

Briefing Note

Title	Remodelling and Tender of Mental Health Preventative Contracts		
Prepared By	Paul Smith	Date	05 October 2016
Requested By	Democratic Services, Julia Clearly		
Distribution	Councillor Samuels, Adults Scrutiny		

Recommendations:

That the Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) Scrutinise the consultation process to ensure that it was appropriately conducted and sufficient;
- (2) Give consideration to how the Equalities implications of the report should be dealt with;
- (3) Scrutinise any other outstanding matter appropriate to the remit of the Scrutiny Panel

2.0 Background

2.1 A paper was submitted to the Councils Cabinet Resources Panel (CRP) on 04 October 2016 which included the following recommendations:-

1. *To approve a new service delivery model in relation to low level mental health preventative services*
2. *To approve a tendering exercise in relation to the proposed new service model with a view to implementation on 1 April 2017.*

3.0 Correspondence from David Collins Solicitors

3.1 On the 04 October 2016 the Council received a letter from David Collins Solicitors on behalf of their client Positive Participation. The letter challenged various elements of the consultation process linked to the remodelling and future tender of the contracts in question. (enclosed)

4.0 Councils decision at CRP 04 October 2016

4.1 At CRP on 04 October 2016, Cabinet Resources decided that the paper should be placed on the agenda of the next available Adults and Safer Scrutiny Panel, which was held on 11 October 2016.

4.2 At the meeting of the Adults and Safer Scrutiny Panel on 11 October it was resolved that an additional meeting of the Panel be held on 25th October to consider this single item.

Community-based mental health

Modernising preventative services consultation Questions and answers

Mental illness affects one in four people in England. At present, community-based preventative services in Wolverhampton are delivered by a number of providers. The City of Wolverhampton Council is currently consulting on a new model for community-based preventative services for individuals with or at risk of mental ill health.

Q What is the council doing?

A The council commissions a number of voluntary sector services to provide community-based preventative services for individuals with and at risk of mental ill health.

Q Are you cutting services?

A No we are not. These proposals are about changing the way that the service is delivered; funding for the new service will be maintained at the current levels by the Council. Safeguarding people in vulnerable situations and enabling people to support themselves are important priorities for us.

Q What will the proposed new service look like?

A It is proposed that the new service will bring together existing services with a focus on working with other agencies and groups to provide an holistic approach which addresses the wider issues that impact upon an individual's mental health. Self-help groups will continue to be supported with a view to them becoming independent. It is also proposed that the new service will provide information, advice, guidance and signposting. The new service will continue to provide gender and culturally specific support where required.

Q What consultation has been carried out?

A We redesign our services in conjunction with the people who use them. The views of service users, carers, existing providers and staff involved in mental health prevention services were sought to inform the development of the new model. Engagement activity was carried out between September and December 2015 and included two stakeholder events and a questionnaire, completed by more than 100 individuals.

The information received was used to develop an outline service model, the principles of which are currently being formally consulted upon. The council has held three consultation meetings for service users, carers, existing providers and staff while an online survey, available at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CommunityBasedPreventativeServices2016, continues until the consultation closing date.

The consultation process has been open and accessible. Information packs and questionnaires have been translated into other languages and an interpreter made available at an event as requested. Advocacy support has also been made available for service users who do not have family, carers or any other person to help them to understand the options.

Q Has the consultation process been extended?

A The consultation process was due to be completed in June 2016 however, at the request of stakeholders, the City of Wolverhampton Council has agreed to extend the consultation period to 28 July 2016. The online survey continues until the closing date at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CommunityBasedPreventativeServices2016.