

## ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	<b>Health Select Commission</b>
2.	<b>Date:</b>	<b>4<sup>th</sup> December 2014</b>
3.	<b>Title:</b>	<b>Department of Health Capital Funding for a ‘Recovery Hub’ for Drug Users in Rotherham</b>
4.	<b>Directorate:</b>	<b>NAS Public Health</b>

### 5. Summary

Rotherham MBC in partnership with Lifeline (Alcohol and Drug ‘Tier 2’ provider service) have been successful in securing £875,000 capital funding from Public Health England (PHE) to purchase and refit suitable premises as a Rotherham Recovery Hub to support recovery from drug and alcohol dependence. The recovery services currently commissioned from RDaSH, alongside Lifeline and other services will be relocated to the ‘Hub’ which is expected to be open from April 2015.

### 6. Recommendations

**That Members:**

**6.1 Note and discuss the proposals for the Rotherham Recovery Hub, including the key issues outlined in paragraph 7.4.**

**6.2 Determine any future information on the project to be reported to the Health Select Commission.**

## **7. Proposals and Details**

Rotherham MBC in partnership with Lifeline (Alcohol and Drug 'Tier 2' provider service) have been successful in securing £875,000 capital funding from Public Health England (PHE) to purchase and refit suitable premises as a Rotherham Recovery Hub to support recovery from drug and alcohol dependence. The recovery services currently commissioned from RDaSH, alongside Lifeline and other services will be relocated to the 'Hub'.

This capital grant scheme was made available to support the recovery focus of the coalition government. Group work, housing, employment, training and lifestyle activities will be provided in a welcoming environment away from the main clinical treatment base, offering some respite for service users and avoiding them coming into contact constantly with other active drug users.

There was a substantial level of interest in the funding, with over 200 bids submitted. Rotherham's funding allocation was the single largest grant agreed.

### **7.1 Premises**

The ex-Youth Offending Service building, 'Carson House', Moorgate Road at its junction with Mansfield Road, Rotherham, has now been purchased and the process of planning and redevelopment is already underway. It is estimated that the premises will be open for use by 1<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and fully completed by July 2015

Under the funding grant the premises are owned outright by Lifeline, but are to be made available for up to 20 years to Rotherham as a Recovery Hub. After this time the premises become a Lifeline asset to use or dispose of as they see fit (the 20 yr time-scale can be reduced at any time by RMBC giving appropriate notice).

The premises are located in easy reach of the town centre and transport links and are in close proximity of the Job Centre Plus offices. The surrounding neighbours are predominantly business office premises and the change of use is expected to cause minimal impact of the surrounding area.

### **7.2 Practical arrangements**

RMBC are the allocated 'financial gatekeepers' of the PHE funding through the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) within Public Health.

Lifeline are responsible for dealing with the purchase of the premises and associated planning consent/conditions of use which they are doing through their planning property consultants 'Innova' - a Leeds based company.

RMBC have requested that where possible local contractors be approached to tender for the redevelopment work on the premises and that local opportunities for work experience be built into any awarded contract.

A project management group (made up of all key partners) has already been established meeting bi-weekly. Sub groups to deal with staffing, internal fittings and IT infrastructure have also been established.

The legal departments in RMBC and Lifeline have worked together to produce a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) document which has now been signed off by both parties. The MOU document outlines the terms of the funding and its conditions of use, a further MOU will be compiled closer to the opening of the premises.

### **7.3 Services**

Currently Lifeline are contracted to RMBC to provide a range of alcohol and recovery interventions based at premises on Sheffield Road.

Drug Treatment and Recovery Services are commissioned from Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust (RDaSH) based at the Clearways building on Effingham Street. Both of these services together with possibly additional support services will jointly occupy the premises (contract variations for change of address have been completed).

The premises will also be made available to other support groups (such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous).

### **7.4 Key issues**

1. RMBC Public Health will continue to work closely with Lifeline to ensure that the premises, once renovated are effectively used as a resource for the Substance misuse 'Recovery Agenda' in Rotherham.
2. Should Lifeline cease in the future to be the tendered provider of services (current contract to Nov 2015, with option of 2 yr extension), Public Health will manage the transition of a new provider within the facility. Lifeline would still have the option of maintaining a base within the premises if required e.g. as a regional office).
3. This proposal will require some planning consent by Innova Property Consultants Ltd on behalf of Lifeline in relation to its proposed use and alterations, but 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.

### **8. Finance**

The award granted is for £875,000 to be managed over a minimum of a two year period (distributed to Lifeline by Public Health England through Rotherham Council). The funding will only fund the building cost, refurbishment and fitments. By transferring the existing provision from Lifeline and RDaSH (recovery team) along with admin cover this will release running costs from the two current premises.

With the new premises being fitted out with regard to energy efficiency, no additional running costs are expected to be incurred above the existing contracts.

## **9. Risks and Uncertainties**

- Local Concerns - Unfortunately, often without considering the exact nature of use of new premises and the programmes 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.
- Services 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 recovery services 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 focuses on ensuring that clients are equipped with a range of other support mechanisms within their local communities.
- The building will 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.

Clear contractual arrangements (by way of a MOU) have been drawn up 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

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, '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.

**Contact Name :** Anne Charlesworth  
Head of Drugs, Alcohol, Primary Care and NHS Contracts,  
Public Health  
255841  
[anne.charlesworth@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:anne.charlesworth@rotherham.gov.uk)