

READING HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

DATE OF MEETING:	15 th March 2019	AGENDA ITEM:	16
REPORT TITLE:	Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan & re-procurement update		
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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 To update on the Reading Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Strategy & action plan for Young People and Adults from 2018 to 2022.
- 1.2 To update on the drug and alcohol treatment service re-procurement exercise.

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

- 2.1 To note the next steps in the development of the action plan for each of the three priorities - action plan to be presented to H&WB Board in July 2019.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

- 3.1 Reading's Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Strategy for Young People and Adults - 2018-2022 has been written in line with the Government Drug Strategy 2017, the Governments' Alcohol Strategy 2012 and Reading Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020.
- 3.2 The Director of Adult Care and Health Services submitted a report to Policy Committee in September 2018 setting out the outcomes of consultation on the draft Reading Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Strategy for Young People and Adults 2018-22 (the Strategy) and seeking approval to recommission Reading's Drugs and Alcohol Treatment service in line with the Strategy. It was recommended that the draft strategy be endorsed by the Committee.

The report noted that three priorities had been identified in the draft Strategy: Prevention (reducing the amount of alcohol people drink to safer levels and reducing drug related harm), Treatment (Commissioning and delivering high quality drug and alcohol treatment systems) and Enforcement and Regulation (tackling alcohol and drug related crime and anti-social behaviour). A public

consultation exercise had been carried out between 21 February 2018 to 23 April 2018, asking whether people agreed with the strategic priorities for Reading and to suggest what was needed to achieve each one. The consultation had shown high level of agreement with the priorities and the response would be used to develop a local action plan to support each of the three priorities.

The report explained that the outcome of consultation on the Strategy enabled public health and social care commissioners to design a new treatment service specification (Priority 2).

- 3.3 Reading procured as a single authority from October 2018 - February 2019 to recommission the new drug and alcohol treatment contract.

4. THE PROPOSAL

- 4.1 Current Position - Reading Public health have carried out a procurement exercise from October 2018 - February 2019 to re-procure a new drug and alcohol treatment service.
- 4.2 The winning provider will be announced in spring 2019 once all the procurement regulations have been met.
- 4.3 The new service design will address four elements; prevention; early intervention, treatment and recovery.

The new provider will focus on:

- Promoting healthier lifestyles for service users and those who are not in treatment.
- Joint working with partners - to ensure a more joined up system approach for service users.
- Focus on meeting the needs of individuals and families experiencing multiple disadvantages (mental health, substance misuse, unemployment, homelessness).
- Supporting families where substance misuse is a factor, particularly when children are affected by another person's drug or alcohol misuse.
- contributing to the stronger communities agenda by promoting health attitudes and behaviour to substance misuse and reduction of risk posed to the community.

4.4 Options Proposed

- 4.4.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board to note the commitment and resource required to address Priority two from October 2018 to date. The procurement process is due to be finalised by end of March 2019 with a 6 month implementation period before the winning Provider commences the new treatment service from 1st October 2019.
- 4.4.2 The board to note that the drug and alcohol strategy action plan will be developed in line with the new tendered service and a revised action plan will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board in July 2019.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO READING'S HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGIC AIMS

- 5.1 The Reading Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Strategy for Young People and Adults - 2018-2022 reflects the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-2020 which includes alcohol as a priority; the goal being to reduce the amount people drink to safer levels. The strategy also contributes to the priority “Supporting people to make healthy life choices”.
- 5.3 The drug and alcohol strategy and new drug and alcohol treatment service recognises that plans in support of Reading’s 2017-20 Health and Wellbeing Strategy should be built on three foundations - safeguarding vulnerable adults and children, recognising and supporting all carers, and high quality co-ordinated information to support wellbeing. The proposal specifically addresses these in the following ways:
- Support a change in the community’s attitude by supporting and encouraging more responsible drinking.
 - Increase awareness, understanding and support the change in lifestyle and attitudes in order to empower and enable individuals to make more positive choices about the role of alcohol and drugs in their lives.
 - Ensure individuals understand the health risks associated with drugs and alcohol, the consequences using can have on education, employment, relationships, housing and the impact the environment where the individual is misusing can have.
 - We want to improve people’s wellbeing, increase their chances of recovery from drug and alcohol misuse, and help ensure they are safe. We have an ambition for sustained recovery, reducing harm to individuals and the wider community. We see this as being achieved through three themes of activity: prevention, treatment and enforcement.

6. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

- 6.1 Section 138 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on local authorities to involve local representatives when carrying out "any of its functions" by providing information, consulting or "involving in another way".
- 6.2 The Reading Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Strategy for Young People and Adults - 2018-2022 had been prepared with key health and social care partners and an eight week public consultation period took place.
- 6.3 The strategy action plan will be developed with partners and the new service provider in spring 2019.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 7.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, Section 149, a public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—
- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
 - advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
 - foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

7.2 N/A - an EIA was carried out as part of the procurement process for the new treatment service.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 Local authorities' statutory responsibilities for public health services are set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (subsequently referred to as the '2012 Act'). As of 1 April 2013, Local Authority duty is to improve public health through mandated and non-mandated functions. Whilst drugs and alcohol is a non-mandated service, the Public Health grant condition state local authorities must have regard to the need to improve the take up of, and outcomes from, its drug and alcohol misuse treatment services.

8.2 Procurement rules apply for the tendered service and the winning provider will be announced at the end of March 2019 in line with the tender timetable and contract regulation rules.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 N/A - Drug and alcohol treatment services are funded via the public health grant and the budget for the next 3 years was agreed as part of the procurement process.

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 Reading Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Strategy for Young People and Adults - 2018-2022