

**Report of the Cabinet Member
Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental
Services**

Introduction

I have been asked by Councillor Hannaford to report on the consultation to potentiality withdraw HIV Support Services provided by The Eddystone Trust from October 1st 2017 and to include a brief overview on how we cover these issues generally.

Response

Devon County Council has a statutory responsibility to provide open access sexual and reproductive health services as part of the Public Health grant conditions. Devon County Council has been working with Torbay Council on the tendering of a single Sexual and Reproductive Health Service to cover the population of Devon and Torbay.

Through engagement with service users and stakeholders a clear consensus emerged that prevention needs to be given a higher priority and that the prevention work in Devon and Torbay needs to be better coordinated and targeted at those in greatest need.

A draft service specification was developed, which proposed two specific services. The main service (Lot 1) being the provision of a Sexual and Reproductive Health Service and a separate service (Lot 2) to provide a coordinated, targeted prevention service, which focused on HIV prevention, young people and training for non-healthcare professionals. At present Eddystone Trust are contracted (until 30/06/18) to provide HIV prevention and an Advocacy and Support Service for people living with HIV. The proposed new prevention service includes HIV prevention, but not the provision of advocacy and support for people living with HIV, as this is not a prevention service.

To gain an initial understanding of the impact to service users of not including advocacy and support for people living with HIV within the service specification a review of client needs was undertaken. This was led by Torbay Council on behalf of both authorities and undertaken in collaboration with the current service provider. The outcome of this helped inform the equality impact assessment.

As an outcome of the public consultation, I have asked Officers from the Public Health Team and Adult Social Care to work with colleagues from Torbay Council and the service provider, to undertake a detailed options appraisal for the provision of advocacy and support for people living with HIV. The appraisal will take into account the impact on people who currently receive services from Eddystone Trust and the extent to which mainstream services would meet the gaps if the service was to be wholly or partly decommissioned.

**Councillor Roger Croad
Cabinet Member**

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