

**From:** Andrew Scott-Clark, Director of Public Health

**To:** Graham Gibbens  
Cabinet Member, Adult Social Care and Public Health

**Subject:** **Young People's Substance Misuse Services – Contract Extension**

**Classification:** Unrestricted

**Past Pathway of Paper:** Children's Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee – 11 January 2017

**Future Pathway of Paper:** Cabinet Member Decision – 16/00144

**Electoral Division:** All

### **Summary**

The contract for the Kent Young People's Substance Misuse Service is due for renewal in March 2017. The service is performing well and, under the terms of the contract, can be extended to run until December 2017. A recently completed needs assessment highlights that there is an on-going need for specialist support for young people and their families, especially for the most vulnerable.

During 2017/18, Public Health will develop a new service specification and start a competitive procurement process in order to have a new service in place from January 2018. The funding needed for the contract extension is already identified and included within the 2017/18 Public Health budget. The longer-term risks associated with budget and service capability will be managed through effective commissioning of the service throughout the period of the contract extension and development of the new service.

### **Recommendations**

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to endorse:

- i) The proposed decision to extend the contract for the Kent Young Persons' Substance Misuse Service until December 2017
- ii) The proposed commissioning approach to procure a new contract during 2017/18

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. This paper presents an overview of the Kent Young Person's Substance Misuse Service and seeks endorsement of a proposed decision to invoke the extension clause within the current contract which allows it to be extended for nine months, and to run a competitive procurement process in 2017/18.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1. As part of its responsibilities for public health, KCC commissions a specialist Young Person's Substance Misuse Service to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and to improve the health and wellbeing of children and young people in Kent.

2.2. The service was competitively tendered in 2012 and is currently delivered by the health and substance misuse charity, Addaction (previously known as KCA). The current term of the contract comes to an end in March 2017 but includes provision for the contract to be extended to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017, subject to satisfactory performance.

### **3. Performance**

3.1. The Service provides a wide range of support including:

- targeted early intervention for vulnerable young people most at risk of substance misuse
- a specialist programme, known as RiskKit, designed to help young people address a range of risk-taking behaviours
- specialist substance misuse interventions / treatment for young people with more problematic substance misuse problems. This includes close links with Youth Offending Teams and Specialist Children's Services.

3.2. The service has performed well since the contract was awarded in 2012/13:

- The number of young people accessing specialist services in the community increased from 333 in 2012/13 to 357 in 2015/16
- Waiting times are shorter than the national average with all young people being seen within 3 weeks of referral
- 92% of young people leaving treatment in 2015/16 completed in a care-planned way. This is consistently higher than the national average (87% in 2014/15) even though treatment episodes are, on average, shorter in Kent.

### **4. Current and Future Needs**

4.1. KCC Public Health recently completed a young people's substance misuse needs assessment (summarised below) which can now be used to inform the future commissioning plans for the service

#### **Needs Assessment Summary:**

Levels of drug-taking and alcohol consumption among 11-15 year olds have been declining in recent years. This reflects the downward trend in the alcohol-related hospital admissions for young people under 18.

Whilst these are welcome trends, it is clear that substance misuse still presents a significant health risk for children and young people in Kent. For example:

- One-in-four deaths amongst 16-24 year olds are related to alcohol
- Children who drink are at a greater risk of brain damage and at greater risk of developing problems with alcohol in later life including dependency
- More than 9,000 children in Kent are estimated to be 'at risk' and particularly vulnerable to drug or alcohol misuse

- Young people who live in the most deprived areas are more likely to drink alcohol, drink at an earlier age, and to drink to excess.

4.2. The needs assessment concludes that further work is needed to improve the health and wellbeing of young people and ensure that they have the right level of support.

## 5. Commissioning Approach

5.1. The needs assessment includes a number of recommendations and highlights areas for further development to ensure that the service is even more responsive to the changing needs of young people and families in Kent and more effectively targeted at the most vulnerable.

5.2. It will be critical to ensure that the service is closely aligned with wider developments across children's services in Kent. In particular, the specialist substance misuse service will need to complement and support KCC's Early Help service offer, Youth Offending Teams and Specialist Children's Services.

5.3. During the remaining nine months of the contract, KCC Public Health will:

- **develop and consult on a new service specification by May 2017** – the specification will take account of the recommendations of the needs assessment and any wider changes across the system
- **start the procurement process by June 2017** – this will enable the new contract to be awarded by September and a service in place from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2018.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1. The Kent Young People's Substance Misuse Service is funded from the Public Health grant and a contribution from the Kent Police and Crime Commissioner. The contract value for 2016/17 is £854,000, although commissioners will be seeking to secure an efficiency saving as part of the contract extension. The maximum value of the nine-month extension is therefore £640,500.

6.2. The budget for the new contract from January 2018 onwards will need to be determined through the Public Health business planning and budgeting process and will help to shape the service specification and design.

6.3. The exact value of a new contract will be determined through the tendering process. There is a competitive market for substance misuse service contracts which will help to ensure that KCC secures best value for money.

## 7. Risks

7.1. The risks associated with extending the current contracts are low. The service is performing well against national benchmarks and provides good value for money. The contract includes provision to extend up to December 2017.

7.2. In the longer term, there is a risk that there will not be sufficient funding or provider capability to meet the changing needs of young people and families in Kent. These risks will be managed by carefully shaping and costing the specification for the new

service and feeding this in to the Public Health business planning and budgeting process.

- 7.3. The risk of lack of market interest or capability will be managed by engaging with and consulting potential service providers to stimulate the market and seek views on how the service should be specified and designed to reduce substance misuse and deliver better outcomes for young people in the most cost-effective way.

## **8. Conclusion**

- 8.1. KCC Public Health commission the Kent Young Persons' Substance Misuse Service to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol and to improve outcomes for children and young people. The service is currently delivered by the charity, Addaction through a contract that was tendered in 2012/13. The contract is performing well and includes a provision to extend up to December 2017, subject to satisfactory performance.
- 8.2. Public Health has recently completed a needs assessment. This highlights that drug and alcohol misuse among people has been declining in recent years but that substance misuse remains an important health concern. There is an on-going need for specialist support for young people and their families, especially for those who are more vulnerable and at risk of more problematic substance misuse problems.
- 8.3. The nine-month contract extension will provide time to develop a new service specification by April 2017 and start a competitive procurement process in the summer. This will allow contracts to be awarded by September and a new service in place from January 2018.
- 8.4. The funding needed for the contract extension is already identified and included within the 2017/18 Public Health budget. The longer-term risks associated with budget and service capability will be managed through effective commissioning of the service throughout the period of the contract extension and development of the new service.

## **9. Recommendations**

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health is asked to endorse:

- i)  
The proposed decision to extend the contract for the Kent Young People's' Substance Misuse Service until December 2017
- ii)  
The proposed commissioning approach to procure a new contract during 2017/18

## **Background Documents:**

Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment for Children and Young People in Kent, June 2016.  
Available at: <http://www.kpho.org.uk/health-intelligence/lifestyle/drugs-and-substance-misuse#tab1>

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