

## Cabinet

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**Date of Meeting:** 11 September 2018

**Report Title:** Public Health England: Innovation Fund for Children of Alcohol Dependent Parents

**Portfolio Holder:** Councillor Liz Wardlaw, Health  
Councillor Jos Saunders, Children and Families  
Councillor Paul Bates, Finance and Communication

**Senior Officer:** Mark Palethorpe, Acting Executive Director of People

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### 1. Report Summary

- 1.1. Public Health England (PHE) is seeking expressions of interest from local authorities that specifically targets systems and services which support children of dependent drinkers and alcohol dependent parents. Successful applicants will be able to draw down a revenue grant to support their work over the period 2018-19 to 2020-21.
- 1.2. A funding bid from Cheshire East Council would support priorities within the existing Substance Misuse Service and our vision is to achieve improved outcomes for local residents through an ambitious project which breaks down barriers, and facilitates integration across specialist alcohol treatment and social care services.
- 1.3. If the bid was successful a total of £561,000 would be awarded to the Council over from November 2018 to March 2021.
- 1.4. The Public Health England: Innovation fund supports **Outcome 5 – People Live Well for Longer**, through improved recovery and health outcomes for individuals who are alcohol dependent and their families including children and young people.

## **2. Recommendations**

- 2.1. Cabinet approves:
  - 2.1.1 the submission of a bid to the Public Health England: Innovation fund for children of alcohol dependent parents;
  - 2.1.2 the revenue funding of £561,000 to be transferred to the Council as the accountable body if the bid is successful;
- 2.2 Cabinet authorises Officers to submit funding bids for the remaining financial year, and to return to Members if bids are successful.

## **3. Reasons for Recommendations**

- 3.1. To enable Cheshire East Council to submit a bid for the Public Health England: Innovation fund for children of alcohol dependent parents. Funding would support additional service provision via the existing contracted Substance Misuse Service in Cheshire East.
- 3.2. There is strong evidence of local need to support children of alcohol dependent parents in Cheshire East for example:
  - There are an estimated 1324 children in Cheshire East who live with an alcohol dependent adult, and 219 children living with an adult in alcohol treatment.
  - Alcohol was identified in 22.4% of Children in Need cases in Cheshire East, compared to 20% regionally and 18% nationally.
  - Of the 174 children in Cheshire East who are cared for, Alcohol and substance misuse is a significant factor in 76 cases.
- 3.3. As a result of a bid to Public Health England, a project would be developed to deliver results through integrated systems and collaboration, developing early intervention, clear identification, and referral routes across :
  - Cheshire East contracted Substance Misuse Service;
  - Cheshire East Council Family Focus (Troubled Families) programme;
  - Cheshire East Council Consultation Service (ChECS) and;
  - Cheshire East contracted Carers Hub.
- 3.4. Key outcomes will include improved early intervention and prevention; sustained recovery outcomes for alcohol dependent adults; and a reduction in the level of hidden harm on Children and Young People as a result of parental alcohol misuse. The project will also reduce complex health needs within our population, reducing isolation whilst reducing stigma, through education and myth busting.

#### 4. Other Options Considered

- 4.1. To not submit a bid for additional funding via the Public Health England: Innovation fund. The existing Cheshire East Substance Misuse Service has recently been recommissioned, and the new service is due to go live on the 1<sup>st</sup> November. The recommissioned service has a greater focus on recovery, and a whole family approach and the hidden harm and impact on the wider family, including children and young people. Therefore support will be provided for children impacted by parents with alcohol dependent parents via the existing contracted service. However the additional funding via the external bid would provide additional capacity, a greater focus and increased impact.

#### 5. Background

- 5.1. Public Health England have identified that there is a strong case for identifying and supporting many more of the estimated 200,000 children living with adults who are dependent drinkers nationally. **The Public Health England: Innovation fund for children of alcohol dependent parents**, has been developed in response to this need nationally, which includes:
- Parental separation is experienced more commonly in children whose parents are dependent on alcohol. 61 per cent of children's parents had separated where the mother was dependent and in three-quarters of cases in which both parents were dependent, this compared with only a quarter of cases where there was no dependency.
  - The Department for Education's Children in Need census showed that in 2016/17, alcohol use was assessed as a factor in 18% of parental separation cases.
  - Between 2011 and 2014 parental alcohol misuse was recorded as a factor in 37 per cent of cases where a child was seriously hurt or killed, often alongside domestic violence and mental ill health.
  - Children of parents with an alcohol dependency are more likely to become dependent themselves in later life.
- 5.2. Exposure to frequent, intense, and poorly-resolved inter-parental conflict leads to poor outcomes for children including damage to their education, employment, and health. Evidence shows that parental conflict puts children at higher risk of negative outcomes, whether families are together or separated, alcohol dependence can exacerbate levels of parental conflict.

- 5.3. Early intervention in a parent's problematic alcohol use brings opportunities to address the impacts of the use upon children. Effective joint-working between children's services and alcohol services, combined with effective identification and interventions have been shown to minimise the longer term impact of parental alcohol use on a child's future health and wellbeing.
- 5.4. A funding bid from Cheshire East Council to the Public Health England: Innovation fund, would support the development of a specific project to identify a specific cohort of Children and Young People whose parents are alcohol dependent. The project will deliver targeted interventions, taking a 'whole family' approach addressing hidden harm.
- 5.5. The project would be delivered via the existing Cheshire East contracted Substance Misuse Service, and will be embedded within the Cheshire East Family Focus Programme. A wider programme of community prevention and education, training, coaching and awareness rising will be delivered to facilitate identification, build a wider public health workforce and referrals to the SMS including: Children's Social Care; Adults Social Care; Carers Hub; Schools; Early Years settings, Housing, Domestic Abuse and Hospitals.
- 5.6. A contract modification would be undertaken for the existing Substance Misuse Service contract, following procurement regulations.
- 5.7. The project would be led by a Family Focus Alcohol Lead post employed by the Substance Misuse Service, and co-located with the Family Focus Programme. The post would coordinate the development of processes, systems and interventions that would become embedded and sustainable within the Substance Misuse Service provision from year 3 onwards. A Social Worker would be seconded to the Substance Misuse Service to support shared learning. Whole Family Recovery Coordinators would be employed by the Substance Misuse Service to take the lead on the delivery of targeted interventions to alcohol dependent adults and their children. Targeted interventions will align to the Cheshire East 'Parenting Pathway', specific interventions: pregnancy, 0-1 age group and so on. Parents and their children (at risk of going into care) will be prioritised. This will create a team around the family approach with aspirations of step down. All posts identified within the bid submission are fixed term posts.

## **6. Implications of the Recommendations**

### **6.1. Legal Implications**

- 6.1.1 In accordance with the Council's Finance Procedure Rules, approval needs to be sought prior to submitting a bid for grant funding where the

funding is aligned with the Council's priorities. Approval for an in principle Supplementary Revenue Estimate needs to be sought at the same time.

- 6.1.2 Any modification of the Substance Misuse Service contract to include the services to be delivered as a result of this additional funding needs to comply with Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. Regulation 72 sets out the limited circumstances whereby a contract which is subject to the Regulations can be modified.

## **6.2. Finance Implications**

- 6.2.1 If successful, the bid would provide £561,000 of additional funding to the existing Substance Misuse Service contract from November 2018 to March 2021.
- 6.2.2 Funding would be provided from Public Health England to the Council. This funding would be transferred to the provider of the Cheshire East Substance Misuse Service via their existing contract. The contract will be modified to vary the value and to include the new outcomes.
- 6.2.3 As the funding is not permanent any staff recruited to posts that are funded by this grant would be recruited on a Fixed term basis. Fixed terms posts will end at the end of the project with the aim that systems and processes will become embedded, sustainable and business as usual. An exit strategy will support this approach.

## **6.3. Policy Implications**

- 6.3.1 There are no local policy implications for the submission of a bid to the Public Health England: Innovation fund for children of alcohol dependent parents.

## **6.4. Equality Implications**

- 6.4.1 An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken for the recommissioning of the existing Substance Misuse Service.

## **6.5. Human Resources Implications**

- 6.5.1 A recruitment process would be undertaken by the Substance Misuse Service provider for fixed term posts over the 2 years.

## **6.6. Risk Management Implications**

- 6.6.1 The Substance Misuse Service will be subject to contract management processes aligned to their existing contract, to ensure the successful delivery of the service in Cheshire East.

## **6.7. Rural Communities Implications**

6.7.1 There are no direct implications for rural communities. This service will be available across the Borough of Cheshire East.

## **6.8. Implications for Children & Young People**

6.8.1 This service will have a positive impact on outcomes for local Children and Young People living in Cheshire East, who live with an alcohol dependent parent.

## **6.9. Public Health Implications**

6.9.1 There will be positive health and recovery impacts for individuals who are alcohol dependent living in Cheshire East. There will also be positive mental health and wellbeing impacts for family members and particularly children and young people living with alcohol dependent parents.

## **7. Ward Members Affected**

7.1. All Ward Members. This service will be available across the Borough of Cheshire East.

## **8. Consultation & Engagement**

8.1. This project is a development of the existing Substance Misuse Service, which has been fully coproduced with service users and their families, including children and young people.

8.2. A project group with Service User representatives will continue the coproduction approach and will meet regularly to review and inform the development of the project. Future coproduction and engagement of local Service Users and CYP will include:

- Service User Forum;
- Service User Journey;
- CE Young Council;
- Carers Hub;
- My Voice Children in Care Council;
- CE Children and Young People Participation Network;
- CE Connected Communities – engagement via 17 Neighbourhood Partnerships and 30+ Connected Communities Centres.

## **9. Access to Information**

- 9.1. The Cheshire East People Live Well for Longer Commissioning Plan.
- 9.2. The Cheshire East Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.
- 9.3. Public Health England: Innovation fund for children of alcohol dependent parents – Guidance documents

## **10. Contact Information**

- 10.1. Any questions relating to this report should be directed to the following officer:

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