

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**CABINET****30 September 2014****Report of the Strategic Director, Health and Communities****PROVISION OF FAMILY CARER SUPPORT SERVICES FOR
SUBSTANCE MISUSE – GRANT
(Health and Communities)****1. Purpose of the report:**

To seek approval to continue extend the current grant arrangements for the provision of Adult Family and Carer Support Services for substance misusers for the period 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2017.

2. Information and analysis:

The primary aim of a Family and Carer Service is to offer support to those affected by another's substance misuse and to help them cope with the negative impact on their own health and wellbeing. Also, supporting families and carers of substance misusers has the potential to improve engagement of substance misusers in treatment and to assist their recovery.

In Derbyshire, the Family and Carer Support Service has been a service commissioned previously by Health and principally designed to support adults. It has been delivered by SPODA, a small voluntary organisation based in Chesterfield. On 11 February 2014 following an unsuccessful procurement process incorporating a young person's element to the service in 2013, Cabinet approved the extension of the existing grant arrangements to 31 March 2015. At that meeting, Cabinet requested that alternative ways of delivering the adults service and a young persons' service for those affected by parental or sibling substance misuse be explored separately through either a new re-procurement process or a grant. This paper considers the adult service.

The current annual value of the Family and Carer service this year is £158,000 (including additional funding to cover services in Glossopdale from 01 July 2014). SPODA are a small local voluntary organisation committed to the needs of families and carers in Derbyshire experiencing problems with their loved ones who are using drugs. They are currently working towards clearer outcome tools to demonstrate their impact and to expand their reach into a wider demographic of families.

The substance misuse commissioning team aims to align all existing contracts to conclude in March 2017 in order to allow for the opportunity of commissioning a fully integrated drug and alcohol treatment service which would include family and carer support from April 2017. It is envisaged that a fully integrated service will increase positive outcomes for all service users at the same time as reducing costs and increasing efficiencies.

With this in mind, it is considered that the most appropriate solution which avoids unnecessary disruption to the existing client group and the strategic aims to improve the service is to continue the Family and Carer service through a grant process for the next two years to 31 March 2017. Including a proposed budget cut of 15% would take the annual value of grant to £134,300. Discussions are also taking place with SPODA with a view to working with them for the implementation of a new approach to their work which has demonstrated nationally validated improved outcomes for families and carers. This piloted approach would provide useful best practice evidence to support commissioning a new integrated service from April 2017.

3. Legal Considerations

The Director of Legal Services advises that it is reasonable for a grant-funded arrangement be established to provide an immediate interim solution pending the commissioning via open competition of an integrated service from April 2017. By grant funding, SPODA will not be contractually obliged to deliver any particular services although the Council may be able to claw back grant if it is unspent or misapplied.

4. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors have been considered: financial, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

5. Background papers:

Cabinet Paper 11 February 2014 – controlled (not for publication)

6. Key Decision:

No

7. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?
No

8. Officer's Recommendation:

That SPODA be awarded an annual grant of £134,300 from 01 April 2015 to 31 March 2017 to provide adult family carer support services for substance misuse.

**David Lowe
Strategic Director
Health and Communities**