



**DECISION OF: JO WALKER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE
IN CONSULTATION WITH: CLLR DONALD DAVIES (LEADER OF THE
COUNCIL), CLLR RICHARD TUCKER (CHAIR OF THE HEALTH OVERVIEW
SCRUTINY PANEL), AND MATT LENNY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH.**

DECISION NO: CSD101 2019/2020

**SUBJECT: AWARD OF THE SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE CONTRACT
(SPECIALIST COMMUNITY BASED ADULT DRUG AND ALCOHOL TREATMENT)**

KEY DECISION: YES

REASON: The total value of this contract award is over £500,000

BACKGROUND:

The current contract for the adult, community based drug and alcohol treatment services (called the Substance Misuse Service) runs from April 2015 until March 2020. This service is a combined drug and alcohol treatment and support service offering a wide range of interventions including advice and information, medically assisted detoxification, one-to-one sessions, structured day-programmes, needle exchange service, to prescribing programmes, volunteering opportunities and formal education sessions.

There remains an ongoing need for effective local treatment and support programmes for problematic drug and/or alcohol users and, as such, the Substance Misuse Service was recommissioned. The new service is composed of elements that are broadly similar to those currently being provided, e.g. treatment for drug and alcohol problems, pharmacological interventions, psychosocial interventions, support for other concurrent problems, and re-integration support, however bidders were given more discretion as to how they might deliver some of the “non-core” elements in order to improve outcomes.

DECISION:

Following a process of competitive bidding, to award the Substance Misuse Service contract to Addaction PLC (Registered office address: Part Lower Ground Floor, Gate House, St. John's Square, London, England, EC1M 4DH) for up to seven years, beginning from 1 April 2020.

REASONS:

Given the value of this decision it was intended to be an Executive Decision and was scheduled for approval at the December 2019 Executive meeting, which was cancelled because it falls in the pre-election period.

This contract requires a three-month mobilisation period which necessitates award before the end of 2019, therefore it is requested that the decision to award this contract to Addaction as the preferred provider be made under the emergency powers provision (as stipulated in the Council's Constitution). In accordance with the emergency powers, the decision (detailed within this paper) can be made by the Council's Chief Executive and as such is considered to be a Director Decision. The decision will be reported to the next meeting of the Executive as required by the constitution.

The new service will operate from 1 April 2020 for a maximum of seven years. The budget for this service is £1,450,000 per year. Listed below are the key completed milestones for the recommissioning and re-procurement of the Substance Misuse Service:

- Feb 2019 – Notice placed on the procurement portal inviting interested providers to express an initial interest and to attend a discussion with commissioners.
- Mar 2019 – Meetings held with potential bidders. These meetings were used to explore the initial ideas for the new service.
- March to end of August 2019 - Specification and tender documents created
- May 2019 - Commissioning Plan presented and approved at Full Council
- May 2019 - Procurement Plan approved by Executive Member.
- 31 July 2019 – Stakeholder engagement session
- 4 September 2019 – Tender documents published on the procurement portal
- 9 October 2019 – Closing date for bid submission
- 28 October 2019 – Moderation Panel Meeting to assess bids and agree preferred provider.

Two bids were received. Both organisations passed all the Selection Questionnaire requirements. As the price for this contract was fixed (£1,450,000 per year) assessments were made on the quality of the service model rather than financial considerations.

The quality element of the bids was marked independently by an assessment panel made up of: the Substance Misuse Commissioning Manager, Commissioning Support Officer, Consultant in Public Health, High Impact Families Lead, and Clinical Commissioning Group Medicines Management. The panel members met on the 28 October at a Moderation Meeting chaired by Nicola Scribens (Strategic Procurement). At this meeting the individual scores were discussed, and a final, jointly agreed score was set. The final scores were: Addaction – 82% and Turning Point – 74%. Therefore, the assessment panel recommended that the contract be awarded to Addaction.

Contract Management:

Following contract award, this contract will be managed by the Substance Misuse Commissioning Manager. A detailed Contract Management Plan including key performance indicators will be produced jointly by Procurement and the Contract Manager. Initially, formal monthly performance meetings will be held with a view that they will revert

to quarterly meetings when the new service model has been implemented and is performing well. The Provider, in preparation for these meetings will submit a fully completed report, in a format specified by the Council, no later than one week prior to the meeting. The Provider will supply all necessary information with which to provide a clear, robust understanding of the outcomes achieved through the service and through effective interaction with other Council commissioned or delivered or partner organisation programmes.

OPTIONS CONSIDERED:

Under the Health and Social Care Act, 2012, the Council has a duty to commission or provide an effective substance misuse service to meet local population needs and improve associated outcomes. Different models for providing this service were considered as part of the original commissioning plan.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

Costs:

- The new contract will cost a fixed price of £1,450,000 per year.
- The potential cost of the full seven years of the contract is £10,150,000.
- The contract is for an initial five-year term (until March 2025) with the option to extend for an extra two years (until March 2027).

Funding:

The costs will be met by the Local Authority Public Health grant.

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS:

The service is a public health service; the responsibility to provide public health services was conferred to Local Authorities by the Health and Social Care Act 2012. In addition; a condition of the Public Health Grant is that Local Authorities must “have regard to the need to improve the take up of, and outcomes from, its drug and alcohol misuse treatment services.” This Service will support the Council in meeting this condition of the grant.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:

As part of the response to the quality element of the tender documents Addaction have proved a series of commitments, including measurable targets, relating to climate change. These will be monitored as part of the formal quarterly performance reviews.

CONSULTATION:

Stakeholder and service user consultation was conducted during the three-month period April to June 2019 and a stakeholder engagement event was held in July 2019. Senior Council officers (including the Director of Public Health, the Head of Strategic Procurement and the Head of Finance), elected members and leaders from partner organisations have been briefed during the procurement process.

RISK MANAGEMENT:

- **Failure to approve the contract award** – not awarding this contract would result in either the current contract having to be extended or the provision of specialist drug and alcohol treatment could be stopped. Stopping the service could produce several negative outcomes including the end of treatment for many vulnerable service users; inability to realise savings planned within the new contract financial envelope; and damage to the Council’s reputation.
- **Failure to implement the new service by 1 April 2020** – assuming the contract award is approved, the 3-month mobilisation period should be sufficient to implement the new service.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

The EIA process has been followed as part of the Council’s Medium Term Financial Plan. Once the contract has been awarded the detail of the new service model will be tested fully against the EIA process and will record any potential impact on groups with protected characteristics. The Council and Addaction will also work together to develop and implement strategies for reducing any identified impacts. The impact of the service on groups with protected characteristics will be monitored through formal quarterly performance reviews.

CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS:

The delivery of effective drug and alcohol treatment is likely to reduce demand on social care services; support the work of the community safety team; and support the Weston Town Centre regeneration project.

APPENDICES:

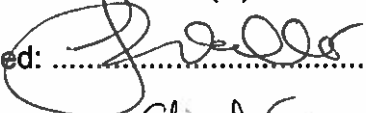
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BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Commissioning Plan – 14 May 2019 (Recommissioning of the adult community based drug and alcohol treatment service).

SIGNATORIES:

DECISION MAKER(S): JO WALKER, CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Signed: 

Title: *Chief Executive*

Date: *12/12/2019*

IN CONSULTATION WITH:

COUNCILLOR DONALD DAVIES, LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

Signed: 

Title: LEADER NIC

Date: 17.12.19

COUNCILLOR RICHARD TUCKER, CHAIR OF THE HEALTH OVERVIEW SCRUTINY PANEL

Signed: 

Title: H.O.S.P. CHAIR

Date: 19/12/19

MATT LENNY, DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Signed: 

Title: DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Date: 12/12/2019

Footnote: Details of changes made and agreed by the decision taker since publication of the proposed (pre-signed) decision notice, if applicable:



