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To whom it may concern

Re: Residential Treatment Centre of Excellence – A Public Consultation Document

I am pleased to present a consultation document which outlines the delivery of a Residential Rehabilitation Centre of Excellence for drug and alcohol users in Birmingham and asks for your comments and feedback on how services can be delivered that contribute towards meeting improved health and community safety outcomes.

Birmingham Drug and Alcohol Action Team were successful in applying for capital funding which provided the opportunity to develop and improve Tier 4 services for drug and alcohol users in Birmingham. This included the development of a residential rehabilitation provision which previously had not been provided in Birmingham. The need for a central residential unit had been identified by service users and parent and carers as part of a yearly process of developing the Birmingham Drug Treatment Plan. A lack of funds had always prevented Birmingham Drug and Alcohol Action Team from commissioning this service.

The requirement to commission the Tier 4 Centre of Excellence was published in the 2007/08 Treatment Plan which was made available either in hard copy or on the Drug and Alcohol Action Team and National Treatment Agency websites. There has been considerable discussion and feedback with all the treatment providers and partners agencies in Birmingham. There has also been a significant dialogue with service users and ex drug users regarding delivery of these services.


The commissioning of the service was put to open tender in July 2007 based on a service specification that incorporated provider, partner and user views as well as matching an evidence base to deliver effective practice. The tender was awarded to a Provider Consortium consisting of Inclusion, Phoenix Futures and Midland Heart. The provision of the property was part of the tender arrangements and criteria for a successful tender award. The delivery of the programme is expected to be implemented from July 2009.

This consultation document is to provide further opportunity for partners and local communities to influence how this service can be delivered. This may include for example support available, pathways in and out of the community, needs of parents and carers in the development of groups and programmes, how the service can be accessed.

There is an opportunity in the document to send feedback or members of the DAT and/or Consortium are willing to meet with interested groups or forums to discuss the delivery of this service in more detail. It is also an opportunity to request additional information about the service to be delivered.

All of your comments and feedback will be taken into consideration in the development and planning of the programme and will contribute towards ensuring the service is able to meet the needs of drug and alcohol users, their families and the community.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Helen Cochrane', written in a cursive style.

Helen Cochrane
Lead Commissioner for Drug Treatment Services
Birmingham Drug Action Team

