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**PAPER NO.**

**REASON FOR SUBMISSION:** Application for funding to support delivery of specialist Substance Misuse Interventions for young offenders

**SUBMITTED TO:** Police and Crime Commissioner

**SUBJECT:** Young People Specialist Substance Misuse Interventions

**SUMMARY:**

This paper provides a business case for the continuation of contributory funding for the criminal justice element of the young people's specialist substance misuse service.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to approve the funding request of £45,000 for 2013/14 to support the current Suffolk Youth Offending Service substance misuse service

**1. Introduction**

1.1 Young offenders are a particularly vulnerable group in relation to the misuse of drugs and alcohol, both as a cause and a result of their offending behaviour and because of the frequent presence of other detrimental factors in their health, family and social circumstances. The National Drug Strategy (2010) emphasises the need to prevent the use of drugs and alcohol by young people becoming problematic or dependent in adult life and to work with the family as a whole in the provision of interventions to prevent substance misuse across the generations, prevent offending and anti-social behaviour and promote family and community cohesion.

1.2 For young offenders, their time with the Youth Offending Service is a prime window of opportunity to work with these vulnerable young people about their use of drugs and alcohol.

1.3 Young people are more likely to engage with substance misuse interventions at this time because their relationship with the YOS worker facilitates their readiness to change, whether work relating to substance misuse is part of their referral order or not.

## **1.4 Context:**

The Specialist Young People's Substance Misuse Service consists of two elements of service delivery – criminal justice workers and outreach workers. The service has been funded by three different funding streams up until 2012-13, namely:

- Department of Health Pooled Treatment Budget, historically via Suffolk Primary Care Trust, now via Suffolk Public Health - £230,515.
- Youth Justice Board via Suffolk Youth Offending Service - £94,000
- Home Office via Suffolk County Council Community Safety and Social Inclusion, agreed by the Safer Suffolk Partnership Board - £95,016,

The funding from the Youth Justice Board paid for the three substance misuse workers hosted and co-located with the Youth Offending Service- as described in the service model section below. This has been evaluated as a model of good practice in two health needs assessments carried out by the University of East Anglia, the last being in 2012.

The funding from the Home Office contributed to the outreach element of the service and the management of the service overall. The outreach element offers the same provision but to young people experiencing a level of harm associated with their use of substances who are not known to the youth offending service. The aim of the outreach service is to reduce the level of substance use by these young people to within safe, responsible levels, support them to maintain engagement with learning and develop positive social relationships and behaviours, thereby reducing their vulnerability and risk of negative outcomes such as offending.

The Specialist Service is managed as one service to ensure cost effectiveness, seamless integration between the service and partners in other children and young people services, sharing of knowledge and experience and flexibility of cover if either element of the service experiences staff vacancy due to sickness or staff moving on to other employment.

In 2012-13 there was a reduction in the funding via the YOS and the Safer Suffolk Partnership Board to the amounts given below because of reductions in the amount received from the Youth Justice Board and the Home Office respectively:

- Funding via the Youth Offending Service - £74,500
- Funding via the Safer Suffolk Partnership Board - £47,507

The funding received previously from both the Home Office and the Youth Justice Board has now been put in with the funding held by the Police Crime Commissioner. Hence this business case is to request a continuation of the funding that came via the YOS for the criminal justice substance misuse workers. Another bid has been submitted by Suffolk Public Health (DAAT) to request continuation of the funding that came via the Safer Suffolk Partnership Board, to contribute towards the outreach element of the service.

Re-profiling of the service and one off additional funding from the Suffolk DAAT in 2011-12 in recognition of the known reductions in funding has meant that we have been able to maintain the young people's specialist substance misuse service. The numbers of young people engaging with the service have remained constant and we have seen more referrals coming from services working with vulnerable young people. The service has maintained performance to date and works pro-actively with commissioners to improve outcomes where ever possible.

## **2. Service Model.**

- 2.1 The Young Peoples Substance Misuse Specialist Service provides a range of psychosocial and clinical interventions to young people up to the age of 18 years experiencing a level of harm because of their use of drugs and/or alcohol.
- 2.2 The service includes the provision of 3 substance misuse workers hosted by the Suffolk Youth Offending Service, co-located with the YOS teams in the north, Ipswich and east, and west of the county. This provision facilitates timely referral and subsequent work with young offenders identified as requiring specialist interventions, co-worked with the YOS to reduce re-offending along side reducing their use of substances.
- 2.3 The service also accepts referrals from the early intervention and prevention strands of the YOS, i.e. *Time to Change* and the triage pilot *Challenge for Change* at Martlesham Police HQ.
- 2.4 Following a comprehensive specialist assessment of a young person the service develops a care plan of agreed interventions and actions to ensure the young person understands the consequences of their use of drugs and/or alcohol; is informed of harm reduction actions to be taken and receives challenge and support in reducing or abstaining from their substance use.
- 2.5 The service works collaboratively with CYP services, both statutory and voluntary, to ensure an holistic approach to meeting the individual's assessed needs – facilitating access to other services and positive activities that will ensure their re-engagement with education / training and personal and social networks that are affirming and sustaining.
- 2.6 The Service provides targeted work with groups of young people known to be vulnerable to substance misuse and supports YOS workers who are working with young offenders about their substance misuse but who are not using drugs or alcohol at a level that requires a specialist intervention.
- 2.7 The service works with the parents/carers of the young person where ever possible, offering guidance and advice as to how they can best support their child in overcoming their misuse of substances.
- 2.8 The service also supports young people affected by parental substance misuse, working with adult treatment services and family services in seeking to support the family as a whole and promoting recovery from the harmful impact of substance misuse.
- 2.9 The criminal justice element forms an integrated part of the Young people's Specialist Substance Misuse Service alongside the substance misuse outreach workers, ensuring continuity of service provision.

### **3. Performance**

#### **3.1 Performance to date for the criminal justice element of the service, 2012-13:**

- 104 young people were on the criminal justice element of the service case load for 2012- 13, with 74 of those being new presentations during the year.
- During Q3 and Q4 no young person had to wait more than three weeks for their first intervention, i.e. met the performance target.

- Two thirds of the young people on the case load had more than three vulnerability risk / harm factors identified in addition to substance misuse, e.g. NEET, Early onset, high risk drinking.

- Over the year there has been a steady increase in the number of planned discharges, i.e. met goals on care plan, reaching 78% by Q4.

3.2 Public Health England provide quarterly reports on activity and outcome data for the Service which includes number of referrals, type of substance used, type of interventions given, number of planned exits and status on exit. These reports are available to the Police Crime Commissioner, with the understanding that they are restricted and not for onward distribution.

#### **4. Suffolk Police and Crime Plan**

4.1 The service contributes to the PCC desired outcomes of:

- Reduction in the number of ASB incidents
- Reducing dependence on drugs and alcohol – for young people the key imperative is to prevent misuse as an adolescent becoming dependent use as an adult.
- Interventions with offenders where crime is caused by substance misuse
- Raising awareness of responsible alcohol use.
- Support victims and offenders to understand and engage with restorative justice processes.

#### **5. Financial Consideration**

5.1 The YOS contribution to the substance misuse service was £74,500 for 2012-13 (a reduction from £94,000 in 2011-12 mitigated by re-profiling the overall service).

It is recommended that the 2012-13 level of funding is sustained, i.e. £74,500 in order to maintain the current capacity within the service to meet predicted demand. A reduction in funding will mean a reduction in capacity to meet demand in a timely way, which for young offenders particularly, may mean losing the window of opportunity to make an effective intervention. As a result, £29,500 will be funded by the Youth Offending Service and £45,000 is requested from the Police and Crime Commissioner.

5.2 The service is contracted until the end of March 2015.