

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Education, Culture and Sport
DATE	22 November 2012
ACTING DIRECTOR	Patricia Cassidy
TITLE OF REPORT	Drugs Action funding
REPORT NUMBER:	ECS/12/048

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of this report is to request approval to enter into a contract with Drugs Action to provide drugs education services in a partnership initiative with Aberdeen City Council's Youth Development team and to seek approval of the expenditure of £14,918.72 funding from Education, Culture and Sports budget allocated to drugs diversionary work.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

It is recommended that Committee:

- (i) Approves that Drugs Action is identified as the delivery partner for this project due to the specialist nature of the work
- (ii) Approves entering into a contract with Drugs Action without obtaining quotes from any other providers; and
- (iii) Approves the expenditure of £14,918.72 from the Education, Culture and Sport budget to be paid to Drugs Action for the period from December 2012 until July 2013

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Drugs Action will receive an allocation of £14,918.72 from the Council's Drugs Diversionary Budget to cover the period from December 2012 until July 2013

4. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

Where the Council is purchasing services the Standing Orders Relating to Contracts and Procurement require some form of advertising or tendering for the contract. Where the estimated expenditure is below £60,000 the

Standing Orders require four quotes to be sought. In this case there are special circumstances which justify not seeking four quotes and permission is sought from Committee to go ahead with purchasing the services from Drugs Action. The special circumstances are: -

- (i) that there are no other suitable providers of these particular services who could meet the requirements of the Council; and
- (ii) that the Council has worked in partnership with Drugs Action for many years and has developed close working relationships to the benefit of the recipients of the services.

5. BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

Aberdeen City Council's Youth Development team is responsible for providing young people with a range of learning opportunities in both school and community-based settings. Such opportunities include access to drugs education from trained and knowledgeable staff.

The youth work service has had a very positive relationship with Drugs Action for many years. Drugs Action staff have demonstrated that they are able to engage effectively with young people and youth work staff.

Up until the restructure of the community learning and development service in August 2011 Youth Information sessions were delivered in every secondary school in the North of the City. Drugs Action staff and Youth Workers worked together to provide young people with information on a range of drugs-related issues.

Drugs Action's previous remit included prevention. However, when the City Drug Services were re-commissioned this year this was not included in the services to be provided in the tender. This, together with the restructure of Community Learning and the resultant reduction in staff, has meant the cessation of Youth Information sessions in schools. It is necessary therefore for partners to work together and share expertise and resources to deliver services to young people in Aberdeen.

The Youth Information sessions were evaluated positively by young people who took part in them, and it is the intention of the Youth Development team to start them again. Input from Drugs Action staff is critical to ensuring that information regarding drugs and associated issues is accurate, up-to-date and pitched at the right level for young people to engage with.

An allocation of £14,918.00 from the Drug Diversionary Budget will cover the cost of a Drugs Action worker for 18.5 hours per week for a period of 8 months. This worker will be tasked to deliver Youth Information sessions, provide training to Youth Workers and, where possible, offer one-to-one support where a need for this is identified.

6. IMPACT

This report relates to Outcome 4 in the Single Outcome Agreement: “Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors, and responsible citizens”.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

8. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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