

Substance Use: Birmingham's Young Peoples Treatment Service

Presentation to Education and Children's
Social Care Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday 17th May 2023



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Overview: Young People's Substance Use Service

- Non-Statutory Service; Under the HSC Act 2012, local authorities have a legal duty to protect children from harm, reduce health inequalities and improve the health of their local population by ensuring that there are public health services aimed at reducing drug and alcohol misuse.
- Delivered by Aquarius Action Projects (part of the Richmond Fellowship) with a contract end date of 31st March 2024 which aligns with procurement with the Adult Substance Use Service.
- Key commissioning intentions: Minimise the misuse of drugs, alcohol and tobacco & Reduce risk/vulnerabilities in a holistic approach.
- 2023/24 contract value: £696,555 (£673,000 in 2022/23 – 3.5% uplift). For the period 2018/19 to 2022/23 the yearly contract value had been static at £673,000.

Overview: Young People's Substance Use Service

- Aquarius work with Young People up to the age of 25 (previously 18), this aligns with other YP Services e.g. Forward Thinking Birmingham, Housing; St Basils Youth Hub/Supported Living options and Preparation for Adulthood.
- Contract Governance managed by the contract management framework with oversight via the Triple Zero Implementation Board and the PH Contracts Governance Board.
- Aquarius Utilise a comprehensive governance framework for the delivery of child/YP safeguarding. Work in accordance with the legal frameworks of The Children's Act 2004/The Care Act 2014/Working Together 2018/Birmingham Safeguarding Children's Partnership's (BSCP) Policies and Procedures.
- All staff receive specific mandatory training and supervision on Child Exploitation. built around the Aquarius child safeguarding governance framework and informed by; national guidance documents on gang activity, serious crime, knife crime, Prevent, Missing children, County Lines, and CSE.

Additional Funding from Additional Funding from the Office of Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID)

Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant

- This grant is to address the aims of the treatment and recovery section of the UK Government's 2021-2031 Drug Plan (From Harm to Hope) published in December 2021. This supplemental funding is to support improvements in the quality and capacity of drug and alcohol treatment 2022/23 to 2024/25.
- Additional funding: £535,865 in 2022/23, £919,611 (approx. 18.5% of the total grant of £4,946,496) in 2023/24 and at least £919,611 in 2024/25.
- The additional funding has facilitated the recruitment of additional practitioners and supervisory support which will support improvements in the quality and capacity of young people's drug and alcohol treatment in Birmingham.
- This will include; development of a YP Transitions Team, enhanced engagement with criminal justice, enhanced provision of harm reduction, increased treatment capacity, increased support for physical and mental health issues.

Future Plans

- The Triple Zero City Strategy was approved by BCC Cabinet on 21st March and along with the Needs Assessment & Executive Summary and Consultation Analysis 'You Said, We Did' will be officially launched shortly and will be published on the BCC webpage.
- In preparation for the existing contract ending on 31st March 2024, Public Health and Commissioners have developed an Implementation Plan which includes a procurement timeline, co-production with citizens and key partners, market engagement to develop the service specification and commissioning/procurement strategy development.
- Working with BCC Procurement and Legal in relation to the most appropriate and cost effective route to market which will take into account the proposed introduction of the NHS Provider Selection Regime proposed for July 2023.