

# LEICESTER'S DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICES

Consultation to help  
shape future services

## BACKGROUND

We are holding a consultation about drug and alcohol support services in Leicester. These services aim to build recovery and reduce harm through specialist help which includes Information, advice and guidance, psycho social support, and medical interventions.

**There are currently four different services in Leicester:**

### Adult Services

- The LIFT Partnership which provides services across Criminal Justice pathways in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, including H.M.P. Leicester
- The Leicester Recovery Partnership which provides services to adults not in the criminal Justice system and includes direct public access.

### Young Person's Services

- A specialist service for young people aged under 18 called Cornerstone

### Housing Related Support Services

- A housing-related support service is currently provided at Heathfield House; a new service combining supported accommodation and floating support is currently being tendered.

## WHY WE ARE CONSULTING?

Current contracts for drug and alcohol support services are due to end in June 2016. There will also be budgetary pressures and changes in the way services are commissioned. In order to have the right services in place by July 2016, we would like to hear your views and comments on services. We plan to carry out a further consultation in summer 2015 with more detailed proposals based on feedback from this consultation.

## WHAT IS BEING ASKED?

We'd like to hear your views on six subjects. The first three questions are about how the services are organised and last three about specific areas of need.

## **1) 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 savings that could be made from having one contract and one organisational structure. However, there would still be a need to provide a specific service for young people.

## **2) Organising services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland**

Currently, only adult criminal justice services are organised across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR). The advantages of all services working across LLR would include, in addition to savings that could be made through one contract, a wider canvas of support for recovery and alignment with county-wide services such as hospitals. The contract would need to be managed so that the specific needs of each area were met.

## **3) 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 service for users in and outside of prison would be that it would be easier to provide continuity of care (for example, on release when some users may be vulnerable to relapse).

## **4) Having a specific young adults (18-24) service as part of any service**

Young people are eligible for the adult service when they reach 18. However, 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 in tailoring a designated service to meet the specific needs of younger adults.

## **5) 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 drugs are not always known, and new substances are coming onto the market at a fast rate.

## **6) 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 meet the needs of, and encourage access from, the wide range of communities across Leicester.

## WHAT OTHER INFORMATION IS RELEVANT TO THIS CONSULTATION?

There is uncertainty about future funding for drug and alcohol support services in Leicester:

- 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.
- There is a possibility Leicestershire and Rutland councils may choose to commission their services separately from the city in July 2016
- NHS England (which holds the budget for prison services) may commission services as part of general health services in prison - and not as specialist drug and alcohol support services.

## WHO CAN TAKE PART IN THE CONSULTATION?

We want to hear from as many people as possible. This includes service users, carers, family members, support organisations, stakeholders and members of the public - in fact, anyone who has a view on drug and alcohol support services.

## LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK

Our consultation is available in two formats:

You can access the online version via the city council website:

<http://consultations.leicester.gov.uk/>

(search for substance misuse consultation)

A paper version is also available, a copy of which should be available from local alcohol and drug services or

**Strategic Commissioning  
Adult Social Care and Health  
First Floor, Bosworth House  
9-15 Princess Road West  
Leicester, LE1 6TH**

## FURTHER INFORMATION

If you would like to find out more about this consultation, please call **0116 454 2385** or e-mail [substance misuse@leicester.gov.uk](mailto:substance misuse@leicester.gov.uk)

This consultation is running from 4th November to 29th December 2014.