

Councillor Chris Read – Leader of the Council

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Ms C Meleady

9th October 2020

By email

Dear Ms Meleady

Council Meeting – 30th September 2020

Thank you for submitting a question for the above Council meeting.

You ask “I understand that the consultation with victims and survivors of CSE about the re-commissioning of POST ABUSE services did not proceed because a full clinical governance structure was not in place. What steps have been taken to establish a full clinical governance structure for victims and survivors of CSE ahead of the re-commissioning of POST ABUSE services?”

In September 2018 the Council engaged the organisation A Centre of Excellence for Public and Patient Engagement (ACEPPE) to assist with the development of a consultation to support drawing up a needs analysis to inform the post-abuse CSE services commissioned by the Council.

Early in this pre-consultation phase significant ethical concerns were raised by current providers, Rotherham RISE and GROW, and by the clinical lead of the Trauma and Resilience Service, as well as the Associate Nurse Director of the Rotherham, Doncaster and South Humber Mental Health Trust about the approach advocated by ACEPPE.

I understand that Council officers worked with ACEPPE and stakeholders to try and seek consensus and enable the work to proceed as planned. However, it became apparent that it would not be possible to proceed in the way that ACEPPE advocated without agreeing a full clinical governance structure. This is the governance approach used by the NHS in order to protect patients who participate in the research. The Council’s commissioned services for post-abuse are intended to meet the needs of those people who might otherwise not meet thresholds for health services. Mental health services that might be required by CSE survivors are properly provided by the NHS, and the council is not a clinical organisation.

Despite this, consultation did take place, with the needs analysis informed by the views of existing service users through a questionnaire, and through a public survey that was hosted on the Council’s website and promoted to encourage survivors who had not used commissioned services to be able to take part; this approach did not require full clinical governance.

Yours sincerely



Councillor Chris Read
Leader of Rotherham Council