

Record of operational decision

Decision title:	Decision to vary the Herefordshire Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service contract to include funding for assertive outreach workers and increased online interventions for early identification of risky drinking as identified within the corporate Covid-19 Recovery Plan.
Date of decision:	19 July 2021
Decision maker:	Acting Director of Public Health
Authority for delegated decision:	<p>Authority is granted under the Chief Executive scheme of delegation SA04:</p> <p>To discharge any functions in relation to the corporate public health duties of the council authorised to the director of public health under the NHS Act 2006 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012, including responsibility for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The annual report on the health of the local population; • Improving public health, including commissioning alcohol and drug misuse services, sexual health services, child health services, smoking cessation services; • Planning for, and responding to, emergencies that present a risk to public health; • Promoting safer communities by working with local criminal justice partners and police and crime commissioners, the probation service and the prison service; • The council's public health response to licensing applications; • Developing wellbeing, implementing the health and wellbeing strategy
Ward:	Countywide
Consultation:	<p>Informal consultation has taken place with partner agencies, primary care and community hospital in favour of trialling interventions to manage those most vulnerable and complex drinkers and increase early identification of risky and problematic drinking. No consultation with service users completed due to time constraints.</p> <p>A specialist community provider for alcohol treatment is already commissioned by the Council therefore approaching the market at this time would not result in better value for money.</p>
Decision made:	To award a variation to the existing contract, for the remainder of the current financial year 21/22, for Specialist Alcohol treatment to fund specialist assertive outreach workers and online interventions to increase early identification of risky drinking including evaluation of the project.
Reasons for decision:	<p>Evidence suggests increased use of alcohol throughout the covid-19 pandemic, the closure of many support services and reduced contact with support networks or health services such as GP will have significantly delayed early identification of problematic and risky drinking.</p> <p>Increasing the reach of the current service to expand online interventions and campaigns for early identification of risky drinking will contribute to preventing a further escalation of alcohol related harm including liver damage and increased mental ill health.</p>

	<p>The specialist provider will be commissioned to ; :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deliver increased online marketing, awareness and harm reduction • Deliver online Self Help modules • Increased Brief Interventions following identification of risky drinking by partner agencies e.g. GP Health Checks, Mental Health services, Online Self screening <p>Nationally, alcohol related deaths rose by 19.6% in 2020, this is the highest level recorded in a single calendar year since the start of modern records (in 2001).</p> <p>Locally we have seen increasing deaths in vulnerable drinkers, many of whom have had disruption to their engagement in support services due to the impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>Changes to support systems have also led to increased mental health issues and complexities in many cases.</p> <p>The specialist provider will be commissioned to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recruit specialist assertive outreach workers • to increase the successful engagement of the most complex and vulnerable drinkers. • Reducing the risk of ongoing harm and frequent admission to hospital. <p>Individuals requiring support will be identified primarily through the alcohol multi-disciplinary team (MDT) hosted by Wye Valley Trust.</p> <p>An evaluation of the project will be completed detailing activity levels and recommendations for future provision.</p>
<p>Highlight any associated risks/finance/legal/equality considerations:</p>	<p>£125,000 for 2021/22 from Covid-19 recovery monies</p> <p>Funding for a further financial year (2022/23) to be paid for from the Public Health Ring-fenced Grant</p> <p>Low risk of non-delivery</p> <p>The extension of the current contract with the specialist treatment provider is compliant with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015:</p> <p>72.— Modification of contracts during their term</p> <p>(1) Contracts and framework agreements may be modified without a new procurement procedure in accordance with this Part in any of the following cases:—</p> <p>(b) for additional works, services or supplies by the original contractor that have become necessary and were not included in the initial procurement, where a change of contractor—</p> <p>(i) cannot be made for economic or technical reasons such as requirements of interchangeability or interoperability with existing equipment, services or installations procured under the initial procurement, [and]<u>1</u></p>
<p>Details of any alternative options considered and rejected:</p>	<p>Alternative options are unavailable at present.</p> <p>The proposal is part of the COVID-19 recovery plan for Herefordshire which requires a rapid response.</p> <p>It would be neither time nor cost effective to approach the wider market regarding this time limited project.</p>
<p>Details of any declarations of interest made:</p>	<p>None</p>

