

CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & THE VOLUNTARY SECTOR - 2 April 2014

PROVISION OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Report by the Director of Public Health

Introduction

1. The current commissioning arrangements for Young People's Substance Misuse Services were put in place by the NHS and the contract with the current provider of these services ceases on 30 September 2014.
2. In order to guarantee continuation of these services Oxfordshire County Council will need to put in place a contract to commence 1 October 2014.
3. The Young People's Drug and Alcohol Service provides treatment and support for 11-19 year olds in Oxfordshire. As well as working with young people using drugs and alcohol, it offers support to those affected by their parents or family member's substance misuse.
4. The service is made up of a team of specialist drug and alcohol workers delivering psychosocial structured interventions and brief advice and information. This is via one to one sessions, targeted group sessions, and outreach work. If the young person requires medical treatment as well as psychosocial support, for alcohol or opiate addiction, a referral is made to the Recovery Service. This is very rare, with an average of only 2 referrals a year.
5. The service operates out of the County Council's seven Early Intervention Hubs.
6. For the last 5 years, the main substances used amongst young people are cannabis and alcohol, which together make up over 75% of substances used by young people. Over the years, these have been followed by ketamine and cocaine.
7. Over the last three years, the need for support for the impact of parental substance misuse has become more apparent. This element of the service currently provided has grown and the age of the young people affected by familial substance misuse is often lower than 11. Any work completed with young people under the age of 10 or 11, is delivered in partnership with a family worker or health visitor.

8. A service review was carried out in November 2013. This established that basing the service within the Early Intervention Service has improved access for young people and enabled their needs to be met in a more holistic way. However, more could be done to publicise the service, to support parents of drug and alcohol using young people and to develop resources and tools for working with younger children. These issues will be addressed in the new service specification.
9. Options for service delivery were considered by the Public Health Directorate Leadership team in January and the preferred option was to go out to tender with the same current structure.
10. The service will be commissioned by the Public Health Drugs and Alcohol team and sit within the Early Intervention Service. The review has highlighted that there are many positives to build on in this arrangement. What has been learnt from experience so far will be incorporated into the revised service specification and will drive further improvements in service delivery over the next contract period.
11. Further consultation with referring agencies and young people themselves will be undertaken during March and the findings will also be used to inform the new specification.
12. Oxfordshire County Council procurement process will be followed to commission this service.

Exempt Information: There is no exempt information contained in this report.

Legal Implications

13. The Council has a statutory obligation to “take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area” (s2B National Health Service Act 2006 (“NHS Act 2006”) as amended by s12 Health and Social Care Act 2012). This includes “providing services or facilities for the prevention, diagnosis or treatment of illness” (s 2B (3) (c) NHS Act 2006).

Financial and Staff Implications

14. Public Health has a ring fenced budget which is approximately £25 million per year.
15. Money is already committed to paying for substance misuse services for children and young people aged 11-19.
16. The maximum budget per annum would be £340,000. It is proposed that the contract term will be for 3 years with an option to extend for one year. This means that the contact value over 4 years would be £1,360,000.

RECOMMENDATION

17. **The Cabinet Member for Public Health & the Voluntary Sector is RECOMMENDED to approve the incurring of expenditure for the commissioning of Young People's Substance Misuse Services and to delegate to the Director of Public Health, following consultation with the Cabinet Member for Public Health and the Voluntary Sector, the authority to determine tenders and contracts in order to secure the provision of services.**

Dr Jonathan McWilliam
Director of Public Health

Background Papers: None

Contact Officer: Clare Dodwell, Commissioning Manager, Drugs and Alcohol
Tel: (01865) 815162

March 2014