

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board Sub Committee

**DATE:** 4 March 2010

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director – Health & Community

**SUBJECT:** One Year Extension to Current Drug & Independent Sexual Violence Advisor Service Contracts

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To seek authority to extend the contracts of ARCH Initiatives, Trust The Process Counselling & Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Merseyside & Cheshire) until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011.
- 1.2 To seek authority to extend the Addaction contract until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 and increase it's value by £50k to allow for the addition of an Alcohol Arrest Referral Scheme.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

1. **for the purpose of Standing Order 1.6b, that authority is delegated to the Operational Director, Culture & Leisure Services to extend the contracts of ARCH Initiatives, Trust The Process Counselling & Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Merseyside & Cheshire) until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 without competitive tendering; and**
2. **for the purpose of Standing Order 1.6b, that authority is delegated to the Operational Director, Culture & Leisure Services to extend the contract of Addaction and increase the contract value by £50k in order that they can provide an Alcohol Arrest Referral Service until March 31<sup>st</sup> 2011 without competitive tendering.**

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 3.1 In February 2009 the Executive Sub Committee delegated authority to the Operational Director Culture & Leisure Services to extend the contracts of ARCH Initiatives & Addaction for one year until March 2010. It was anticipated that an open tendering process would then be undertaken with the outcome of awarding a single contract to one provider of drug services from April 2010.
- 3.2 Under the leadership of the Chief Executive, a group of senior managers from Halton, St Helens & Warrington Local Authorities &

Primary Care Trusts have been meeting to discuss the option of commissioning such a service across the 3 areas. Such an arrangement has the potential to make significant economies and efficiencies whilst the larger contract value should also prove to be more attractive to possible bidders.

- 3.3 A business case to support such a collaborative commissioning arrangement has been developed on behalf of the 3 Local Authorities & 2 PCTs and is due to be discussed in the near future.
- 3.4 Therefore to prevent any gaps in service provision it is necessary to extend contracts for a further year for ARCH Initiatives, Addaction & Trust The Process Counselling.
- 3.5 One of the service areas that Addaction is currently commissioned to provide is that of an arrest referral scheme for drug users. The Safer Halton Partnership has made available £50k from Working Neighbourhood Funds to commission a similar service for those adults arrested as a result of their alcohol use.
- 3.6 The Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Merseyside & Cheshire) are currently commissioned to provide an Independent Sexual Violence Advisor (ISVA). The role of the ISVA is to work within a multi-agency setting to provide a pro-active service to adult victims of sexual violence.

#### Business Case Supporting the Proposal to Waive

##### 3.7 Value for Money & Competition

With discussions between the 3 Local Authority areas around drug service provision still on-going, this has left insufficient time to undertake a new tender process and award contracts to commence on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010.

- 3.8 The provision of support service to victims of sexual violence is highly specialised and there is no market in this area of delivery. Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Merseyside & Cheshire) currently provide the support services for the Merseyside Sexual Assault Referral Service and will undertake the same role for the Cheshire equivalent when it opens shortly.
- 3.9 Tendering and awarding a one year contract from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011 would cause significant disruption to service delivery, service users and staff in provider services.
- 3.10 Value for money will be ensured through the Partnership's continuing performance management of these contracts.
- 3.11 Value for money will also be obtained by expanding existing arrest

referral provision to include alcohol, saving on additional tender, procurement, contract and performance management costs.

3.12 The services delivered by ARCH Initiatives, Addaction & Trust The Process Counselling through these three contracts will be subject to open, competitive tendering in 2010/11 when the Council, in partnership with other Local Authorities and PCTs tenders for a combined drug service.

3.13 Transparency & Accountability

The choices regarding the extension of these contracts will be available for audit and inspection.

3.14 Details of expenditure and performance are reported to the Safer Halton Partnership.

3.15 The Officers supporting the award of these contracts will comply with the Public Contracts Regulations 2006.

3.16 Functional accountability for the contract will remain with the Operational Director, Culture & Leisure Services, and the contract would be subject to internal and external audit & PPB scrutiny.

3.17 Propriety & Security

The contract documents will include the council's standard integrity clauses and staff only with a need to know will have commercial information about the contracts.

4.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

4.1 ARCH Initiatives currently provide the screening and assessment, carers support and structured counselling services at Ashley House. The Drug Action team has been advised by the National Treatment Agency to plan a budget based on 2009/10 allocations. Therefore the draft treatment plan 2010/11 identifies £229k for these services, although this is likely to be subject to further revision once allocations are known.

4.2 Addaction currently provide the Outreach Service and the Drug Intervention Programme targeted at drug using offenders. The draft treatment plan 2010/11 identifies £301k for these services although this is likely to be subject to further revision once allocations are known.

4.3 Trust The Process Counselling deliver abstinence & recovery programmes. The draft treatment plan 2010/11 identifies £250k for these services although this is likely to be subject to further revision once allocations are known

4.4 Rape & Sexual Abuse Support Centre (Merseyside & Cheshire) provide support to victims of sexual violence. The contract to provide these services in 2009/10 was £20k. The contract value in 2010/11 is expected to be £20k.

## 5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The proposal supports the local implementation of the national drug strategy 2008-18, Drugs: Protecting Families and Communities.

5.2 The proposal also supports the local implementation of the National Treatment Agency guidance on drug treatment systems, Models of Care.

5.3 The proposal supports the Partnerships responsibilities to provide services to victims of violent crime.

## 6.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

6.1 All contract values will be met through existing resources.

## 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 and providing specialist support to victims of sexual violence.

### 7.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None identified

## 8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

8.1 Not approving contract extensions would result in significant loss of service delivery until April 2011, and mitigate against achieving the

LAA and national target – NI 40, Numbers of drug users in effective treatment or NI 26, providing specialist support to victims of a serious sexual offence.

8.2 The loss of these services will result in increases in drug related crime and less support to victims of sexual violence.

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**

<b>Document</b>	<b>Place of Inspection</b>	<b>Contact Officer</b>
Halton Treatment Plan 2010/11	Runcorn Town Hall	Steve Eastwood Divisional Manager Drug & Alcohol Action Team