

Meeting:	Health and social care overview and scrutiny committee
Meeting date:	28 April 2017
Title of report:	Substance misuse services update
Report by:	Director of public health

Classification

Open

Key decision

This is not an executive decision.

Wards affected

Countywide

Purpose

To provide an overview of performance of substance misuse services (provided by Addaction) across Herefordshire in order to provide assurance.

Recommendations

That the committee

- (a) review the performance of the substance misuse service;**
- (b) determine any recommendations it may wish to make to deliver improved performance; and**
- (c) agree a forward timetable for any future reviews of the substance misuse service.**

Alternative options

1. There are no relevant alternative options. It is the role of the committee to review the performance of the council (and health partners) and make recommendations for improvement where appropriate.

Reasons for recommendations

2. To enable the health and social care overview and scrutiny committee to fulfil its function.

Key considerations

3. Since 1 December 2015, Addaction has been providing substance misuse and alcohol services for Herefordshire residents. The organisation took over this function from 2gether NHS Foundation Trust following an open competitive tendering process.
4. Addaction is a charity founded in 1967 that supports people to make positive behavioral changes, most notably with alcohol and drug misuse, and mental health. The charity works extensively throughout England and Scotland.
5. The latest figures available, which cover 2016, show that the charity provided services to over 75,000 people in sites across the country, from Argyle and Bute down to Cornwall. Over 100 services offer drug and alcohol treatment support to adults, young people and families in community-based programmes (29 services in Scotland, 24 services in west England, 24 in London, 16 south west England, 10 in Yorkshire, 4 south of England).
6. In Herefordshire, during the first three quarters of 2016-17, there has been a significant variation in the successful completion rates for all of the three treatment categories (i.e. Opiates, Non-opiates and alcohol users). These are below the set targets. In addition to the services factors (e.g. transition issues, vacancies), this can largely be attributed to the new “recovery model” of treatment. However, a Service Improvement Action Plan has been put in place to achieve the targets.
7. Partnership working across Herefordshire has been strengthened. Addaction is fully engaged with both Herefordshire safeguarding boards, Healthwatch, Veterans Programme and other local stakeholders. This has been enabling Addaction to develop an effective pathway for referrals both in and out of the services.
8. A new Naloxone programme was launched in September 2016 and Naloxone distribution is currently restricted to Addaction clients only. Addaction has secured £7k funding from a national grant and a wider programme of Naloxone training will be launched soon. This will involve training staff in pharmacies, police, prisons, homelessness teams, primary care, housing providers and social services and any other organisation that may come into contact with drug users. This programme is aimed at preventing deaths due to heroin and morphine overdose in community.
9. Addaction has been successfully recruiting to the vacant staff positions and only a handful of vacancies are left to be filled, out of a total staffing complement of around 31 positions.
10. Addaction’s county wide services are fully operational through one hub in Hereford and three spokes in Leominster, Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury. This means that clients across the county are able to access services in locations that are convenient to them. Easy access to services has been identified as a key factor in securing effective management and recovery from addiction.
11. A new working agreement has been established with the Community Rehabilitation Company. This will enable Addaction to provide optimum care to the offenders on court orders for treatment.
12. Addaction received a Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection in October 2016 and was found to be demonstrating all of the key five principles of the CQC standards framework. A few areas of improvement were identified and an action plan has been developed and implemented. Progress is reported to the council at the quarterly contract management meetings.

Community impact

13. Addaction provides an equitable substance misuse service through hub and spoke model across the county. This ensures easy service access for clients from the locations convenient to them.

Equality duty

14. The focus of public health programmes is to reduce health inequalities and to commission services that are accessible to hard to reach communities. All of the services that are funded by the public health grant demonstrate the council's commitment to its equality duty.

Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 imposes a duty on the council to have due regard to the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic (disability being one such characteristic) and persons who do not share it. Addaction service is open to all and therefore meets the equality duty for the substance misuse clients.

Public health programmes/services aim to identify and support those who suffer from or are at a high risk of developing physical and mental health problems. Continued improvement and development of these programme/services will support the council in discharging it's duty under the Act and will help deliver the three aims of the duty:

- eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct ... prohibited by or under this Act;
- advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it."

Financial implications

15. Substance Misuse service is fully funded through a Public Health grant by the Department of Health (DH). This grant is ring-fenced till March 2019. From April 2019, new funding arrangements will come into force. The implications will be considered as part of the Medium Term Financial Strategy.
16. The annual cost of the Addaction contract is £1,784k. The current contract runs until 2018, with an option to extend for up to 2 years.

Legal implications

17. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 provides that local authorities have a statutory duty to improve the health of their population, which includes the provision of substance misuse services. Substance misuse services are one of the functions mandated in the Public Health regulations.

Risk management

18. There is a reputational risk to the council if it fails to discharge its public health responsibilities as set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Consultees

12. None in relation to the recommendations. The views of service users and stakeholders are gathered through formal and informal routes. This has helped to shape the provision of spokes.

Appendices

Appendix a – Addaction Herefordshire presentation

Background papers

None identified.