

Summary Sheet

Name of Committee and Date of Committee Meeting

Overview and Scrutiny Management Board – 16 May 2018

Report Title

Scrutiny Review – Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Services

Is this a Key Decision and has it been included on the Forward Plan?

No

Strategic Director Approving Submission of the Report

Shokat Lal, Assistant Chief Executive

Report Author(s)

Janet Spurling, Scrutiny Officer
01709 254421 or janet.spurling@rotherham.gov.uk

Ward(s) Affected

All

Executive Summary

This report sets out the main findings and recommendations from the cross-party spotlight scrutiny review of Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Services for adults undertaken by the Health Select Commission. The draft review report is attached as Appendix 1 for consideration by Members.

Recommendations

That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

- 1 Approve the report and recommendations as outlined in section 6 of the review report in Appendix 1.
- 2 Agree for the report to be forwarded to Cabinet and Commissioners for their consideration and to Council for information.
- 3 Agree that the response from Cabinet and Commissioners be reported back to the Health Select Commission.

List of Appendices Included

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny review report

Background Papers

As listed in section 8 of the review report.

Consideration by any other Council Committee, Scrutiny or Advisory Panel

Health Select Commission - 12 April 2018

Council - 23 May 2018

Cabinet and Commissioners Decision Making Meeting - 11 June 2018

Council Approval Required

No

Exempt from the Press and Public

No

Scrutiny Review – Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Services

1. Recommendations

1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board:

- a) Approve the report and recommendations as outlined in section 6 of the review report in Appendix 1.
- b) Agree for the report to be forwarded to Cabinet and Commissioners for their consideration and to Council for information.
- c) Agree that the response from Cabinet and Commissioners be reported back to the Health Select Commission.

2. Background

2.1 Under austerity the need to make budget savings has meant that when services are recommissioned this has often been with a smaller budget. Given the damaging impact that drug and alcohol misuse has, a cross-party sub-group of members of the Health Select Commission undertook a short spotlight review of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Service. The purpose was to ensure that the service, which would be operating within a reduced budget, would provide a quality, safe service under the new contract from April 2018.

3. Key Issues

3.1 The report in Appendix 1 presents the findings and recommendations from the cross-party spotlight review of Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Services for adults. This section summarises the main points that emerged from the review, which was structured around a number of core objectives. These were to:

- ascertain the prevalence of people with substance misuse issues in Rotherham
- understand the new service specification and budget
- understand the procurement process undertaken for the new contract
- clarify the key factors in a safe drug and alcohol service
- determine how effective support for people misusing drugs and alcohol is provided, taking account of the diverse needs of service users
- identify how performance is measured and good outcomes achieved
- consider the findings from an in-depth analysis of deaths by suicide in relation to service users in the Rotherham Care Group (mental health trust).

3.2 The review group received a detailed overview of substance misuse in Rotherham noting that the majority of service users are male and White British. Although numbers in service are declining over time there are a number of older long term drug users, many of whom now have associated physical health issues. A significant number of service users have used methadone for several years, which is one area where Public Health want to make significant progress under the new contract.

- 3.3 Performance on many of the measures/targets was good at the time of the review, mainly based on quarter one data for 2017-18 or rolling 12 month data. However successful exits from services after treatment have been challenging for some time and Rotherham has had a high percentage of people who re-present to services, particularly opiate users.
- 3.4 Bringing various aspects of the service together under a single contract, including having treatment and recovery services available in one location, may facilitate a more personalised and holistic approach to treatment and recovery. In-depth initial assessments are essential and re-assessments/reviews with service users important in identifying any changes in circumstances as well as enabling people to see their progress towards recovery.
- 3.5 The service specification sets out very clear aims and objectives for both treatment and recovery services, including a clear focus on safety. Naloxone use training (rapid antidote to heroin overdose) and proactive measures to raise awareness of safety concerns with service users and families were supported.
- 3.6 Outcomes of the detailed analysis of deaths by suicide will inform the work of the multi-agency Suicide Prevention and Self-Harm Group and Members highlighted the importance of continuing with suicide prevention awareness raising.

4. Options considered and recommended proposal

- 4.1 The review group formulated a number of recommendations, as set out on page 9 of Appendix 1, which were endorsed by the Health Select Commission.
- 4.2 Recommendation 1 is for a full progress report to the Health Select Commission in the autumn and if agreed this will be included in the draft work programme for 2018-19.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6. Timetable and Accountability for Implementing this Decision

- 6.1 The response from Cabinet and Commissioners to the review recommendations will be reported back to the Health Select Commission in September 2018.

7. Financial and Procurement Implications

- 7.1 Any financial and procurement implications will be considered by Cabinet in their response to the recommendations.
- 7.2 Recommendation 5 is specifically in relation to the procurement process.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from this report.

9. Human Resources Implications

- 9.1 None arising directly from this report, although the review identified the importance of a successful transfer of staff into change, grow, live (CGL) from previous service providers.

10. Implications for Children and Young People and Vulnerable Adults

- 10.1 The review focused on treatment and recovery services for adults, many of whom are vulnerable due to the nature of their substance misuse and the impact it has on their lives, especially during the early stages of their recovery journey.
- 10.2 Service providers provided assurance regarding parental capacity/safety, especially for service users with young children, and safeguarding training for staff, volunteers and peer mentors.

11. Equalities and Human Rights Implications

- 11.1 Scrutiny focuses on promoting equality through improving access to service and support, ensuring the needs of groups sharing an equality protected characteristic are taken into account.

12. Implications for Partners and Other Directorates

- 12.1 Public Health commission the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery service and oversee the performance management and delivery of the contract with CGL.
- 12.2 Various agencies and partners are involved in delivering a personalised holistic service, including housing support and GPs, plus CGL links with other organisations such as the Jobcentre and Shiloh.

13. Risks and Mitigation

- 13.1 As set out in section 3 of the review report, drug and alcohol misuse has a significant cost in both human and financial terms. Having a safe, accessible and effective treatment and recovery service helps to prevent some of the negative consequences.

14. Accountable Officer(s)

James McLaughlin, Democratic Services Manager and Statutory Scrutiny Officer

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