

REPORT TO: Executive Board Sub Committee

DATE: 4 March 2010

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director – Health & Community

SUBJECT: Commissioning an Abstinence/Recovery Service.

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Sub Committee of the decision to award a contract to Trust The Process Counselling (TTPC) for the provision of an abstinence/recovery service until March 31st 2010 as only 1 tender was received.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the award of a contract to Trust The Process Counselling is noted.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 The Models of Care guidance sets out a national framework for the commissioning of adult treatment for drug misuse (drug treatment) expected to be available in every part of England to meet the needs of diverse local populations. According to the Department of Health, Models of Care has the same status, in terms of local planning and delivery for drug treatment services, as a National Service Framework (NSF).

3.2 Halton Drug Action Team (DAT) has put into place a local network of services for people who use drugs and whose drug use has an impact on themselves, their family and wider community that reflects the guidance set out in Models of Care.

3.3 However, in reviewing service provision against policies that were being developed late in 2008 by the National Treatment Agency (NTA), it was identified that there was a gap in provision with regards to providing service users with the choice of an 'abstinence only' service.

3.4 Abstinence and Recovery services are a crucial part of any local drug treatment system. They are particularly important in their role of enabling clients with complex needs to become drug free, if that is their goal. They are also important in enabling more drug users to move on and to exit the treatment system, and as such make a key contribution to the achievement of National Indicator 40, 'number of drug users in effective treatment'.

- 3.5 Halton, Warrington & St Helens are currently developing a collaborative approach to commissioning substance misuse services. The projected start date for new services commissioned through this collaboration is April 2010. Therefore the commissioning of the Abstinence/Recovery service would be on a pilot basis, until 31st March 2010.
- 3.6 4 service providers were invited to tender for the contract. The DAT received 3 Expressions of Interest. Of these, only one provider submitted a final tender document. The two providers that withdrew did so the day before the deadline for submission. In one case citing other business commitments having recently won a contract in another DAT area. In the other case citing that they no longer felt their service fitted the criteria set out in the service specification.
- 3.7 TTPC were interviewed by a panel of comprised of DAT officers and the Crime Manager from Cheshire Constabulary, who is a member of the DAT Joint Commissioning Group.
- 3.8 The TTPC tender was evaluated on the basis of price (40%), level of service (25%), staff qualifications & experience (10%), quality of monitoring systems (10%) and registration and accreditation (15%).
- 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**
- 4.1 The proposal supports the local implementation of the National Drug Strategy 2008-18, Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities.
- 4.2 The proposal also supports the local implementation of the National Treatment Agency guidance on drug treatment systems, Models of Care.
- 6.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**
- 6.1 The cost of the contract is £250k, which will be met through existing resources. As only one provider put forward a tender, a value for money assessment was made by comparing the cost and delivery of this contract against those of similar contracts within the North West. This data is available through the National Treatment Agency Unit Cost exercise.
- 6.2 The North West Regional Average Unit Cost for Structured Day Programmes is £1160. For Structured Psychosocial Interventions it is £1653. These are the two types of service most similar to that being provided by TTPC. The unit cost for TTPC was £1373.62
- 7.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

The proposal ensures robust safeguarding children arrangements.

7.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

None identified

7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

This proposal supports the delivery of services that address health inequalities.

7.4 **A Safer Halton**

This proposal supports the crime reduction agenda of the Safer Halton Partnership through an increased engagement of drug using offenders.

7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 The provision of this service is in line with both national and regional developments in drug service provision. Failing to commission this type of service would constrain not only service user choice but also the continued development of a modern, flexible drug treatment system in Halton.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 There are no specific equality and diversity issues. Contractors will be expected to comply with current legislation.

10.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

Document	Place of Inspection	Contact Officer
Halton Treatment Plan 2009/10	Runcorn Town Hall	Steve Eastwood Divisional Manager Drug & Alcohol Action Team