

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 20th January 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Specialist Community Substance Misuse Services Remodelling
WARD(S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Safer Policy and Performance Board with an update on plans for the remodelling of the Halton Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Halton Borough Council commission's substance misuses services (drug and/or alcohol), the service supports local people who have substance misuse problems. The contract that is delivered across the Halton area by Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI) will be remodelling throughout 2015 establishing two new venues, and continuing to develop community venues and outreach with partners.

3.2 A key part of that programme is to focus on public health information and prevention agenda to reduce the number of individuals taking drugs and misusing alcohol ensuring robust and accessible information is provided to residents of Halton. The aim of the drug and alcohol service is to improve health and social care outcomes and reduce the impact caused by addiction or dependency to drugs and/or alcohol, with a clear drive on improving health inequalities for local people

3.3 There are appropriately 650 people accessing Halton's Drug and Alcohol service at any one time, with some 7,500 people in Halton who have taken illicit drugs in the last 12 months. CRI have delivered services to Halton residents since February 2012, performance has increased during their contract period and Halton continues to improve the performance against national targets.

3.4 According to the Public Health England (May 2014) update, the performance of the service has resulted in the following outcomes:

- The rate for successful completions in opiate* treatment is 13.68%

which is the 8th best in the whole country.

- The rate for successful completions in alcohol treatment is 60.61% which is the 3rd best in the whole country.
(*Opiates such as heroin, and prescription pain relievers, morphine and codine)

3.5 The Department of Health are currently conducting a formal consultation on the implementation of a Health Premium Incentive Scheme as part of the Public Health funding allocations for 2015 to 2016.

As part of this scheme, it has been proposed that a National Indicator applicable to all local Authority areas will be 'Successful completion of drugs treatment'. During the last procurement exercise performance dropped as key staff members resigned from the service and the provider changed. There is a risk that a change of provider during the consultation and benchmarking phase may impact on the allocation of the 2015 budget.

3.6 The lease at Ashley House is due to end in March 2015. Due to the unique nature of the building, alongside an increase in maintenance costs, it has been prudent to review usage and explore other local options.

3.7 Halton's Runcorn service will be opened January 2015 followed in March 2015 with the relocation to Aston Dane House, Widnes. All partners will be relocating to continue the effective joint working. The move will provide an opportunity to redesign the substance misuse service and building upon the recovery model established across Halton. The establishments will also be used to support the development of service user led enterprises, which in turn will promote independence and service user resilience.

3.8 The lease will be the responsibility of the provider. Any future procurement/contract award from the Local Authority for Specialist Community Substance Misuse Services will tie the transfer of the lease to the incoming provider to maximise investment and maintain service continuity.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified. Both the Runcorn and Widnes sites can be delivered within existing budgets.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton:**

The service will continue to work closely with the council's Children and Enterprise Directorate. Operating from two venues will increase the local

offer and promote early intervention, advice and support and will in particular support work to reduce the risk for children and young people affected by parental substance misuse.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton:

The two venues will be utilized to promote employment and educational opportunities for those individuals using substance misuse services. This will include an IT suite for job searches and the provision of information and support for individuals wishing to access education, training or employment.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol is a key Health and Wellbeing Board priority. The service will continue to promote the Healthy Halton agenda and will also increase the footfall of people accessing support which will have a positive impact of reducing local dependency on substances.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Substance misuse can have a direct correlation to anti-social behaviour and crime. The venues will continue to be used by partner organisations to reduce the impact of substance misuse on the communities of Halton.

6.5 Environment and Regeneration

None identified.

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 None identified.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report

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

None under the meaning of the Act.