

Annex to the Recommendations Tracker

R30/20 - The PCC will look into the organisations being liaised with regarding the co-commissioning of enhanced substance misuse support and to consider both Alcoholics, and Narcotics Anonymous.

Introduction:

There have been a number of constructive changes to the integrated commissioning of substance misuse treatment in the last decade including the introduction of Police and Crime Commissioning in 2012 and the move of Drug and Alcohol Action Teams to Local Authorities Public Health in 2013. A significant financial challenge began 2015, as a result of the financial crisis, which reduced the available financial resource that could be deployed to the needs of Surrey residents and a key contract for substance misuse provision in the Criminal Justice System was ended.

In the last four years key stakeholders in substances misuse treatment, the National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company and Surrey Police have ensured that effective offender management, drug and alcohol treatment and policing are available to residents whose needs are both the Criminal Justice System (CJS) and the drug or alcohol treatment service, however, meeting these needs can be challenging for both services and residents as was highlighted in a 2019 HMICFRS thematic review of Integrated Offender Management (IOM).

The system and individual pressures as a result of COVID 19 both within the local CJS and national lockdown pressures in prisons and courts has resulted in an increased risk to those residents who have found it the most difficult to confront their offending and drug and alcohol misuse behaviour. They are a small cohort in the overall population who tend to have difficulty in engagement with treatment, health risks including blood borne virus infection, harm or death from overdose and repeat offences resulting in custodial sentences.

Outline of proposed service:

This proposal outlines an approach to reduce risk and increase successful engagement for this cohort in both the CJS and drug and alcohol treatment. The drivers for the approach are:

- Increased CJS population as a result of Prison early prison release scheme. (National)
- Delay in court operation during COVID-19 lockdown resulting an increased CJS population with treatment needs. (National)
- Increased risks of drug misuse deaths; primarily opioid overdose, as drug market re-establishes during lockdown relaxation or end. (Local)
- The local evidence base from the "Access Project" (2004 -2006) in NW Surrey which demonstrated the effectiveness of integrated treatment and CJS system for service user outcomes. (Local)
- Recommendation for Surrey around improving substance misuse provision in the 2019 HMIP and HMICFRS joint thematic review of IOM (Local).

Substance Misuse/Nurse Specialists would be employed when services are able to offer more face to face appointments. 2x agency workers would cost £9,094 per month (overall cost of service £112K for 12 month pilot).

Role of workers:

- Provide intensive key working and structured intervention for service users in the CJS on a weekly basis.
- Be the named workers for the CJS and to liaise closely with all the CJS partners.
- Support service users to engage in treatment, adhering to their prescriptions etc.
- Provide robust risk assessment and intervention as needed.
- Link in with the existing outreach resource in order to keep service users in treatment and engage as necessary (including AA and NA where appropriate).

This will involve specialist drug and alcohol keyworkers delivering a greater intensity of care planned structured interventions and targeting those (60 service users) who would have previously been unsuccessful in sustained engagement. The package will be a collaborative approach between specialist teams in i-access, Surrey Police and the National Probation Service (NPS).

The two agency workers will work in the CJS settings i.e. probation offices etc. This would be dependent on the buildings and infection control measures being available and appropriate.

Current position:

The proposal from Surrey County Council Public Health has received support and the service will be co-commissioned by the OPCC and the NPS with funding having been provided by both organisations and from Surrey Police (Section 27 drugs confiscations monies). A meeting of all stakeholders to discuss next steps will take place early November 2020 and it is hoped the service will commence in early 2021.