Date** 13/08/18

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

## **Annexes**

Annex A Drug and Alcohol Data: Current Position for York

Annex B Scrutiny Topic Registration / Assessment Form for Councillors

## **Background Papers**

[Re-procurement of Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Pre-Decision Report to Health and Adult Social Care Policy and Scrutiny Committee on 19 July 2016.](#)

[Re-procurement of Alcohol and Drug Treatment and Recovery Services Report to Executive on 25 August 2016](#)

[Community Impact Assessment of the Re-procurement of alcohol and illicit drug treatment and recovery service 11 August 2016.](#)