

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 3 September 2015

REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health

PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing

SUBJECT: The Procurement of a Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton (Adults).

WARD(S) All

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To seek approval to commence the procurement of a Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton.

Approval is sought to proceed with a tender exercise to procure a Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton (Adults) with a contract commencement date of 1st April 2016 for the duration of 5 years.

- 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That Executive Board approve the proposal to tender for a Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton.**

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 Halton Borough Council is responsible for commissioning services to support local people with substance (drugs and alcohol) misuse problems. The overall aim of this service is to improve health and social care outcomes, reduce the harm from addiction to legal and illicit substances and reduce health inequalities for local people.

The provision of an effective specialist community substance misuse service contributes towards the aim of the Safer Halton Partnership to ensure Halton is a pleasant, safe and secure place to live and work with attractive, safe surroundings, good quality local amenities and the ability of people to enjoy life where they live. The service also contributes towards the aim of the Halton Health and Wellbeing Board by promoting the health and wellbeing of all service users and their families and reducing alcohol-related harm locally.

- 3.2 The Safer Halton Partnership Drug Strategy (2013 – 2017) and the Halton Alcohol Strategy (2014 – 2019), have been developed by all local partners to support Halton to meet these key objectives and priorities to educate and inform local people and to prevent and tackle substance (drug and alcohol) misuse within the borough which has a detrimental impact on individuals, families and the

communities of Halton.

- 3.3 Halton has higher levels of alcohol and drug related harm compared to England. This is not surprising as there is a significant relationship between drug and alcohol-related harm and deprivation.

Certain vulnerable groups are also more likely to have problems with drug and alcohol misuse including military veterans, homeless people and offenders.

Reported drug use has decreased nationally and this trend has been reflected within local surveys conducted in Halton.

Related to alcohol more adults in Halton say they drink alcohol than across Merseyside or England. While the Halton estimates for increasing risk and higher risk drinking are similar to England, the North West and the rest of Merseyside at 11% and 4% respectively. Hospital admissions for alcohol also remain higher than the regional and local averages.

- 3.4 Due to the value of the contract Executive Board approval is sought to approve the proposal to tender for a Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton.

The new service will build upon and improve health and social care outcomes, and reduce the harm from addiction to legal and illicit substances for local people and their families.

4.0 **CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Some headline facts and figures related to substance misuse services in Halton (Source: NTDMS):

- In 2014/15 there were just over 500 new treatment journeys within service and over 1000 people in contact with the services over the course of the year (new and existing service users)
- In 2014/15 of new service users presenting for treatment and support 43% sought treatment due to alcohol, 15% for alcohol and a non-opiate substance (e.g. cannabis, cocaine, amphetamines etc.), 23% for a non-opiate substance (cannabis, cocaine, amphetamines etc.) and 19% for opiate (e.g. heroin) misuse.
- The balance of males and females in treatment has remained constant for a number of years in Halton. For 2014/15, 30% were female and 70% male. This is very similar to the national and North West picture.
- Over the past 3 years the vast majority of people receiving treatment are aged between 20 and 59 years

- In 2014/15 just under half of adults entering treatment had a child/ children.
- In 2013 12.4% of opiate users (e.g. heroin) in Halton successfully completed treatment and did not relapse within 6 months, higher than the England percentage of 7.8%.
- In 2013 53.5% of non-opiate drug users in Halton successfully completed treatment and did not relapse within 6 months, higher than the England percentage of 37.7%.

4.2 The Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service for Adults (18+) is currently delivered by Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI). CRI have held the Halton substance misuse contracts since February 2011 and March 2015 respectively, the latter following a Direct Contract Award in compliance with EU Procurement legislation in December 2014.

4.3 The Substance Misuse contract is due to end on the 31st March 2016 and there is no option to extend the current contract.

The current annual contract value is £1,569,954. Over the last two years, commissioners have worked with the existing service provider to identify efficiencies in operational delivery costs whilst maintaining a high quality service that has produced a significant increase in performance. Over the period 2014 - 2016 efficiencies of approximately £155,000 have already been realised.

The tender exercise to procure a Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton will enable further efficiencies on this contract to be realised.

5.0 **SPECIALIST COMMUNITY SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES**

5.1 The Council as commissioners of the service seek the delivery of a high quality service that is both effective in improving outcomes through the use of evidence based interventions delivered by skilled practitioners, and safeguards local people from harm.

5.2 The Provider will be asked to optimise opportunities arising from closer partnership and integrated working across neighbourhood, wellbeing, leisure, lifestyle, cultural and community services, with a view to streamlining and improving access to improvement services.

In addition there will be close working with the Halton Health Improvement Team to engage service users and their families with health improvement services to improve health outcomes.

5.3 Tender submissions will be evaluated using MEAT (Most Economic Advantageous Tender) principles. The contract will be awarded for a 5 year period.

An integral element of the procurement process will be a proportionate approach to Social Value and all prospective tenderers will be evaluated against the Halton Social Value Procurement Framework.

- 5.4 The proposed new service will not contain any significant changes to the current delivery of specialist community based substance misuse services within Halton.
In parallel with the procurement exercise, engagement will continue with partner organisations and service users and their families to inform them of the process and also to ensure that they can continue to inform and influence the development of local services.

6.0 BUSINESS CASE

6.1 Value for Money

The contract for the new service will be awarded on the basis of quality and price, thus ensuring value for money. It is anticipated that applications to deliver this service will enable efficiency savings to be made which will represent a reduction on current expenditure.

6.2 Transparency

Contracts will be recorded in the Council's Contracts Register accessible via the internet together with the publication of all spend in excess of £500.

6.3 Propriety and Security

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 organisation or their staff.

6.4 Accountability

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

6.5 Position of the Contract under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015

This contract will be a Schedule 3 service and are subject to a "light touch" commissioning regime under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

7.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The method of procurement complies with the Council's procurement policy and Procurement Standing Orders, and will utilise The Chest e-procurement portal.

8.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 As outlined in the report (s4.3) the provision of Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton represents a significant proportion of the total Public Health budget.

9.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

9.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The service contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Halton Children's Plan.

9.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The service contributes to supporting local residents affected by substance misuse to regain control of their lives and access opportunities to improve their employment, learning and skills in a recovery focused environment.

9.3 A Healthy Halton

Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service are important in promoting the health and wellbeing of all service users and their families and reducing inequalities through targeted intervention for vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals. The service contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

9.4 A Safer Halton

The service contributes to a Safer Halton by supporting local people in reducing risk taking behaviour, such as alcohol, drugs, etc. Community services also play an important role in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

9.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A.

10.0 RISK ANALYSIS

- 10.1 The Tender process will be fully compliant with the Public Contract Regulations, 2015 thus avoiding the risk of any potential legal challenges.

Risk will be a particular consideration in the tender evaluation process.

Robust service monitoring should provide early warning of any performance issues.

11.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 11.1 All contractors will be required to demonstrate that they embrace and comply with the Equality Act, and services will be monitored to

ensure this is the case.

12.0 REASON(S) FOR DECISION

To ensure business continuity and maintain support and care for service users accessing community based substance misuse services.

13.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED

To issue a Direct Award for a limited period to the current provider, this does not provide a stable environment for the service area. Impacting on performance and service delivery to service users.

14.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The procurement process will commence from September 2015 with a contract commencement date of 1st April 2016.

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

None under the meaning of the Act.