

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET**

**4<sup>th</sup> September 2012**

**Report of the Strategic Director of Policy & Community Safety**

**Family and Carer Substance Misuse Support Service**

**Purpose of Report**

To seek approval to tender for the Family and Carers Support Service for substance misuse across Derbyshire from April 2013.

**Information and Analysis**

The current Family and Carer Support Service is commissioned by the Drug & Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) and the contract sits with the Derby City and Derbyshire County NHS Cluster. This organisation will cease to exist from April 2013 and the management of this contract will then become the responsibility of Derbyshire County Council as part of the transition of Public Health into the local authority.

The current contract covers the whole of the County with the exception of Glossop where a service is currently provided via Tameside and Glossop PCT, which will also cease to exist after April 2013. It will therefore be necessary to make provision for Glossop within the Derbyshire contract moving forward. Negotiations are underway with Tameside & Glossop colleagues to understand the practicalities.

The current contract has been running for over 11 years, during which time it has not been subject to a competitive procurement process. As such, it is appropriate to seek re-procurement of the service.

Treatment services within Derbyshire provide support for clients both in the community and in the County's two prisons, HMP Foston and HMP Sudbury. The effect their substance misuse has on other family members can be considerable and the current service engages parents, carers and partners of drug users to help reduce drug related harm and provide themselves with information and support in order to minimise risk.

The Family and Carer Service target group is adults aged 18 and over who are family members or carers affected by another person's substance misuse, regardless of whether or not the substance misuser is currently accessing treatment services. These may be parents, siblings, partners or

extended family, but not the substance misuser themselves. The service co-exists alongside drug treatment which also has to consider the whole family for treatment. However, families and carers often have specific needs themselves and appreciate the specialist knowledge of substance misuse and of living with a person who is involved in activity that is often personality changing, illegal, un-predictable, risky and socially stigmatising.

The service is an important part of the treatment programme and it provides information, training, access to family support groups, advocacy and alternative therapies to give families and carers time for themselves and reassurance. It also offers bereavement support for anyone who is faced with a drug related death.

Feedback shows that families and carers are more likely to engage with this service than with statutory services.

During 2011/12 600 face to face support sessions were provided and 149 new clients engaged with the current service, with just under 50% of referrals being self-referrals. In addition, there were 850 calls to the helpline (both new contacts and existing service users), and throughout the county 49 support groups (including grandparent support groups) were run during 2011/12, with a total of approximately 323 attendees.

Reaching and supporting families and carers has the potential to aid the recovery of people in groups that are hard to engage or access. Engaging effectively with family members' leads to a significant rise in the numbers of drug users entering and engaging with treatment services.

Services are commissioned most effectively when families and carers are actively involved in their planning, commissioning and consultation. Therefore the new commissioned Family and Carer Support Service would be designed in conjunction with previous and current service users. This would ensure that the service meets the needs of the communities it serves. A review of the service specification will improve the service for the families and carers of people with substance misuse problems.

The contract value for the current financial year 2012/13 is £145,586. This is made up of two grants from Derbyshire County Council Adult Care and Community Safety Departments totalling £89,275 plus a PCT contribution of £56,311. A new service specification will be developed, including a number of performance measures to be matched against an appropriate level of funding moving forward, seeking efficiencies where possible. A new three year contract (with potential for two further 12 month extensions up to a maximum of five years) will be offered.

The new commissioned service will include options to fluctuate contract values in order to include service provision in Glossop in future.

## **Financial Considerations**

Set out in the report.

## **Background Papers**

Procurement guide for commissioners of NHS-funded services - Department of Health July 2010.

Supporting and Involving Carers: a guide for commissioners and providers - National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse September 2008.

## **Legal Considerations**

As well as complying with Council Financial Regulations tendering for contracts with an estimated total value above the relevant EU threshold approx. £174k, (including any options to extend), must comply with procedures set out in the relevant EU Directives and applying to Part B services under the Public Contract Regulations 2006, as amended.

**Key Decision – No**

## **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: equality of opportunity, environmental, transport, property and crime and disorder considerations.

## **Officer's Recommendation**

That approval be given to re-procure a new Family and Carers Support Service for Derbyshire from April 2013.

**David Lowe – Strategic Director Policy & Community Safety**