

Briefing note to: Health, Adult Social Care, Communities & Citizenship
Scrutiny sub-Committee

30th April 2013.

Provided by Tanya Barrow, Community Safety Partnership Manager

Re: Marina House, Camberwell

The substance misuse SLaM contract is now managed as part of the wider contract with SLaM by the CCG. The Council Substance misuse team will manage the service via a section 75 agreement which is currently being drafted.

There has been a steady decline in the numbers of people in treatment in Southwark since 2010 when the consultation was completed. This is due to a number of factors including treatment being more affective and therefore an increase in the numbers of clients leaving treatment drug free and not returning. This is known as a "successful outcome" (2009 = 1763, 2010 = 1664, 2011 = 1489, 2012 = 1481, 2013 = 1432) and a decrease in the number of people requiring complex prescribing services ie opiate users (this is in line with national trends).

Following the outcomes of the consultation (lead by the then PCT) complex prescribing services ceased at Marina House. This is in line with other boroughs ie only one complex prescribing centre per borough. A range of alternative access methods were developed including outreach and shared care ie prescribing services delivered via gps.

Following the consultation, SLaM and the IOM partners worked for 18 months to develop plans to deliver offender related services from Marina House. Unfortunately, despite protracted discussions, an agreement could not be reached for a number of reasons including financial constraints and a failure to agree terms of licence between SLaM and the MET Police. The IOM is now based at London Probation Service offices in Borough.

The PCT was fully aware of the discussions and the decision to withdraw from pursuing the IOM at Marina House.

A remodel of Southwark substance misuse treatment services was completed in July 2012 ensuring that anyone presenting to any treatment service in Southwark will receive a full, comprehensive assessment of their needs and access to a range of interventions, including, if necessary complex prescribing. This was not the case previously. There are a number of substance misuse agencies operating in the Camberwell area at which people can self refer and present for treatment. The IOM would not have offered this.

The Substance Misuse Service User Council (who represent substance misuse service users at all levels in the treatment system) have feedback no issues with those seeking treatment not being able to do so because of a lack of facilities in the Camberwell area.

At this time, there is no requirement for an additional complex prescribing service or additional treatment capacity in Camberwell. The treatment system (with a steady decline in numbers requiring complex prescribing but an increase in other types of substance use) has enough capacity and flexibility to treat the numbers entering the system wherever they present.

The newly merged Drug and Alcohol Team in Southwark Council have commissioned a full needs assessment that is due to complete in October 2013. This will confirm if we have the access routes and care pathways right for those seeking treatment now and in the future.