

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

5 December 2019

Report of the Director of Public Health

Targeted Substance Misuse Service for Children and Young People

1. Purpose of the report

To seek Cabinet Member approval to undertake a procurement exercise for the provision of a targeted substance misuse service for children and young people identified as using drugs, alcohol and other psychoactive substances. To seek to delegate the approval of the award to the Director of Public Health.

2. Information and analysis

The Council has responsibility for commissioning services that provide support for Derbyshire residents who have substance misuse needs. This includes the provision of substance misuse services children and young people.

NHS Digital's *Smoking, Drinking and Drug use among Young People* report, which surveys pupils aged 11-15 in secondary schools across England reports that in 2018:

- 24% of pupils stated they had ever taken an illicit drug. This compares to 15% of pupils in 2014.
- The likelihood of having ever taken drugs increased with age, from 9% of 11 year olds to 38% of 15 year olds.
- 9% of pupils said that they had taken drugs in the last month. The likelihood of having taken drugs in the last month increased with age, from 2% of 11 year olds to 19% of 15 year olds.
- 44% of pupils reported having ever drunk alcohol. Of these, 14% of 11 year-olds reported ever having drunk an alcoholic drink, compared to 70% of 15 year-olds.
- Pupils who drank alcohol in the past week, consumed an average of 10.3 units.
- 22% of 15 year olds reported having been drunk in the last four weeks.

National guidance on the provision of substance misuse services for children and young people, states that there should be an integrated system of universal prevention, targeted and specialist services. Universal prevention services are provided primarily through schools and focus on building resilience. The role of targeted services is to screen higher risk populations to identify young people using drugs or alcohol, with the aim of preventing experimental and recreational

substance use developing into problematic or dependent use. The targeted service would refer those identified as needing more intensive support to the specialist service. Specialist services deliver care-planned support, which may include psychosocial, pharmacological and harm reduction interventions. Targeted services may also offer 'stepped-down' support for children and young people who have completed specialist treatment.

The Council currently commissions a specialist substance misuse service for young people under the age of 18, which is delivered by Change Grow Live (CGL). Following the national pattern the numbers of young people entering structured treatment in Derbyshire has fallen over recent years:

Year	No. in treatment
2015/16	159
2016/17	135
2017/18	80
2018/19	93

However, another factor in the fall in the number of young people being referred to the specialist service is the current lack of a targeted service in Derbyshire. The Childrens Services Department within the Council previously delivered the targeted service, but following the department review it has been decided that the department no longer has capacity to continue to provide this service. Therefore a procurement exercise is required to ensure a targeted service is available for children and young people in Derbyshire.

The proposed service will screen populations of children and young people, using a validated screening tool; deliver harm reduction interventions to those children and young people identified as using substances; refer those in need of more intensive support to the specialist service; and offer continued support to children and young people who have completed their planned programme of care with the specialist service.

The budget for the service is £0.112m per annum, with a planned start date of 1 April 2020 under an initial 4 year (2+2) contract. This will align with the contract period of the specialist service to allow the future option of integration.

3. Financial considerations

Funding of £0.112m for the service will be met from the Public Health substance misuse budget.

4. Other considerations

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

5. Background papers

N/A

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 the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities:

- 8.1 Approves the proposal to undertake a procurement exercise for a targeted substance misuse service for children and young people.
- 8.2 Agrees to delegate the approval of the award to the Director of Public Health.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health