

12-22 Linenhall Street
BELFAST
BT2 8BS

11 March 2013

Dear Colleague

Alcohol and Drug Commissioning Framework for Northern Ireland 2013-16

We would invite your comments on the attached Alcohol and Drug Commissioning Framework for Northern Ireland 2013-16 produced by the Health and Social Care Board and the Public Health Agency. The document outlines the scale of the impact of drug and alcohol related harm in Northern Ireland and outlines what approaches should be taken in order to reduce such harm, based on the available evidence to date. The document will be of interest to a wide range of stakeholders given the need to intervene across a range of settings.

Commissioning Guidance

The framework lists the key priorities for commissioning over the next 3-5 years and whilst many of these priorities will be addressed by HSCB and the PHA, commissioning organisations and those grant funding projects are encouraged to consider these also, and to examine the detailed information on how such priorities should be delivered. This is essential in order to ensure that funding is used appropriately and effectively and that service provision is consistent.

The key areas for commissioning include:

1. Parenting and lifeskills – Expansion of parenting and life skills programmes
2. Training – A regional training plan to ensure that staff in a range of services working with young people and adults are competent in addressing substance misuse issues with their client /patient groups



3. Primary Care – Continuation of the Regional Enhanced Service for Alcohol Brief Interventions in Primary Care launched in August 2010
4. Community Services – Improving capacity within Community Addiction Services to meet the NICE target of 1 in 6 of ‘at risk’ harmful/dependent population receiving treatment per year.
 - In addition, there is a need to:
 - Ensure regional consistency of services
 - Manage more patients in the community rather than inpatient treatment
 - Offer more support to family members
5. Acute Liaison – Expand acute liaison services for Alcohol and Substance Misuse within the acute hospital/Emergency Department setting
6. Inpatient addiction services – Reconfigure inpatient and residential rehabilitation provision to ensure a more consistent and evidence based model of service provision regionally
7. Ensuring a range of voluntary/community organizations provide drug and alcohol services to meet local need in areas such as community support, youth treatment, hidden harm, low threshold and support for service users and families

Key goals of this framework include reforming and modernising statutory based drug and alcohol services and ensuring adequate resources and a consistent level of service provision across Northern Ireland. A number of significant changes in service delivery are prioritised. The need to provide additional resources in this area is also outlined.

PHA NSD Commissioning Plan 2013 – 16

The document also serves to provide guidance on the priorities for resources made available by DHSSPSNI to implement the New Strategic Direction on Alcohol and Drugs 2011-2016. Such resources are managed by the PHA with significant input from locality based Drug and Alcohol Coordination Teams (DACTs).

DACTs will be required to review existing provision of services in their area, identify gaps and agree local priorities for the PHA NSD



Commissioning Plan 2013 – 16, taking account of the priorities identified in this framework. Plans will be required to be submitted to the PHA and following this the PHA will procure new services by the 31 December 2013.

I would encourage you to consider the questions outlined in the document and respond to commissioningframeworkconsultation@hscni.net by 18 April 2013.

Yours sincerely



MR JOHN COMPTON
Chief Executive



DR EDDIE ROONEY
Chief Executive

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