

Substance Misuse provider Event: Questions and Answers

1. **Question:** Do you envisage digital to be part of the solution?

Answer: Yes, but any development would need to sit within current financial envelope. We are always keen to support innovation and the use of technology is a priority so we would be happy to work with providers to seek funding opportunities.

2. **Question:** In the economic and financial standing section, we are to give you our last two years of accounts. Can you share the test that applies?

Answer: The instructions to tender document has a full page on this. When you send the accounts, they will go to SCC finance. A reputable credit reference check is used. If you have concerns, there is opportunity for a parent company to guarantee or a bond can be placed.

3. **Question:** On the financial template for submission, there are specialist operational costs. Does the cost of supervised consumption and needle exchange fall in that?

Answer:

Pharmacy Needle Exchange

- Pharmacies that deliver needle exchange are paid for each transactions from a separate Public Health budget.
- The Commissioned Service is responsible for the cost of equipment that is ordered and dispensed by the pharmacy.

Supervised Consumption

- Pharmacists are paid a retainer and for every supervised consumption attendance. This is paid from a separate Public Health budget.
- The Commissioned Service is responsible for all other costs associated with the health interventions they deliver, including prescribing, dispensing, drug and BBV testing costs.

4. **Question:** Are actual drug costs themselves in?

Answer: They are to be included in the budget for the service.

5. **Question:** Is it just the bottom line price you're interested in? There will be a necessity for flexibility within the overall budget. Most of us are experiencing fluctuations in drug costs so we would need flexibility.

Answer: The relationship between providers and commissioners is strong in Southampton. When issues come up we will sit with providers and work through the difficulty. The price and information provided will provide the basis to compare like for like. Throughout the life of the contract it will be about flexibility and open dialogue.

- 6. Question:** The way the pricing schedule is laid out, it gives a maximum price for each year for five years. Often individual years go over the price and we then take an average for the tender. Can we go over / under the price for individual years?

Answer: It is the maximum price per year. The price must be below the maximum. There is no minimum price.

- 7. Question:** Does that mean you cannot frontload costs?

Answer: No, you cannot front load costs. It is not a five year price. You need to price each year below the maximum per year price.

- 8. Question:** On the pricing schedule you have a sheet that asks about staffing detail. We would be interested to know how that information will be used.

Answer: It is the price that gets assessed. The staffing detail is for informative purposes only and not scored. We score what is in the Method Statement Questions (MSQs). The staffing detail on the pricing schedule gives a sense of what the staff make up looks like.

- 9. Question:** There is a big focus on coordinated care and supporting individuals, do you expect digital/ tech platforms to support?

Answer: If you're thinking of bringing that as a new approach that will be looked at as innovation. There is not a big pot of money to go out for innovation but we welcome people to reflect on innovation. Whatever you're thinking it would need to be provided within the financial envelope.

- 10. Question:** Is it the provider or commissioner that provides the data management system?

Answer: The provider provides the system. The system should provide access for the young people service to access it and in doing so support the transition between adult and young people services.

- 11. Question:** Will there be service users on the evaluation panel?

Answer: If we can we will. It is not always very easy to get individuals to engage.

- 12. Question:** Will you be circulating the details of people in the room if they want to keep in touch? Will you be giving out peoples email?

Answer: All parties in the room were asked to show their consent on the signing in form. Names will be shared between those who have consented.