

Report for: Cabinet 19th January 2021

Title: Extension and variation of the Children, Young People and Families Substance Misuse Contract as allowed under Contract Standing Order (CSO) 10.02.1(b)

Report authorised by: Dr Will Maimaris – Interim Director of Public Health

Lead Officer: Sarah Hart – Senior Public Health Commissioner
Tel: 020 8489 1480 email: sarah.hart@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: ALL

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:** key decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report seeks agreement from Cabinet as allowed under Contract Standing (CSO) 10.02.1 (b), for the extension and variation of the contract held by Humankind for the Children, Young People and Families Substance Misuse to enable an 8 month extension of the contract to 30th November 2021. The provider has provided a valuable service with good outcomes for families with substance misuse issues.
- 1.2 Extension of the existing contract is being sought for 8 months to allow sufficient and reasonable timeframe to prepare documentation and service provider submissions, which have been delayed due to the impact of Covid 19
- 1.3 The annual value of the Children, Young People and Families Substance Misuse contract is £285,000 per year. The original contract was awarded for one year from 1st April 2019, with option to extend for 6 months. A further extension for six months was approved to allow time for the service to be retendered and a new contract put in place however, this has been delayed due to disruptions caused by the pandemic. The total value of the contract is currently £570,000. The additional value for 8 months is £190,000. The total value over the lifetime of the contract inclusive of the extension period will be £760,000.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 The Council recognises that most young people in Haringey live lives free of substance misuse. However, if a child or young person develops a problem it is clearly important that they and their family have access to specialist young people and family focused support.
- 2.2 The current service Insight Platform plays a central role in identifying substance misuse problems early. For those identified with a problem it provides a whole family service. Its universal level outreach service going into schools, colleges, and youth services, last year reached over eight hundred children and young people and four hundred and forty-one parents and families. Its targeted work links into alternative education, early help and the criminal justice youth service. Each year the number of children and young people needing structured help is increasing, last year the service saw two hundred and thirteen young people under 18 years. Outcomes are impressive with 92% leaving the service in a planned way.
- 2.3 The contract for this service comes to an end in March 2021, and the intention was to tender the service in spring 2020. However, the process was interrupted by the Covid 19 pandemic resulting in the lock down of families and the closure of schools. It became extremely important that the current service remain in place to create stability for vulnerable families and continuity for young people. Any tendering at this point would have been extremely disruptive to the service.
- 2.4 I therefore support the proposed variation and extension.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 For Cabinet to agree to the extension and variation of the contract with Humankind Charity for the provision of Children, Young People and Families Substance Misuse services -as allowed under Contract Standing Order 10.2.1 (b) for a period of up to 8 months from 1st April to 30th November 2021 at a maximum value of £190,000 The total cost over the life of the contract is therefore, £760,000.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 In March 2020 Cabinet agreed extension and variation of the existing contract, to bring its end date in line with the completion of the Innovation Fund Project for Children of Alcohol Dependent Parents (CADP). The CADP for which the Council receives external grant funding, is due to end on the 31st March 2021. CADP is logistically being delivered within the service we are seeking to extend.
- 4.2 It is proposed that Cabinet extend the current contract for 8 months to allow sufficient and reasonable timeframe to prepare documentation and service provider submissions.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Council is not mandated to provide this service. It could decide to no longer commission this service for its residents. However, there is high demand for this service and no alternative project /programme to refer children, young people and families into. The commissioning of this service is in line with the Council's intention to ensure every child thrives.
- 5.2 The Council could decide not to extend the contract for the 8 months period. However, given the impact of a second wave of the pandemic during winter months, it is unlikely that the market would be able to respond to a tender before March 2021. Providers of these types of services are themselves facing staffing issues, are having to find new ways of working with residents and are dealing with complex safeguarding issues.

6. Background information

- 6.1. *Why the service is needed* - A service for young people with substance misuse problems is required because whilst most young people do not use drugs or alcohol problematically, those that do often need specialist clinical and psychosocial treatment. In 2018/19 young people seeking treatment in Haringey had the following profile:

- Entered treatment with problematic use of cannabis (96%) and or alcohol (29%)ⁱ
- Were most likely to be referred by education services (56%) followed by mental health services (22%) and youth justice service (20%)
- 15-year olds represented the highest proportion (32%) of young people in treatment in Haringey
- Where there were additional vulnerabilities, the most common vulnerability was children's service involvement (12%), anti-social behaviour or criminal acts (9%), being not in education, employment and training (3%) or experiencing domestic abuse in the family (3%).
- The majority were seen within generic youth services, the rest chose to come to Insight's base which is solely for children, young people and families.

The Haringey service also helps families with different sorts of substance misuse related need:

- Parents with a child who is misusing substances and requires advice
- Parents in the drug and alcohol services who need advice regarding parenting
- Parents with substance misuse issues who are not in contact with the main substance misuse service for whom this is an access point into treatment.

- 6.2. *Outcomes of the service* - In terms of outcomes, in 2018/19 the service reached its targets and provided the following:

- 821 young people attended a universal awareness raising session
- 441 parents and family members were given advice and information
- 213 young people entered a structured treatment programme
- 92% of young people who left treatment did so in a planned way

- 66 family assessments were completed for families affected by parental substance misuse and a care plan started
- 54 children of substance misusing parents were provided with a service
- 119 professionals were given advice and 22 trained on substance misuse

Healthwatch independently reviewed the service and reported that 'The service is valued by service users, particularly their relationship with their key worker, the flexibility of the service and the holistic approach to support, which includes help with things like housing, benefits and child custody'. (Healthwatch 2017).

In 2017 the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspected the service, whilst not rating independent standalone substance misuse services, it found the following areas of good practice:

- Staff fully involved clients of all ages in the process of assessing and treating their needs. Clients had clearly defined recovery goals.
- Risk management and safeguarding procedures were effective. Staff worked in partnership with other organisations to reduce the risk of harm to clients.
- Staff in the service had the skills and knowledge to work with clients and families where substance misuse was an issue. The service provided a range of individual and group work interventions to support clients.
- Staff ensured consent to treatment was obtained from clients in accordance with legal requirements.
- Staff were positive about working for the service. They were supported by their managers to provide a high-quality service.
- The service was seen by clients as welcoming and friendly. They said the interventions provided by staff helped them to reduce risks and improve family relationships. They said staff listened to them and acted on their views.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

This service is linked to the Borough Plan, in particular Priority 2: People, Outcome 5: Happy childhood: all children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family, networks and communities; *Objective (C) 'Children and young people will be physically and mentally healthy and well'* and Outcome 7: All adults are able to live healthy and fulfilling lives, with dignity, staying active and connected in their communities; *Objective (A) 'Healthy life expectancy will increase across the borough, improving outcomes for all communities'*.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

8.1 Finance Comments

- 8.1.1 The report seeks to extend the contract to Humankind for the provision of Children and Young People and Families Substance Misuse for 8 months from 1st April 2021 to 30th November 2021 at the cost of up to £190,000.
- 8.1.2 The funding for the entire contract extension is from the ringfenced Public Health grant.
- 8.1.3 The funding set out above is predicated upon the Public Health grant continuing at similar levels in 2021-22.

8.2 Procurement

- 8.2.1 This provision falls within scope of Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulation (PCR) 2015. As such a contract of this value would usually have to be appropriately advertised
- 8.2.2 This contract was originally let sub- threshold so the PCR would not have applied at inception; the requested variation, however, puts the contract within scope of the Regulations. A modification would usually mean a new tender process. However, under Regulation 72 (1) (c) contract modification during term is permitted if, among other things the changes are unforeseen. The requested modification is required due to the COVID pandemic which the Council could not have been reasonably foreseen or the time that the virus would be in circulation, the devastating effect it would have on the populace or economy and consequently the supplier market's ability to deliver service provision or take part in a tender process due to disruption caused
- 8.2.3 The variation may also be permitted under Contract Standing Orders and the Procurement Code of Practice and may be approved
- 8.2.4 Humankind has been providing a valuable service including inter alia advice, guidance and treatments with laudable outcomes for vulnerable families and young people at risk. During the extension period the commissioning team will monitor service delivery to ensure positive outcomes continue to be delivered, as well as tender, for new provision when the exigencies of the COVID pandemic are more conducive to competitive market activity

8.3 Legal

- 8.3.3 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) has been consulted in the preparation of the report.
- 8.3.4 Pursuant to Contract Standing Order 10.02.1(b) Cabinet may approve an extension or variation to a contract valued at £500,000 or more provided the extension or variation is compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended).

- 8.3.5 The variation of the contract which this report relates to is within the scope of Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (as amended) (the “Regulations”), and is permissible under Regulation 72(1)(c) of the Regulations, which provides that a modification of a contract is permissible where the modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent authority could not have foreseen, the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract, and any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the original value of the contract.
- 8.3.4 The Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) sees no legal reasons preventing Cabinet from approving the recommendations in the report.

8.4 Equality

The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.

The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

The proposed decision is to agree to an 8 extension and variation of the contract under Contract Standing Orders 10.2.1 (b) for a period of up to 8 months from 31st March 2021 to 20th November 2021 with Humankind Charity for the provision of Children, Young People and Families Substance Misuse services. The objective of the contract extension is to reduce harm to young people and families caused by substance misuse. This extension of the contract will affect young people and families who access substance misuse services in Haringey, the main protected groups who are likely to be affected by the decision are therefore children and young people among whom women are overrepresented.

We know that due to COVID-19 and the lockdown, rising unemployment and reduced opportunities caused by the pandemic are likely to disproportionately affect the people most vulnerable to substance misuse. Therefore, the extension of the contract is a measure to meet the needs of certain young people where these differ to the needs of others, and accordingly represents a measure that will advance equality of opportunity.

As an organisation carrying out a public function on behalf of a public body, Humankind Charity will be obliged to have due regard for the need to achieve the three aims of the Public Sector Equality Duty as stated above. Appropriate contract management arrangements will be established to ensure that the

delivery of the service does not result in any preventable or disproportionate inequality.

The Council noted that the service is not monitoring disability and sexual orientation of our service users and have therefore organised training to help facilitate better data collection. HumanKind Charity must report demographic data to Public Health England monthly. This information is then received by commissioners quarterly, which is shared at the quarterly meeting between the provider and the service which is used to identify any inequalities in service provision and to inform future equalities analysis.

Use of Appendices

None

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None

ⁱ Quarter 4 2017/18 NDTMS