

Your reference number is EIA340878558.

Thank you for submitting EIA - Co-ordinator stage

**Name of project or proposal (required):** Substance Misuse

**Is this project a Transformation project? (required):** T21

**Opportunity Reference (optional):**

**Name of accountable officer (required):** Ileana Cahill

**Email (required):** ileana.cahill@hants.gov.uk

**Department (required):** Adults' Health and Care

**Date of assessment (required):** 09/06/2021

**Is this a detailed or overview EIA? (required):** Detailed

**Describe the current service or policy. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):** The Substance Misuse Service provides drug and alcohol treatment to adults and young people. In 2019/20, the service treated approximately 3,200 adult clients with a further 2800 receiving non-structured informal support including brief interventions and needle exchange. Approximately 800 young people under 25 years are supported within the service. The service also works with pharmacies across Hampshire to deliver a needle exchange scheme and support those requiring medication for their opiate addiction.

**Geographical impact (required):** Winchester

**Describe the proposed change. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):** It is proposed the Winchester substance misuse treatment centre would close, & alternative provision would be made available, including a smaller satellite clinic in Winchester. This would affect adults accessing the substance misuse treatment service in Winchester & any family/carer receiving support there. The changes would not affect the delivery of the children & young people's substance misuse service. Profile of Winchester service users as follows:

Female 36.2%; Male 63.8%

Ethnicity: African <5%; Other White <5%; White British 94.9%; White Irish <5%

Age: 18-24 5.5%; 25-29 12.2%; 30-34 13.7%; 35-39 15.8%; 40-44 12.8%; 45-49 8.8%; 50-54 8.5%; 55-59 11.9%; 60-64 <5%; 65-69 <5%; 70+ <5%.

**Who does this impact assessment cover? (required):** Service users

**Has engagement or consultation been carried out? (required):** Planned

**Describe the consultation or engagement you have performed or are intending to perform. This question has a limit of 700 characters; approximately 100 words (required):** The County Council's Serving Hampshire Balancing the Budget 2019 consultation sought residents' and stakeholders' views on strategic options for funding the Authority's budget gap. In addition, an 8-week consultation on these proposals is taking place from 14 June to 9 August 2021. The findings from this consultation will be published and presented to the Executive Lead Member for Adult Services and Public Health in late 2021.

**Age (required):** Medium

**Impact (required):** Adult population 30-49 years: Approximately 50% of adults accessing substance misuse services in Hampshire are aged between 30 – 49 years. 66% of those people in treatment for their opiate addiction are between the ages of 30 and 49 years. This cohort require intensive care and support (including medical treatment) to enable recovery. A reduction of access to treatment amongst these age groups in Winchester may result in a decrease in the numbers of people accessing substance misuse treatment and a likely increase in the unmet need in the city. This age group also have the highest number (nearly two thirds) of all drug related deaths across Hampshire. Accessing substance misuse treatment services is a protective factor

in preventing drug related deaths and reducing access to these services for this cohort of people will result in an increased number of deaths.

**Mitigation (required):** A smaller satellite clinic in Winchester opens at certain times during the week on a sessional basis, where one to one appointments will be available;  
Group work/recovery support activities available at local community venues;  
Outreach to other services such as homeless support services; and  
Virtual support (via the telephone and/or online).  
The treatment hubs at other sites in Hampshire, the nearest being Eastleigh.

**Disability (required):** Medium

**Impact (required):** People with drug and/or alcohol dependencies often have complex needs and other related or unrelated health problems. For example, 53% of service users within the substance misuse service have an identified mental health need. The service is currently working jointly with primary care and secondary mental health services to support service users who have a co-occurring substance misuse and mental health need. Joint working arrangements could be affected, and lower level mental wellbeing support will not be available within the service.

The closure of the Winchester hub may disproportionately affect those with complex needs who require greater access options and more intense support. This will affect the progress of an individual's recovery and potentially the risk to their health and wellbeing, including risk of death.

**Mitigation (required):** Clear joint working protocol developed which describes referral, assessment and treatment pathways. Outreach and joint working developed with community mental health teams.

**Sexual orientation (required):** Low

**Impact (required):** Whilst there are relatively low numbers of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) population currently accessing the substance misuse service (88% of service users identified themselves as heterosexual), evidence suggests that this group face a higher risk of substance misuse. A change in service offer may impact on specific activities aimed at this client group.

**Race (required):** Low

**Impact (required):** Most people (94.9%) accessing the Winchester Treatment Centre are White British. Currently outreach into Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities and the location of physical hubs in areas with higher proportions of the Hampshire BME population has resulted in greater proportion of ethnic minorities engaged in treatment. For example, in Aldershot 11.9% of service users are from BME communities. Closure of the Winchester hub may affect the ability to engage with BME communities.

**Religion or belief (required):** Neutral

**Gender reassignment (required):** Low

**Impact (required):** There are no data available locally to determine access to substance misuse services, however national research suggests that this population are at a higher risk of misusing drugs and alcohol.

**Gender (required):** Medium

**Impact (required):** Currently, 63.8% of people accessing treatment for drug and alcohol misuse in Winchester are male. Less women (36.2%) currently access substance misuse services. The closure of the Winchester hub may impact the number of women accessing support.  
At present the substance misuse service offers women only groups which are particularly important as some would have experienced domestic abuse.

**Mitigation (required):** Ensure women only groups continue in areas of highest need.

**Marriage or civil partnership (required):** Neutral

**Pregnancy and maternity (required):** Low

**Impact (required):** There are health risks for both mother and baby if the mother misuses drugs and/or alcohol. Currently, 10 pregnant mothers accessed the service in 2018/19. The closure of the Winchester hub may result in a reduced availability of service to pregnant mothers.

**Poverty (required):** Medium

**Impact (required):** Deprived communities are associated with the problematic use of drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine. Although problematic use of these drugs is not exclusively related to deprivation it is much more common among those living in poverty. The impact of harmful and dependent drinking is greatest in deprived communities. There would be a reduction in access to substance misuse services for those living in poverty. National statistics show that there are higher numbers of drug related deaths in areas of deprivation. Both Gosport and Havant have higher than average deaths. Health outcomes such as rates of alcohol related conditions, alcohol related mortality and alcohol related hospital admissions for those living in local authority areas where there are elevated levels of deprivation in Hampshire is likely to increase. Whilst Winchester is an affluent district, there are pockets of deprivation.

**Mitigation (required):** Prioritise resources to ensure that substance misuse services are visible and accessible in Winchester. Work with other agencies who have good visibility in Winchester (eg Homeless support services, primary care) to ensure there are clear and robust pathways of referral.

**Rurality (required):** Low

**Impact (required):** The current substance misuse service has a good foot-print across Hampshire with 9 treatment hubs (in the main towns) and several satellite services in more rural areas. The closure of the Winchester hub will not decrease the availability of satellite services and outreach in more rural communities.

**Any other brief information which you feel is pertinent to this assessment (optional):**

**Please confirm that the accountable officer has agreed the contents of this form (required):** Yes

**More information required? (required):** No - complete this EIA

**Comments (required):** Good clear account of the proposed changes