



NOTIFICATION OF SPECIAL URGENCY DECISION

(Decision not included in the Forward Plan that can only be taken if the decision taker obtains the agreement of the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee that the decision cannot be reasonably deferred)

ORIGINATOR'S DETAILS

Name & Contact details –

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DETAILS OF THE REPORT

Title and brief description of the nature of the business to be considered

IDM report: Extension of grant awards to substance misuse treatment providers

The IDM relates to several grant awards to substance misuse treatment providers to deliver a range of drug and alcohol treatment services between 1 April 2015 and 3 January 2016 until the new service contract (currently out to tender) is in place.

Why has this decision been delayed until now?

A requirement to reduce the financial envelope for existing drug & alcohol treatment services between 1 April 2015 and 3 January 2016 in order to identify efficiencies for reinvestment into wider Public Health priorities was identified in late 2014.

As the reduction in financial envelope will have an impact on services that cater for some of the most vulnerable and high-risk residents in the borough, a significant amount of consultation with the treatment providers has been required since January 2015 in order to fully understand the potential impact on service users and frontline service delivery. This information was required in order to make a final decision on the level of reduction in grant award value.

Final proposals from treatment providers have only been received by the council during the week commencing Monday 9 March 2015 which has had an impact on the timescales for the final decision as to the level of reduction from 1 April 2015. Without this information, the council has been unable to make an informed decision with appropriate understanding of the risk associated with reduction in grant award values.

- *Why can't the decision be reasonably deferred?*

The decision cannot be reasonably deferred as the existing grant awards for the drug and alcohol treatment services affected are due to expire on Tuesday 31 March 2015 resulting in disruption to service provision for some of the most vulnerable residents of the borough should services cease to be delivered.

- *How long has the department known the decision was to be taken?*

The decision was added to the Forward Plan in January 2015 for implementable decision in March 2015.

If scheduled on the forward plan for a particular period, what's changed to make it so urgent now?

It was anticipated that the proposals including impact assessments would be submitted by providers by the end of February 2015 allowing for the constitutional timescales to be met for implementable decision in March.

However, a number of challenges from providers arose as to the proposed

level of reduction in financial envelope from existing services which has resulted in a longer period of consultation than initially anticipated with final provider proposals only being submitted to the council during the week commencing Monday 9 March 2015. The urgency arises from the fact that the existing grant awards are due to expire on Tuesday 31 March 2015 and there is a necessity to ensure service provision continues from 1 April without any disruption.

- *Why is it important that this decision is taken now?*

It is important that this decision is taken now in order to ensure continued substance misuse treatment service provision without disruption from 1 April 2015.

- *What is the potential cost to the council if the decision is delayed?*

The potential cost to the council relates to the potential for cessation of substance misuse treatment provision from 1 April 2015 that caters for some of the most vulnerable residents of the borough and the costs associated with disengagement from treatment including involvement in crime and health related costs.

Date decision to be taken on: March 2015

Declaration

I agree/disagree* with the Chief Officer/Head of Service that the proposed decision is reasonable and that it can be treated as a matter of urgency.

Reason for refusal

Signed..... Dated.....

Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee/Mayor/Deputy Mayor*

* delete as appropriate

Please note reasons for refusal, additional points or further action required (as appropriate)

Please return complete form to Kenny Uzodike /Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, PO Box 64529, London, SE1P 5LX – tel: 020 7525 7232 fax: 020 7525 7498