

14 January 2019**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF SERVICE DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC COMMISSIONING, ADULT
ACCESS & SAFEGUARDING****MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICE****Purpose of the Report**

1. To inform Committee on the progress made on the re-commissioning of the Mental Health Support Service.

Information

2. The Service is provided to people across the whole of Nottinghamshire. Approximately 700 people each year are supported to address issues with housing, benefits and debt management, but also to achieve broader goals around social connection, education, training & employment and physical health management. Referrals to the service are currently managed by social care staff within Community Mental Health Teams. Service users tell us that the service is valued very highly, often citing it as the intervention that has made the biggest difference to them.
3. The current contracted service commenced on the 1st October 2012. Under the Public Contract Regulations 2015 the service should have ceased on the 30th September 2017. The Provider, Framework Housing Association, continues to provide the service under the terms of the contract established in 2012 and the Council continues to monitor the service provided under these terms.
4. The service is directly funded by Nottinghamshire County Council to the value of £1.458M a year. The contract comprises a core support service and also 42 units of supported accommodation. From April 2015 to March 2017, £800k of this funding came from Public Health Grant, making Public Health the lead commissioner. Re-commissioning discussions were commenced in 2016, but there was significant uncertainty around the future funding for the service. Since the service plays a key role in ASCH prevention, alternative funding was identified from the Better Care Fund. This was approved by ASCPH Committee on 10th July 2017.
5. In December 2017, ASCH Senior Leadership Team considered a proposal in relation to a commissioning approach for both the Mental Health Support Service and Supported Accommodation services, which will be progressed separately. This progressed to ASCPH Committee in March 2018, but there continues to be scrutiny over the on-going investment levels in these services in order to adhere to the budget requirements for 2019-20.

6. The current and potential scope of the core support service make it ideal for inclusion in an integrated (health and social care), mental health care and support pathway, providing non-clinical service elements focussed on recovery, resilience and prevention. Since Clinical Commissioning Groups were in the process of reviewing their mental health offer and, coupled with the uncertainty of future funding, it felt appropriate to seek a more joined up approach.
7. A meeting was held with health and City Council partners on the 3rd May 2018 to explore any areas of duplication and the potential for a collaborative tendering approach aimed at improving use of resources to achieve a consistent and integrated service offer.
8. A collaborative approach was deemed appropriate by all stakeholders and further discussions have followed in each of the three health planning areas (Greater Notts, Mid Notts and Bassetlaw) to explore how this might be progressed. In Mid Notts, this resulted in the development of a proposed new Primary Care Mental Health model that included a Community Based Support element. However, at this stage, the financial contribution required from health to enable the model to be implemented, has not been identified. Less progress has been achieved in Bassetlaw, but there is on-going dialogue about integrated commissioning options. Discussions have not progressed in Greater Notts, where lack of resources across the four CCGs are seen as too great a barrier.
9. These discussions have taken place during a period in which service improvement and integrated commissioning have been identified as priorities across both Integrated Care Systems (formerly known as Sustainability and Transformation Partnerships); mental health services delivered by the Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust have undergone significant review and redesign to create a shift towards managing more people's mental health needs in primary care settings; and there has been increased national focus on the level and quality of local mental health services. It has therefore been, both logically and strategically, appropriate to pursue this approach.
10. The continuation of this service, however, is contrary to the County Council's Financial Regulations and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and so it must be tendered at the earliest opportunity.
11. The ASCPH Senior Leadership Team have now determined that they will not be seeking savings against this service from April 2019.
12. It has therefore been determined that the Council should now move to tender a redesigned service using a Framework Agreement, so that health commissioners could access the contract at a subsequent point without their full commitment being confirmed at the outset. Whilst this is likely to increase the risk of separate and unaligned commissioning, it will allow the Council to proceed without closing off all options for integrated service commissioning.
13. A draft specification for a support service is now being produced for consultation in January/February 2019 ahead of a tender to commence by the end of April. Allowing for a three month tender period and three month implementation period, it is anticipated that new contracts will be in place from November 2019.
14. The supported accommodation will be tendered separately. Having completed a soft market testing exercise, a specification has now been prepared and tendering is scheduled to commence in February 2019. Commencement of new contracts will be determined by the accommodation options presented through the tender process.

Other Options Considered

15. The Council could continue to pursue agreement of fully integrated commissioning solutions with health partners across Nottinghamshire. However there are currently no positive indications that this will be achievable in the short term and would leave open the risk of challenge.
16. The Council could proceed to tender with no further consideration of the broader health and social system. However this would represent a lost opportunity in terms of integrated commissioning in the mental health and would create a significant risk of duplication of service provision and funding.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. To allow Committee to consider whether there are any actions they require in relation to the progress made.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

19. The planned procurement will be within the current financial envelope, as approved at Adult Social Care and Health Committee on 12th March 2018. Limits on all contract values will be identified within each Lot and tenderers invited to bid within those limits. Other variables will be used to enable price evaluation.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) That Committee considers whether there are any actions they require in relation to the issues raised and whether they require a further update on progress.

Paul Johnson

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Adult Social Care and Health**

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Constitutional Comments (CEH 02.01.2019)

The recommendation falls within the remit of the Finance and Major Contracts Management Committee under its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (DG 02.01.2019)

The financial implications are contained within paragraph 19 of this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- [ASCH Committee 10th July 2017 - BCF approval](#)
- [ASCH Committee paper, March 18 - Re-commissioning approval](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All