

**Future Provision of Substance Misuse Counselling Services in Cardiff: Pre-
Decisions Scrutiny**

Purpose of Report

1. To undertake pre-decision scrutiny of the draft report to Cabinet titled 'Future Provision of Substance Misuse Counselling Services in Cardiff' and to pass comments, observations and recommendations to Cabinet for their meeting 1 October 2015, when this report will be considered.

Background

2. As part of the Budgetary Proposals, Health & Social Care proposed changes to the Community Alcohol and Drug Team. These were shown at Line HSC15 in Appendix 5, papers presented to this Committee, 4 February 2015, available at: <http://cardiff.moderngov.co.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=141>
3. At Full Council 26 February 2015, Members did not agree this budget proposal and instead agreed to continue to fund existing arrangements for the Cardiff Alcohol and Drug Team until alternative arrangements have been put in place.

Overview of draft Cabinet Report

4. The draft Cabinet Report, attached at **Appendix A**, states that it is to inform the Cabinet of '*alternative pilot arrangements put in place for substance misuse counselling services and for this to be agreed as the future provision of the service.*' (Point 1, Appendix A).
5. The draft Cabinet Report states that a pilot team of volunteer counsellors has been established offering a service every Monday 3pm – 8pm and Saturday

9.30am – 1pm. It is proposed to offer services on a Wednesday 1pm – 7pm from October.

6. The draft Cabinet Report explains how referrals are assessed to avoid inappropriate referrals and states that *'All referrals for counselling have been picked up by this new pilot team.'* (Point 6, Appendix A).
7. The draft Cabinet Report states that *'three salaried counsellors (2FTEs) have been retained on the establishment, to allow continuity in service delivery, while the new model has been developed. It is proposed to allow two (1.5 FTEs) to take Voluntary Redundancy, while retaining one post to provide the supervision and monitoring of the volunteer cohort.'* (Point 11, Appendix A).
8. The draft Cabinet Report contains the following Recommendation:
'That Cabinet agree the future provision of substance misuse counselling services as set out in the report'.
9. The Financial Implications section details that the *'resulting staffing changes referred to in paragraph 12 of the report should offer the opportunity for budget reductions which can contribute savings to 2015/16 and 2016/17.'*
10. The Legal Implications section details the many of the service users will be vulnerable and that *'the Council has a duty to ensure that the volunteer counsellors are competent to undertake the tasks that the service requires of them. Appropriate insurance cover should be in place.'*

Way Forward

11. Councillor Susan Elsmore, (Cabinet Member, Health, Housing and Wellbeing) will be invited to make a statement. Tony Young, (Director of Social Services) and Amanda Phillips (Interim Assistant Director of Adult Social Care) will also be in attendance to answer Members' questions.

Legal Implications

12. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct legal implications. However, legal implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any legal implications arising from those recommendations. All decisions taken by or on behalf of the Council must (a) be within the legal powers of the Council; (b) comply with any procedural requirement imposed by law; (c) be within the powers of the body or person exercising powers on behalf of the Council; (d) be undertaken in accordance with the procedural requirements imposed by the Council e.g. Scrutiny Procedure Rules; (e) be fully and properly informed; (f) be properly motivated; (g) be taken having regard to the Council's fiduciary duty to its taxpayers; and (h) be reasonable and proper in all the circumstances.

Financial Implications

13. The Scrutiny Committee is empowered to enquire, consider, review and recommend but not to make policy decisions. As the recommendations in this report are to consider and review matters there are no direct financial implications at this stage in relation to any of the work programme. However, financial implications may arise if and when the matters under review are implemented with or without any modifications. Any report with recommendations for decision that goes to Cabinet/Council will set out any financial implications arising from those recommendations.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to:

- a. consider the information in the report, appendices and provided at the meeting
- b. decide whether they would like to make any comments to the Cabinet on this matter and
- c. decide the way forward for any future scrutiny of the issues discussed.

MARIE ROSENTHAL

County Clerk and Monitoring Officer

10 September 2015