



**NOTTINGHAM
CHILDREN'S
PARTNERSHIP**

PROUD OF NOTTINGHAM'S CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Title of paper:	CDP commissioning intentions for young people's substance misuse treatment service	
Report to:	Nottingham Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	31 October 2016	
Relevant Director:	Katy Ball (Director Of Procurement and Commissioning)	Wards affected: All
Contact Officer(s) and contact details:	Bethan Hopcraft (Strategy and Commissioning Officer) – 0115 8765073	
Other officers who have provided input:	Christine Oliver (Head of Commissioning) Ian Bentley (Strategy and Commissioning Manager)	
Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) priority:		
Safeguarding and supporting children and families: Children, young people and families will benefit from early and effective support and protection to empower them to overcome difficulties and provide a safe environment in which to thrive.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people: From pregnancy and throughout life, babies, children, young people and families will be healthier, more emotionally resilient and better able to make informed decisions about their health and wellbeing.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Supporting achievement and academic attainment: All children and young people will leave school with the best skills and qualifications they can achieve and will be ready for independence, work or further learning.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing: More families will be empowered and able to deal with family issues and child poverty will be significantly reduced.		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
This paper is to seek feedback from the Children's Partnership Board on the Crime and Drugs Partnership's intentions for commissioning the specialist young people's substance misuse treatment service and cementing of pathways.		
Recommendations:		
1	To feedback on any issues or queries.	
2	It is recommended that the Children's Partnership Board note the paper.	

1 BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

- 1.1 The Crime and Drugs Partnership is responsible for the commissioning of the specialist young people's substance misuse treatment service. The funding for this service is split between Police and Crime Commissioner, Public Health and Nottingham City Council (Children and Families money).
- 1.2 A review of young people's substance misuse treatment was completed in January 2014; this preceded the retendering of this service. Following consultation and a tendering process, the contract was awarded to Lifeline and the service, "Journey", went live on 1st November 2014. The current contract is due to end on 30th April 2017; the contract length was decided to align with adult drug and alcohol services.
- 1.3 The Commissioning and Procurement Sub-Committee has given authority for CDP commissioners to retender this service and award a contract. The length of the contract is to be agreed but it is hoped to align it to the new aligned substance misuse service.
- 1.4 A more focussed review of the current service and key pathways has been undertaken this year and a full report on this will be available in November 2016. The review addressed the current service specification and issues around the pathways between the treatment service and schools, mental health services, social care, blood-borne virus interventions and sexually-transmitted infection interventions. These issues were highlighted through quarterly service reviews with Lifeline, consultation with Lifeline staff and service users and discussions between County services, mental health services and non-NCC commissioners.
- 1.5 The initial findings and recommendations from the review are as follows:
 - Feedback from consultation with young people is that the service should be more flexible with the age limits in the service.
In light of this, a recommendation has been made for the age limit for the service to be increased to 21, by exception, to those with learning disabilities and social care involvement. Continuation of support during this period may increase the chances of social successes and a decreased chance of relapse;
 - The importance of research projects within the young people's drug and alcohol field was highlighted as a particularly important part of Lifeline's work during consultation with staff. Historic research has led to a better understanding of barriers into treatment for some young people (most recently, young women), issues certain groups face whilst accessing support and innovative interventions and their effectiveness. The recommendation is that the updated specification for this service highlights the importance of research projects and encourages the future provider to utilise local colleges and universities to undergo these projects;
 - Discussions with Lifeline and other young people's services have suggested that referrals and communication between city services could be stronger, particularly:
 - Between social care and the service. Currently, the service does not receive referrals from social care. The team at Journey suggested a tick box on social care assessment forms for substance misuse and a justification for not referring.

- Between Mental Health Services and Journey. Journey receives very few referrals from tier 2 or 3 mental health providers. It is recommended that a clear pathway is created and agreed by both parties.
 - Provision of blood-borne virus (BBV) and sexually-transmitted infection (STI) interventions. It is recommended that a joint-working agreement is updated, cemented and utilised by The Health Shop and Journey.
 - Training within schools. It has been recommended that the service works with DrugAware to highlight key training needs for school staff in order for the schools to provide brief intervention to young people;
- Many aspects of the current working of Lifeline Journey are achieved outside of their contractual obligation. This work includes leading on local and regional ‘New Psychoactive Substances’ (NPS) initiatives, outreach to NUH emergency department and research projects. In order to ensure continuation of this work, it is recommended that these aspects are written into the new service specification:
 - As part of the consultation with staff from Journey, many aspects were identified as key to the effectiveness of the service. This included having a YOT-specific drug worker from Journey based at Isabella Street; the team felt that this joint working was invaluable to the service users and enabled Journey workers to form a stronger picture around cases from the YOT workers. It is recommended that this aspect stays in the service specification.

2 RISKS

- 2.1 The risks to the young people in touch with the service are few; the recommissioning of the contract may result in a new provider – and potentially new workers – taking over the caseload.

3 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 None

4 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 None

5 CLIENT GROUP

- 5.1 Children and Young people who are using drugs or alcohol in a damaging or concerning way.

6 IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

- 6.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been drafted and is being approved by NCC’s Equalities team.

7 OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

- 7.1 **Safeguarding and supporting children and families:** The ethos of the service is to work with children and young people who have a substance misuse problem; whilst the age range is 0 – 19 the youngest service user is six. The service will support children and young people to disengage from problematic substance misuse and will work with children and young people to address parental substance misuse

- 7.2 **Promoting the health and wellbeing of babies, children and young people:** The service will work with the above cohort to ensure a life that is free from the risks associated with problematic substance misuse. Young people who are pregnant are referred through to the Specialist teenage midwife. The service has a joint working agreement with the specialist blood borne virus service to test and vaccinate against Hep A, B and C as well as offering testing for HIV. The service also refers through for STI testing and treatment. The service also offers sexual advice around contraception.
- 7.3 **Supporting achievement and academic attainment:** The service also works with schools to help identify and offer early intervention for substance misuse. One of the targets for the service is to improve school attendance. They have also worked with DrugAware to change their exclusion policy, which prevents pupils from being excluded or suspended from school for substance misuse.
- 7.4 **Empowering families to be strong and achieve economic wellbeing:** The service will work towards children being substance free, attend school on a regular basis and hopefully achieve the qualifications necessary to lead a positive adult life-style. The service also provides numerous courses to ensure their clients are trained in practical skills.