

Approved By: Charles Garbett, Acting Chief Executive and Treasurer (s 151 officer)	Classification of Paper: Not Protectively Marked
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Report to PCC	Report reference number PCC/ PCC/0012/13
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Date of Decision Date of Report: 29 March 2013	Area of County/Stakeholders affected <i>Countywide</i>
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Title of report: 2013/14 funding to the Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team to maintain the commissioned provision of Criminal Justice Interventions across Essex County previously funded from Home Office Grants.

Report by

Enquiries to Duncan Taylor, Research & Analysis Manager, Essex County Council

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1. To seek approval to allocate £268,877 to the Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (Essex County Council Public Health) to continue to maintain the commissioned specialist drug treatment and support services commissioned through an existing contract with Westminster Drug Project (WDP) operating as Inside Out across Essex with regard to drug users in the Criminal Justice System ("the Contract").

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 To approve the allocation of the above funding to continue to support the Contract and service provision.
- 2.2 To develop a formal commissioning relationship with the Drug and Alcohol Action Team (Public Health – Essex County Council) to ensure continuity of provision and effective targeting and reporting of performance in relation to substance misuse treatment and support

3. Benefits of Proposal

- 3.1 Substance Misuse (Drugs and Alcohol) continues to be clearly identified as a contributory factor to a considerable proportion of reported crime and disorder across Essex.
- 3.2 The current provision and performance of the services delivered under the Contract identified herein evidence significant positive impact upon offending behaviours linked specifically to drug and alcohol misuse:
- The average days of shop lifting went down from 9.8 days at the start of treatment to 0 days at planned exit.
 - The average days of reporting selling drugs went down from 15.9 days at the start of treatment to 0 days at planned exit.
 - At the start of treatment, 1.5% of clients reported committing other types of theft. By planned exit, this decreased to 0%.
 - At the start of treatment 1.9% of clients reported committing an assault. By planned exit, this decreased to 0%.

4. Background and proposal

- 4.1 The EDAAT has historically commissioned Criminal Justice treatment and support for drug misusing offenders through allocation of the Drug Intervention Programme budgets across Essex.
- 4.2 The service contracted for this purpose is currently delivered under the Contract by Westminster Drug Project operating as Inside Out which currently provides the Criminal Justice Integrated Services across Essex in both the community and prisons supporting drug and alcohol misusing offenders.
- 4.3 The Contract is delivering evidence based high quality support and intervention and the high level of performance can be seen within Appendix 2 Essex DAAT – Criminal Justice Performance.
- 4.4 The value of the Contract is £1.4m of which in 2012/13 £268,877 was made up through the Home Office DIP Allocation. The CJIS service was let as 3+1+1 years From April 1st 2010.

5. Police and Crime Plan

- 5.1. This proposal to maintain the commissioned provision of Criminal Justice Interventions across Essex supports the key priority area in the Police and Crime Plan around tackling the consequences of drugs, alcohol abuse and mental health issues.

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- 5.2. It aligns with the PCCs approach to the allocation of the Community Safety Fund set out in the Police and Crime Plan which involves working closely with partners such as the Drug and Alcohol Action Teams.
- 5.3. It also accords with the PCC's approach set out in the Police & Crime Plan where there is a continuing need to support those existing services involved in tackling the causes and consequences of crime. This service was previously funded through the Drugs Interventions Programme Main Grant from the Home Office.

6. Police Operational Implications

- 6.1 Acceptance of this proposal would ensure that police custody issues in relation to drug misusers are retained and that drug misusing offenders are supported into appropriate provision thereby freeing up Police resources.

7. Financial Implications

- 7.1 The value of the Contract is £1.4m of which in 2012/13 £268,877 was made up through the Home Office DIP Allocation.
- 7.2 The PCC would fund a £268,877 contribution to the Contract and will use the existing measures within the contract to monitor outcomes and performance to ensure that the service delivers on his priority to tackle the consequences of drugs, alcohol abuse and mental health issues. The measures that will provide the evidence of effective and efficient service outcomes will include:
- % in effective treatment
 - Planned Completions/Exits
 - Prison to Community (Continuity of care)
- 7.3 The monitoring and evaluation of the service during 2013/14 will allow the PCC to develop his long term commissioning strategy in relation to substance misuse treatment and support.
- 7.4 The long term financial implications would be the predicted rise in drug related crime and increased demand upon policing.

8. Legal Implications

- 8.1 The Contract is made between Essex County Council and Westminster Drug Project. Essex County Council is a party to the Contract because it is the accountable body of a partnership with the Essex Drug & Alcohol Partnership. The Contract is expressed to be for a fixed term from 1st April 2010 until 31st March 2013. The Contract provides for the term to be extended if agreed in writing between the parties and is renewable on the option of the Essex Drug & Alcohol Partnership. However, the Contract does record that Essex County Council's intentions as at the date of

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entering into the agreement, are to competitively re-tender and re-procure the services which are the subject of the Contract in the financial year 2012/13.

- 8.2 [If the Contract is renewed on its current terms, the Contract may be terminated early in the event of breach (whether material, persistent or not), insolvency or for the convenience of either party. Where a party wishes to terminate for convenience, six months prior written notice must be given. No compensation or other financial penalty is payable on early termination but the contract price would continue to be payable during the notice period.]

9. Staffing and other resource implications

- 9.1 There are no known staffing issues. Staff delivering both contracts are all employed directly by Westminster Drug Project. The Contract is, however, silent as to the operation of TUPE and it remains a risk that when the Contract ends, whether on expiry or as a result of early termination, that an employee may assert that a transfer of undertakings has taken place. This risk is presently adjudged to be low.
- 9.2 There are potential resource implications for the PCCs Office as the service and performance outcomes and to a lesser extent financial performance, will have to be regularly monitored to ensure effective and efficient delivery against the Police and Crime Plan priorities

10. Equality and Diversity implications

- 10.1 The continuation of this service would ensure that an underserved and hard to engage section of society would continue to have a specific element of support.

11. Background papers

- 11.1 Appendix 1: Service Specification for the provision of the Criminal Justice Interventions provided by Westminster Drug Project.



Microsoft Word 97 -
2003 Document


- 11.2 Appendix 2: Essex DAAT – Criminal Justice Performance Report



Microsoft Word 97 -
2003 Document


Report Approval

The report will be signed off by the Chief Executive and CFO and the PCC Solicitor where legal implications arise.

Chief Executive/M.O 
Chief Financial Officer
PCC Legal Advisor (As necessary)

Decision

I agree the recommendations to this report

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PCC/Deputy PCC

I do not agree the recommendations to this report because

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PCC/Deputy PCC

Publication

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Reasons for non-publication (*state 'None' if applicable*)

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Signed/Print name

Report for publication

YES

NO

If the report is not for publication, the Chief Executive will decide if and how the public can be informed of the decision.

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