

# Leicester City Council

## Substance misuse services consultation

# Frequently asked questions

### **Background**

Drug and alcohol misuse has a substantial impact on health, crime, unemployment, and children's safeguarding.

In response adult social care (ASC) commissions a range of specialist services to reduce harm and support people over time into abstinence or reduced and controlled use.

The city council is undertaking a spending review in response to reductions on our budget and is exploring whether £1m could be saved from the overall substance misuse budget of £8.3m.

### **What substance misuse services are available now?**

Leicester City Council currently contracts a range of specialist substance misuse services:

- Two services for adults, which include a criminal justice substance misuse service across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Included within these contracts are services within HMP Leicester.
- A specialist service for young people aged under 18
- A housing-related support service combining supported accommodation and floating support is currently being tendered.

### **Why does the council think that change is necessary?**

Contracts relating to substance misuse services are due to run until June 2016. There will also be future budgetary pressures and changes in the way services are commissioned.

### **What changes do the council want to make?**

We are in the early stages of planning for change from July 2016 onwards and want to hear people's views on ways that services could be organized. We are also interested in hearing views on how best to meet need. We plan to carry out a second stage consultation on more detailed proposals in early summer of 2015.

### **Questions about how services are organized**

- Having one service in Leicester

There are currently four different services in the city. The advantage of having one service would be more effective information sharing, and the savings that could be made from having one contract and organizational structure. However, there would still be a need to provide a designated service for young people as part of the whole service.

- Organizing services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

Currently, only adult criminal justice services are organized across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). The advantages of all services working across LLR would be the savings that could be made through one contract and organizational structure. It may also aid working alongside county-wide services such as the Police and hospital services. The contract would need to be managed so that the specific needs of each area were met.

- Keeping services in HMP Leicester as part of the overall service

A large proportion of HMP Leicester inmates are released back into the local community. The advantage of having one substance misuse service for users in and outside of prison would make it easier to provide continuity of care (for example, on release when some users can be vulnerable to relapse)

### **Questions about meeting need**

- Having a designated young adults service as part of any service

At 18, young people are eligible for the adult service yet we are aware that many young people are still developing physically and emotionally in their early 20s. This is also an age where alcohol and drug use is relatively high. However most users of the adult services are 30+ and therefore there are advantages to tailoring a specific service for the needs of young adults.

- New and emerging drugs

The last 3-4 years has seen a growth in the existence and availability of new drugs (sometimes called 'legal highs' or 'novel psychoactive substances'. These present particular challenges to services as the content and effects of the drug are not always known, and new substances are coming onto the market at a fast rate.

- Meeting the needs of Leicester's diverse population

Leicester has a diverse population and we are keen to seek views on how services can best engage with and encourage access from the range of communities in Leicester.

### **Who might be affected by changes in services?**

Any change will directly impact on those in contact with services and staff from those services. There may also be an impact on family members and those others affected by substance misuse within the city.

### **How you can tell us what you think**

We are running a consultation from 4th November to 29th December 2014.

An online survey is available on <http://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/>

We will be running focus groups for users of services, staff providing those services and other stakeholders that work closely with substance misuse services.

People can also make comments about the proposal by writing to us, over the phone, or by email - contact details are on the last page of this document.

### **What happens next?**

When the consultation has finished we will produce a report of the findings. A decision will then be made by the executive.

You will be able to find the results on the city council's website: [www.leicester.gov.uk](http://www.leicester.gov.uk)

### **Who can I contact?**

If after this, you would like to talk to us, or comment on what is proposed, please contact the consultation team:

By post:

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