

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Communities

**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Adults

**SUBJECT:** Complimentary Therapies and Injecting Equipment Programme (Drug and Alcohol Services)

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To seek approval to enable the current provider Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) to manage the Complimentary Therapy Services and the Injecting Equipment Programme as part of the Substance Misuse Service, with an increase in contract value for the term of the Substance Misuse contract due to end 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board approve using Procurement Standing Orders 1.8.3 (d) and (e ) to waive Procurement Standing Order 4.1 to enable the current provider CRI to manage the Complimentary Therapies service and Injecting Equipment Programme as part of the Substance Misuse services with an increased contract value.**

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the time the substance misuse contract was tendered and subsequently awarded to CRI, the Complimentary Therapies Service contract was being delivered by VIDA and the Injecting Equipment Programme was delivered through a joint contract with Halton, St Helens and Warrington Drug Action Teams with the contract managed by Halton and St Helens PCT. Neither service was included in the Substance Misuse Service Contract awarded to CRI.

### 3.2 Complimentary Therapy Service

The current Complimentary Therapies Service is delivered by VIDA, a small local organisation working within the Ashley House service. Examples of therapies are:

- Consultations / assessments
- Acupuncture
- Reflexology

Complimentary Therapy has been provided as a support service rather than a

fundamental component of recovery. A review of the service in 2012/13 by Halton Commissioners highlighted the following issues:

- The service with its current contract value is not sustainable as the value does not meet core costs and is running at a loss.
- Limited contingency planning due to under-resourcing

In addition, the existing service did not have infrastructure or capacity to provide a service that was compliant with National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidance (NICE) and Care Quality Commission (CQC) Minimum standards. It is therefore recommended that CRI's main contract for the delivery of substance misuse recovery services is increased to include Complimentary Therapy. CRI will be accountable for compliance with NICE guidance and CQC standards and will enter into a sub-contracting arrangement with VIDA to deliver the service

### 3.3 Injecting Equipment Service

The Injecting Equipment Programme, commissioned through Halton and St Helens PCT, expired on the 30<sup>th</sup> June 2012 due to the phasing out of PCT it is proposed to transfer the Injecting Equipment Programmes to CRI to ensure that the Drug Service is able to offer needle and syringe programmes to people who inject illicit drugs. They also provide needles and syringes to those that inject non-prescription performance enhancing and image enhancing drugs. The aim of the programme is to reduce harm caused by the spreading of Blood Borne Viruses such as Hepatitis and HIV that can be caused by sharing needles, the cost of treating an individual who has contracted Hepatitis C is approximately £20,000 per year. Needle exchanges ensure the safe disposal of needles and provided an opportunity to support individuals into other health prevention services as part of a treatment plan. NICE recommends that Local Strategic Partnerships (LSPs), Local Authorities and NHS organisations should offer a range of services for people over 18.

All programmes should, as a minimum:

- Encourage people who inject drugs to use the services on offer
- Provide as many needles and syringes and other injecting equipment as someone needs
- Provide sharps bins and advice on how to dispose of equipment safely
- Provide advice on safer injecting and ways to get help to stop using drugs or switching to non-injecting methods.
- More specialist programmes services include: advice and services to help them stop injecting, treatment of infections and other health problems, vaccinations and housing benefits advice (or help to access to such services).

It is therefore recommended that Halton enters into a spot purchase arrangement with CRI for the provision of an Injecting Equipment Programme.

- 3.4 Incorporating the Complimentary Therapy Service and Injecting Equipment Programme into CRIs contract will ensure a holistic service at the point of contact for people accessing the service, will deliver value for money for the Council and partners and will ensure services are fully compliant with NICE guidance and CQC standards.

The contract with CRI expires 31<sup>st</sup> December 2013 but has an option to extend for further 1 yr. and 2 months. It is proposed that when the contract is retendered, the Complimentary Therapy and Injecting Equipment Programme will be included in that tender process as part of a Substance Misuse Recovery service.

#### 4.0 **BUSINESS CASE FOR EXTENSION OF CONTRACTS**

##### 4.1 **Value for money**

The proposal represents the most cost effective option to manage the Complimentary and Injecting Equipment Programme included in the Substance Misuse Recovery Service tender to be conducted in 2013/14.

##### 4.2 **Transparency**

Contracts will be recorded in the Council's Contract Register accessible via the internet together with the publication of all spend in excess of £500.00.

##### 4.3 **Propriety and Scrutiny**

The extension of the contracts referred to in this report will be compliant with Halton Borough Council's Procurement Standing Orders. Compliance with anti-corruption practices will be adhered to and any of the contracts within the subject of this report will be terminated if there is any occurrence of corruption by any organisations or their staff.

##### 4.4 **Accountability**

The contracts will be performance managed and service standards monitored by commissioners and the contracts team.

#### 5.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None

#### 6.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

##### 6.1 Complimentary Therapy Service

The current provider is a small organisation with limited infrastructure and limited contingency planning, A small increase in the overall contract value will provide resources to ensure compliance and registration of the service and provide resources for contingency cover during periods of absence.

The Complimentary Therapies service currently contract value is £35,000 the proposed contract value is £43,450.

## Injecting Equipment Programme

The allocated budget for the injecting programme is £20,000 per annum and the equipment is purchased on a spot purchased basis.

The cost for the above services can be met within the existing agreed Drugs Pooled Treatment Budget.

- 6.2 The existing contractor for the provider of the Substance Misuse service, CRI, are accountable for compliance with NICE guidance and CQC standards within Ashley House; and the competitive injecting equipment rates CRI have secured offer a clear financial benefit for Halton's Injecting Equipment Programme.

## 7.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 7.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Drug users have parental responsibilities, the complimentary therapies service and injecting equipment programme have a positive impact on parenting, alongside reducing the risk of harm or neglect or children.

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

None identified.

### 7.3 **A Healthy Halton**

There are clear health and well-being benefits when drug users access complimentary therapies. The injecting equipment programme significantly reduces the risk of cross infection of Blood Borne Diseases.

### 7.4 **A Safer Halton**

Drug use has a direct impact on anti-social behaviour and crime, when people access drug treatment the risks of anti-social or criminal activity are reduced.

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

None identified.

## 8.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

- 8.1 There is potential that the current service provider will be unable to sustain the current service, this will leave a gap in service provision resulting in costly retendering of the complimentary therapy support service, CRI has agreed to managing the Complimentary Therapies Service for the remaining term of the Substance Misuse Service contract.

9.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

9.1 None identified.

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

None