

### **Housing related support update**

This paper provides an update on the current position with re-commissioning of housing related support services in Oxfordshire. Post consultation the proposal for the future shape of these services was revised by the County Council and subsequently considered and approved by the members of the Health Improvement Board and Health and Wellbeing Board, in October and November 2014 respectively. This revised plan is on agenda for the County Council Cabinet on 27 January 2015 for final approval.

### **Contractual arrangements for 2015-16**

We are negotiating new contracts with four provider organisations- A2Dominion Group, Oxford Homeless Pathways, Two Saints and Connection- to secure service continuation. Following initial discussions in November, all providers submitted written proposals showing how 1m of required savings could be delivered through a range of options:

- Delivering cashable efficiencies
- Re-structuring how services are delivered to maximise efficiencies
- Reducing service provision and utilising natural changes in staffing
- Using other funding sources and organisational reserves

County Council is on target to finalise these arrangements by the beginning of February.

### **De-commissioning of substance misuse services**

Together with St Mungo's staff team we are planning the closure of two substance misuse services - Project 195 and Osney Court. Closure of Osney Court service is the direct result of the savings required in 2015/16. Closure of Project 195 has come about because Homegroup, the current landlord, plan to use this property for a different supported housing service from April 2015. We have developed robust exit strategies for 8 people supported in these two services and are expecting to move them on by end of March 2015. Options for providing future support for substance misusers in Oxfordshire are being taken forward by the Public Health commissioners.

### **Commissioning of services from 2016 onwards**

New pathway of services is being designed with continuing strong engagement from all commissioning partners. We aim to publish the new pathway in March, go to tender in April, with new services starting in February 2016.

### **Monitoring impact and reporting process**

On 14 January the Housing Support Advisory Group considered how implementation and impact of this re-commissioning work should be evaluated and monitored. They agreed to consider potential additional indicators once they know the agreed shape of services for 2015-16. This applies in particular to the floating support service, which at present does not have a specific target in the housing indicators we report on.

Natalia Lachkou, Commissioning Manager, Oxfordshire County Council, 22 January 2015