

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Cabinet
2.	Date:	21 May 2014
3.	Title:	Sucessful Application to Department of Health for Capital Funds to establish a ‘Recovery Hub’ for Drug Users in Rotherham
4.	Directorate:	NAS Public Health

5. Summary

Rotherham MBC in partnership with Lifeline has been successful in securing £875,000 capital funding following our recent expression of interest to the Public Health England Centre for a Rotherham Recovery Hub to support recovery from drug and alcohol dependence.

This investment supports the government’s significant interest in drug and alcohol recovery and follows allocations by the National Treatment Agency to the substance misuse sector in previous years.

There was a substantial level of interest, with over 200 bids submitted and, this interest significantly exceeded the £10m that was available nationally. Rotherham has done well to secure such a substantial proportion of the funding, and was the single largest grant agreed.

6. Recommendations

1. For Cabinet to support the development of the ‘ recovery’ hub’ in Rotherham .
2. That RMBC work with Lifeline to clarify how we ensure that the building, once renovated remains available as a resource for Rotherham should Lifeline cease to be a current provider of services.
3. To recognise that this proposal will require some consultation by Lifeline in relation to its proposed site but that the nature of this project should be positive for its surrounding neighbours/businesses as the focus is on people who are ready to leave a drug/alcohol using lifestyle and would be attending for a range of programmes on a voluntary basis. No site has yet been identified.

7. Proposals and Details

Currently Lifeline are contracted to RMBC to provide a range of alcohol and recovery interventions. They are currently based on Sheffield Road and organise a large range of service user related activities including a peer mentoring scheme where drug users support others into recovery. Treatment services are commissioned from Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) who are based at the Clearways building on Effingham Street.

With the change of focus from the coalition government being to increase the numbers of drug users who successfully leave the treatment system, the growth in recovery related activities such as group work, numbers of AA and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) groups and sessions related to employment and housing have increased. Key feedback from service users is the need to run some of these activities away from the treatment base at Clearways in order to offer some respite from coming into contact constantly with other active drug users. Many of the recovery activities have been relocated into the Lifeline building and others are run on a sessional basis in venues across the borough. It is clear that the current services offered from the Lifeline building are limited by the space available. Lifeline have developed a proposal alongside Public Health for capital funding to purchase and open a new building to act as a hub for these types of activities.

The turnaround time from the Department of Health was 12 days and the announcement of funding will be made during March. The detailed plans will be fully worked up pending Cabinet approval.

8. Finance

The award is for £875,000 to be managed over a minimum of a two year period. The proposed additional funding however would fund only a building, it is proposed that the existing operation from Lifeline would be transferred into the new building and the portion of the service contracted from RDaSH, which is focussed around recovery would also be relocated into the new building. This would create the staffing for the new service combined from two existing contracts and transferring the administrative and reception cover functions from existing services. This would also release running costs from two other buildings, the one occupied by Lifeline on Sheffield Road and a proportion of the Amberley Court building currently occupied by RDaSH.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- Identification and purchase of a suitable building which is acceptable as far as possible to the subsequent planning application is the first key challenge for this service. Unfortunately, often without considering the exact nature of the programme to be offered, the idea of any kind of drug service being based in a new place creates anxiety and meets a degree of prejudice. Previously this type of issue has been managed for the partnership by the NHS who have been responsible for commissioning these services until they transferred as part of Public Health on 1 April 2013. This would therefore be the first time RMBC have had to internally manage this type of process for substance misuse.
- Any type of service of this nature, can create new types of dependencies within the client group. One of the key themes of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy is dependence to independence, and it is crucial that any proposals have well structured exit plans in terms of the length of time that clients could expect to use this type of

service. Relapse from long term substance misuse rates are high and any service which has been instrumental in getting drug users off drugs in the first place are likely to be needed for a degree of ongoing support in the future. A key element of the planning would need to focus on ensuring that clients are equipped with a range of other support mechanisms within their local communities.

- The building would be a capital asset owned by Lifeline not RMBC. Should the building cease to be used at any time in the future for its original purpose, there is the risk that the asset would be lost to RMBC if Lifeline choose to do something else with it. This risk however operates in both directions as equally RMBC are not left with the responsibility of the building and its ongoing costs. It is proposed to draw up clear contractual arrangements with Lifeline on the advice of the Legal and Risk Management department to outline the strategy for managing this risk which would best serve the Rotherham population.

10. Policy and Performance Agenda Implications

PUBLIC HEALTH OUTCOME FRAMEWORK: INDICATOR 2.15(i) - Successful completion of drug treatment – opiate users

Measure:- Proportion of opiate users in treatment, who successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within 6 months

Latest performance (December 2013) – Rotherham 6.5% / National 7.9%

Rotherham's opiate using population is characterised by having large numbers of long term methadone users many of which are seen by their own GP in their area of residence. The more complex patients including those involved in the Drug Intervention Programme for the Criminal Justice System are seen by the RDaSH secondary care service based at Clearways. It is clear that in order to progress the recovery agenda for this client group, the prospect of recovery needs to be made more realistic as a possibility and one of the key ways to do this is to have a very visible programme that celebrates more positive experiences. An example of this type of activity has been seen in the recovery awards which have been running for the last two years presented by Rotherham's Mayors for both drug users and drug workers who have made significant contributions to promoting recovery within the borough.

The performance on this indicator within the Public Health framework is included in the calculation which releases the health premium level of funding for the Public Health Grant.

11. Background Papers and Consultation

Copy of the bid – Appendix 1.

Contact Name : Anne Charlesworth
Head of Drugs, Alcohol, Primary Care and NHS Contracts
255841
anne.charlesworth@rotherham.gov.uk