



Decision of Cabinet Member for Community Health & Wellbeing

Report from the Director of Public Health

Integrated Treatment Recovery Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Service

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	None
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	Andy Brown Head of Substance Misuse andy.brown@brent.gov.uk

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report concerns the delivery of the Integrated Treatment Recovery Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Service currently provided by VIA Community Ltd. The report outlines the current position with regard to delivery of services by VIA Community Ltd and sets out proposals for the re-procurement of a contract for the Integrated Treatment Recovery Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Service.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member for Community Health & Wellbeing, having consulted with the Leader:

2.1 Note that the Integrated Treatment Recovery Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Service was provided to the Council by VIA Community Ltd under a contract expiring on 31 March 2024.

2.2 Note that VIA Community Ltd has continued to provide the Integrated Treatment Recovery Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Service to the Council since 1 April 2024 and that payment is due in respect of the said service provision to such date as services cease.

- 2.3 Note that the Council is to procure a replacement Integrated Treatment Recovery Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Service, with the proposal to seek Cabinet authority in November 2024 for the procurement of the contract under the Provider Selection Regime.

3.0 Detail

Contribution to Borough Plan Priorities & Strategic Context

- 3.1 The contract for the Integrated Treatment Recovery Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Service detailed in this report supports the Brent Borough Plan 2023 – 2027 priorities of ‘Thriving Communities’, ‘A Healthier Brent’ and ‘Prosperity and Stability in Brent’. This Service also closely aligns with the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2027 ‘Healthy Lives’ priority.

Background

- 3.2 Brent Council entered a contract to provide substance misuse services under Integrated Treatment Recovery Wellbeing and Substance Misuse Service (the “Contract”) with Westminster Drugs Project (now rebranded and renamed as VIA Community Ltd (“Via”)) from 1.04.18 on a 4 + 1 +1 basis. The and the contract ended on 31.03.24.

- 3.3 The Contract is funded through a number of funding streams as set out in paragraph 5.1. of the Financial Considerations. Since the start of the Contract, there has been growth in investment from two funding streams from central government which have been used to reinforce the six primary modalities contained within the Contract, namely:

- Clinical prescribing including relapse prevention.
- Treatment and Recovery Services.
- Care planned counselling service and recovery day programme.
- Outreach and engagement.
- Criminal Justice Interventions.
- Young Persons Early Intervention and Prevention Services.

The two funding streams are:

- The Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) which has focused on addressing rough sleeping where drugs and alcohol as a major barrier to accessing secure accommodation. The allocation for Brent in 24/25 will be £434,000.
- The Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) is funding to enable Local Authorities to improve local treatment and recovery systems The allocation for Brent in 24/25 will be £985,826.

- 3.4 Both the RSDATG and SSMTRG Grants are both prescriptive on what the funding could be utilised for as well as requiring a fully allocated spend and activity plan to be agreed and signed off by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparity (OHID).
- 3.5 The Contract with Via is managed directly by Public Health and supported by B3 (the service user council whose members completed or are in the process of completing their treatment and recovery journey through Via New Beginnings). Performance and agency activity is primarily recorded through the monthly contract meeting and the monthly reports produced by the Via service lead.
- 3.6 Increasing the numbers in Structured Treatment is a central tenet of the Building a World Class Treatment system chapter of the National Drug Strategy: From Harm to Hope and performance directly influences the level of funding received by Brent via the SSMTRG. Via is solely responsible for this area.
- 3.7 The monthly reports include activity taken to increase the numbers in structured treatment alongside the reporting from the Local Outcomes Framework of the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).
- 3.8 Via have continued to provide services outlined in the original contract and submissions to NDTMS through 24/25. They have continued to improve performance on key areas outlined in the 2021 National Drug Strategy: From Harm to Hope such as increasing the numbers in Structured Treatment.
- 3.9 Current performance on National Drug Treatment Monitoring Service (NDTMS) highlights that there are 1288 local residents engaged in structured treatment programmes representing 97% performance against the 24/25 Borough Plan of 1325 and 91% performance against the national target of 1410 residents engaged in structured treatment services at the end of qtr.124/25. It is anticipated that both these targets will be met before the end of 24/25.
- 3.10 There are currently no waiting times for residents need access to the service and retention rates remain above national averages for opiate and crack users, alcohol and non-opiate users. In March this year the agency reported the micro-elimination of Hepatitis C in the local treatment population one of six boroughs nationally to report on this area at the start of the 24/25 year.
- 3.11 The Contract formally expired on 31 March 2024. Officers were not in a position to re-procure a replacement contract at the time and as a result Via has continued to provide service to the Council at Officer's request on the same basis since 1 April 2024. As a consequence, payment is due to Via for the services delivered during this period and to the date the contract is re-let in the monthly sum of approximately £404,831.
- 3.12 In view of the nature of the services provided under the Contract, Officers have concluded that re-procurement of the services will be under the Provider Selection Regime. Officers are therefore seeking Cabinet authority in November 2024 to procure the contract under the Provider Selection Regime.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 As the Recommendations ask the Cabinet Member to note the current situation with regard to the Contract, it has not been considered appropriate to consult with stakeholders or ward members.

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 For 2024/25 the allocations for Via under the Contract are as follows based on 4% inflationary uplift.

Integrated Contract	£3,600,000
Young People Mental Health	£156,000
SMART	£50,000
SSMTRG Investments	£693,864
RSDATG Investments	£356,100
Total	£4,857,964

5.2 By the end of Q2 24/25, Via will have provided services to the value of £2,428,582 to the Council.

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 The Council entered the Contract with Via from 1 April 2018 on a 4 + 1 +1 basis. The Contract formally expired on 31 March 2024.

6.2 Since expiry of the Contract, Via have continued to provide substance misuse services to the Council, that the Council has accepted. These services have been delivered to the Council on the same basis as delivered under the Contract and as a result the Council is liable to Via for ongoing payment of services as if the Contract had been formally extended.

6.3 Officers have determined that substance misuse services fall under the Provider Selection Regime ("PSR"). The PSR is a new set of rules for procuring health care services in England and came into effect on Monday 1 January 2024. It is set out in [the Health Care Services \(Provider Selection Regime\) Regulations 2023](#) (the "Regulations"). The Regulations are accompanied by statutory guidance to which relevant authorities must have regard.

6.4 Officers propose to procure substance misuse services under the PSR and intend seeking authority to procure such services at Cabinet in November 2024.

7.0 Equity, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 Officers believe that there are no adverse equality implications, as services provided by Via covers a number of initiative and programmes to improve the health and well-being of those directly and indirectly affected by drug and alcohol misuse.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 The proposals in this report have been subject to screening and officers believe that there are no adverse impacts on the Council's environmental objectives and climate emergency strategy.

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 This service is currently provided by an external contractor and there are no implications for Council staff.

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 Given that the recommendations are merely to note the situation with regard to the substance misuse service, it is not considered this has any direct communication considerations.

Report sign off:

MELANIE SMITH

Director of Public Health