

**REPORT TO:** Executive Board

**DATE:** June 2021

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Public Health

**PORTFOLIO:** Health & Wellbeing

**SUBJECT:** Preliminary Estimates Report - The procurement of a new Integrated Specialist Community Substance Misuse Service for Halton

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 In accordance with Standing Orders, the Executive Board is requested to authorise the Director of Public Health to conduct a procurement exercise to determine the most economically advantageous and effective organisation to deliver an **Integrated Specialist Adult Community Substance Misuse Service** for Halton, with a contract commencement date of 1<sup>st</sup> October 2021 for the period of three years with the option for two one year extensions.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION THAT THE EXECUTIVE BOARD:

**1) Approve the preliminary estimates report and commence the procurement of a new integrated a Specialist Adult 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 aim is to improve health and social care outcomes, reduce the harm from addiction to legal and illicit substances, promote recovery and reduce health inequalities for local people.

3.2 Supporting people living with addictions is a mandatory element of the Public Health Grant and as such, the provision of local services is a key local requirement. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Health and Wellbeing Strategy identify the local problems caused by the use of substances, and reducing the harm caused by alcohol in particular remains

3.3 a key local, regional and national priority.

The substance misuse service aims to bring together local partners to support Halton to meet the key objectives and priorities to educate and inform local people and to prevent and tackle substance misuse wherever it occurs. Whilst levels of risk are high locally, a lower proportion of Halton young people appear to be starting to take drugs than their peers regionally and nationally. Levels of those drinking alcohol has been falling and are

broadly similar to regional levels. Slightly more adults in Halton say they drink alcohol than across Merseyside or England.

- 3.4 There is a significant relationship between drug related hospital admissions and deprivation. Certain vulnerable groups are also more likely to have problems with drug and alcohol misuse including military veterans, homeless people and offenders. Drug use is a significant issue amongst those who commit criminal offences. Hospital admissions for alcohol, both generally and for those under the age of 18, remain higher than the regional and local averages.

#### 4.0 **SPECIALIST COMMUNITY ADULT SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES**

- 4.1 The Commissioners 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. In addition 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 public health/health improvement services.

- 4.2 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.

- 4.3 The proposed new service will not contain any significant changes to the current delivery of specialist community based substance misuse services within Halton.

#### 5.0 **BUSINESS CASE**

##### 5.1 **Value for Money**

The contract for the new service will be awarded on the basis of quality and price, thus ensuring value for money. Tender submissions will be evaluated using MEAT (Most Economic Advantageous Tender) principles. The initial contract will be awarded on a three year basis with an opportunity to extend by two one year extensions. An integral element of the procurement process will be a proportionate approach to Social Value and all prospective providers will be evaluated against the Halton Social Value Procurement Framework.

Due to the impact of the pandemic, the tight timescale for the procurement will be monitored and kept under review and adjusted accordingly.

##### 5.2 **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.

### 5.3 **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.

### 5.4 **Accountability**

Approval from the Operational Director and Monitoring Officer (Legal and Democratic Services) has been gained as per Standing Orders and the Executive is asked to approve this preliminary estimates report and support the decision to commence the procurement process.

The final recommendation to award a contract will be brought to the Executive Board for approval. The contract will be performance managed by the Public Health Team and service standards will be monitored by commissioners.

### 5.5 **Position of the Contract under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015**

The process will comply with the requirements of the Public Contracts Regulations (2015) and will follow the Light-Touch Rules Regime for Health (Regulations 74 to 77). The process will follow Procurement Standing Order 1.5.2 through an Open Procedure, which will be a single stage and all tender submissions will be considered.

## 6.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

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

## 7.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

7.1 Financial provision for the Service is contained within the Public Health ring fenced grant. A contract will be awarded for **three (3) years with two one year optional extensions**. TUPE regulations will apply for affected staff, and measures will be put in place to review contract values on an annual basis in line with available resources.

The current budget for the specialist integrated service in Halton is c. £1,350,000, and it is proposed that a budget of **£1,400,000 pa** is made available for the delivery of the Specialist Substance Misuse Services. Therefore, the estimated budget for the delivery of the service in Halton will therefore be a total of **£4,200,000** for the initial three year contract, with a further **£2,800,000** if the extensions are used.

This brings a total commitment over the five year period of **£7,000,000**.

## 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 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**

A decision is required to enable the procurement exercise to commence. As the value of the proposed contract will exceed the EU threshold for services of this type, we are seeking Executive Board approval.

**13.0 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

N/A

**14.0 IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

The new procurement process will commence immediately.

15.0 **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>
None under the meaning of the Act		