

## **Management Committee**

**Date: 17 June 2015**

**Public/Private: Public**



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# **Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Progress Report**

## **1.0 Purpose**

1.1 This report is intended to inform the members of the Community Planning Management Committee of the current and future developments within the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP)

## **2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 It is recommended that the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee note the contents of this report and promote and support the activities of the ADP where appropriate.

2.2 Note the intention to present the ADP improvement plan to a future meeting of the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee

## **3.0 Background**

3.1 An update report on the ADP was presented to the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee (CPP MC) on the 25th April 2014. This report brings the CPP MC up to date with the activities within the ADP since that time and details the future developments.

3.2 The Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) is a partnership of statutory and voluntary organisations working together to achieve a reduction in the harmful effects of alcohol and drugs on both individuals and the wider community.

## **4.0 Detail**

4.1 On 4 November 2014 the ADP concluded a lengthy procurement process undertaken by Argyll and Bute Council on behalf of the ADP and awarded the contract for community based adult addiction services to Addaction Scotland. Addaction Scotland were awarded a three year contract from 1 January 2015.

4.2 The change to a new national third sector provider from the previous 5 local third sector providers inspired views for and against, and created some significant political and media interest. This resulted in the procurement process being subject to an internal review by Argyll and Bute Council and an investigation by Audit Scotland.

4.3 Audit Scotland scrutinised minutes, emails and other correspondence from both the ADP and Argyll and Bute Council. Other individuals also submitted information directly to Audit Scotland.

4.4 The Audit Scotland investigation findings were issued on 11 May 2015 and is appended to this report for information. The findings within the report have been accepted by the ADP Executive Group and activity is underway to address the recommendations within.

4.5 The report lists 3 actions which were taken in response to audit findings, these are:

- I. To demonstrate accountability on this contract by reporting to the CPP MC and the council's Audit committee.
- II. To consider external legal advice on the contract variation regarding compliance with public procurement legislation – external legal advice concludes that both the contract and variation are legally binding.
- III. To undertake quarterly performance reporting as per the contractual requirements.

And 4 other recommendations will also be progressed, these are:

- I. The lead time for contracts should be assessed to ensure that there is sufficient time for handovers to be completed and contract requirements to be fulfilled.
- II. The procurement manual and evaluation of tender documents should be updated to include a clause which states that where tender bids are close after being evaluated by the tender panel, further discussions will take place to differentiate the bids. This should be included for clarifying the position for all involved in the tender process.
- III. To demonstrate sound governance, minutes should be taken at all important meetings of the ADP and then agreed at the following meeting.
- IV. Governance arrangements in the ADP should be improved to enhance openness and transparency. Allowing open discussion and debate on strategy, budgetary information etc will help members to contribute effectively to the work of the ADP. Delivering a robust improvement plan should help with communication difficulties.

4.6 The Council, as suggested, has taken external legal advice and the council's view is that the contract remains valid and appropriate. Audit Scotland also

found the allegations made by some regarding conflict of interest within the procurement process to be without foundation.

- 4.7 Feedback received through regular meetings with Addaction has assured the ADP that service users are receiving professional targeted services specifically to address their issues and to assist them on their recovery journey. Addaction have engaged with 72 individuals from January to April who required support to either stop or reduce their drug or alcohol use and are delivering services in various locations in Argyll and Bute.
- 4.8 Other recent developments within the ADP have included the agreement of a 3 year service level agreement with the Argyll and Bute Addictions Team (ABAT) from 1 April 2015. The ABAT delivers clinical, nursing and social work services to service users with complex addiction issues in Argyll and Bute working in partnership with Health, Social Work and Addaction. The service level agreement ensures that Addaction and ABAT have the same performance management framework in place to monitor and measure their performance against an agreed set of outcomes. Arrangements have been put in place to monitor both these contracts and report on the performance to the ADP Executive Group.
- 4.9 ADP Governance issues highlighted by Audit Scotland were also reported in an investigation by Bill Brackenridge into complaints regarding the allocation of funding to support children and young people with addiction problems. The complaints however were not upheld and the ADP is now, with support from the local Argyll and Bute's Children's Executive Groups, allocating funding to support children and young people who experience addiction problems across Argyll and Bute.
- 4.10 The ADP has also held two development days in January and March 2015 to consider the ADP strategic direction, governance and to strengthen relationships within the ADP. These events were supported by the Scottish Government national support team, other leading organisations in the addictions field and an external mediator. Attendance at both events was good.
- 4.11 The main themes emerging from these two days will now be developed further by the ADP, these are:
- Partnership Administration and Governance
  - Whole population approach
  - Recovery Orientated Systems of Care
  - The Delivery Environment
  - Service User Involvement
  - Communications
  - Data and performance Reporting

An improvement plan is being prepared with support from across the ADP being sought to deliver on the actions identified to support the ADP moving forward.

4.12 The ADP has also agreed that there is a requirement to provide independent leadership and strategic vision across the partnership through the appointment of an independent chair who will take the lead role in ensuring the ADP's core outcomes are effectively discharged. The role will be to ensure the ADP is integrated and has close links with relevant strategic and operational structures at both local and national level, to provide the CPP MC with regular reports on the performance of the ADP strategy and services and to ensure the ADP is represented within the CPP and Health & Social Care partnership structure. The role and remit for this post are currently being prepared and it is hoped that an appointment will be made by this autumn.

## 5.0 Conclusions

5.1 The ADP has secured a contract, with a service provider recognised for success, that is delivering a consistent level of support across Argyll and Bute and which, as demonstrated by feedback from service users, is working effectively for people who need assistance.

5.2 The focus for the ADP is now on improvements to the ADP governance, structure and building on commitment to partnership working by all members, for the benefit of the people who need our support.

## 6.0 Implications

Strategic Implications	The ADP supports the delivery of the following short term outcomes in the SOA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>6.5 - Reduce the Impact of alcohol and drug misuse on communities</i></li> <li>• <i>5.3 - Individuals make healthier / positive lifestyle choices</i></li> <li>• <i>4.2 - Children and young people should enjoy the highest possible attainable standards of physical and mental health</i></li> </ul>
Consultations, Previous considerations	N/A
Resources	N/A
Prevention	The ADP strategy focuses on prevention and early intervention.

Equalities	The ADP is committed to working in partnership across Argyll and Bute.
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## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 Audit Scotland review of the commissioning process undertaken on behalf of the Argyll and Bute Alcohol and Drug Partnership