

7th January 2013

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR PERSONAL CARE AND SUPPORT – YOUNGER ADULTS

FUNDING FOR SUBSTANCE MISUSE SOCIAL WORK POSTS

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval for permanent funding of £55,314 for social work posts in Substance Misuse and to recommend a change in line management. This funding previously came from Nottinghamshire Primary Care Trust (PCT). The PCT have given notice of withdrawal of this funding from 1st April 2013.
2. The report also seeks permission to consult with partners and other stakeholders on the proposal to review existing funding allocated to substance misuse residential rehabilitation services with a view to only fund the explicit social care elements of placements rather than continuing to fund therapeutic interventions as is the case currently.

Information and Advice

3. A new specification for the provision of Substance Misuse services has been drawn up by NHS Nottinghamshire County reflecting a new model of integrated substance misuse service (drugs and alcohol) for 2012/13. The service model will be rooted in local communities through a network of Recovery Centres.
4. Operating under one roof, Recovery Centres will facilitate local access to fully integrated services and co-located multi-disciplinary teams. This will help service user with choice, with clear links and access points into other services and social networks based in the local community. The aim will be to ensure that service users, families and carers will be able to access as many of the services as they need within the Recovery Centre itself.
5. Nottinghamshire County Council has supported three social workers in Substance Misuse Services for over 15 years. Historically, these posts were situated in NHS Trust services at The John Storer Clinic, Nottingham covering the south of the county and The Maltings, Mansfield for the north of the County. These posts were established through joint funding with the NHS and managed by health staff, working predominantly to a health agenda. As part of the review of the commissioning of substance misuse services it has been agreed that these posts should focus to deliver social care assessment and care management services to people who are eligible for social care support, rather than the provision of therapeutic services in the health settings, which can more properly be provided by NHS colleagues.

6. In the recent Organisational Redesign project, it was decided to maintain the three posts but bring them back under the management of the locality Mental Health Teams. Therefore, there is a Substance Misuse post for each locality at Broxtowe covering the south of the county, at Mansfield/Ashfield and at Newark/Bassetlaw. This is timely for the workers to establish themselves as part of the Recovery Centres and to ensure there is appropriate access to social care for people using these centres.
7. As part of the reconfiguration of services, the County Council together with NHS Nottinghamshire are reviewing the respective responsibilities of each organisation to ensure there is a correct delineation of health and social care responsibilities. Specifically this relates to the funding requirements of social work services and residential rehabilitation services.
8. NHS Nottinghamshire has given notice that they intend to withdraw their funding contribution towards social work posts, from April 2013. This leaves a funding gap of £55,314 to support the three social workers. Members are asked to approve the continued support to the three posts.
9. At the same time the County Council are reviewing the payments made to residential care providers for rehabilitation services to ensure the authority is only paying providers for services which are of a social care nature. This would include basic accommodation costs together with any personal care requirements, but would exclude any therapeutic activities which may properly be counted as health provisions.
10. Each year the County Council approves a base rate fee for residential care services, which currently stands at £371 per week in relation to substance misuse services, however the average cost of residential care placements is £548 per week. This is because the County Council currently contributes to additional therapeutic type activities within the placements. Therefore, it is estimated that only paying for social care provisions could reduce the County Council expenditure in this area by up to £177 per week per placement on average. Members are asked to approve this approach, and to agree to a period of consultation with relevant stakeholders.
11. The authority has a legal responsibility to provide assessment and meet the social care needs of people with substance misuse problems. A large part of the work undertaken by the social workers will be assessing people for residential rehabilitation placements. These are funded from the Mental Health Community Care Budget. To ensure that available funds are used effectively, it is proposed that access to this funding will be by application to a funding panel that will be set up in 2013. It is also proposed that there will be changes in the way that these placements are funded and that only the board and lodgings costs and any other social care elements of the placements will be paid for by the Community Care Budget, with the therapeutic elements of these placements funded by the NHS. Consultation on these changes will be required. By seeking appropriate funding for the placements from the NHS and establishing greater control and attention to eligibility criteria, the demand on the community care budget will be better managed and the additional funding for the staff will be recouped.

Other Options Considered

12. The County Council has a statutory duty to provide assessment and care management services to people with substance misuse and alcohol related problems where they meet the Fair Access to Care services criteria. The council must also meet any eligible social care needs that are identified through the community care assessment. Therefore no other options are considered appropriate other than maintaining the capacity to undertake this work.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

13. It is important to have specialist social workers, working alongside partners in the Recovery Centres to ensure there is social care offer for people using these services. Having social workers with specialist knowledge managing requests for social care funding, will be beneficial in managing demand and ensuring proper governance is in place. The additional funding being requested will ensure continuation of these posts. In funding these posts the authority will be in a position to ensure greater involvement and oversight of the care management process to ensure that only the social care elements of residential rehabilitation packages are funded by the authority.

Statutory and Policy Implications

14. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Human Resources Implications

15. The current structure of the department places these posts in different teams across the County. However, in reconfiguring this service, it is proposed that the management and funding for these posts is transferred to the Broxtowe and Hucknall Community Mental Health team manager. The social work posts will be located within each of the localities as detailed within the report, however the management function will be co-ordinated through a single line manager to ensure consistency across the County and improve liaison with health colleagues. This will also ensure that the management function and the funding sit in the correct place on the authority's Business Management System. This would be a minor change to the Organisational Redesign structure agreed by this Committee on 3rd September 2012.
16. The Trade Unions have been consulted. Unison has no comments to make and feel that this is a worthwhile project.

Financial Implications

17. The additional cost to the authority of funding the posts following the withdrawal of NHS funding is £55,314 per annum. This cost will be met by the reduction in funding to the residential care budget of applying a different approach to meeting social care needs. It is estimated that this will achieve a net saving of £96,000.

RECOMMENDATION/S

It is recommended that the Adult Social Care and Health Committee:

- 1) approve that £55,314 be committed as permanent funding to the 3 fte social work posts in Substance Misuse to maintain a countywide social work service in this specialist area.
- 2) approve that the 3 fte (111 hours) Social Workers (substance misuse) be moved under the line management of the Team Manager for the Broxtowe and Hucknall Community Mental Health Team with effect from the date of committee.
- 3) Approve a period of consultation on the proposal that from April 2013, the Council only funds the social care element of residential placements for substance misuse and that any therapeutic element of the placements is sought from the NHS, and that a further report be presented to committee on the outcome of the consultation.

JON WILSON

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Constitutional Comments (KK 06/12/2012)

18. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Adult Social Care and Health Committee.

Financial Comments (NDR 23/11/2012)

19. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 17 of the report.

Background Papers

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

- (a) A Council Fit for the Future: A New Structure for Operational Teams in Scope for Tiers 5 to 7 in Adult Social Care, Health and Public Protection - 3rd September 2012, Adult Social Care and Health Committee (Previously Published).

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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