

Residential Rehabilitation – Quality standards framework

Specification and invitation to bid ('consultancy') or apply (temporary employment)

Summary:

The Recovery Partnership is inviting bids or applications to produce a quality standards framework for residential rehabilitation services providing drug and/or alcohol treatment.

We are inviting bids from independent consultants to undertake this work.

We will also consider (as an alternative) applications from those interested in a fixed-term (six months) full-time employment contract. As the budget holder for the project, the temporary employment will be with DrugScope.

We envisage that the work will begin as soon as possible with the aim of being completed by end of March 2013. The total funding for the work (consultancy) is £26,000.

Background:

The Recovery Partnership

The Recovery Partnership was formed in 2011 to provide a new collective voice and channel of communication to Government on the delivery of the ambitions in the drug strategy for drug treatment and recovery. The Partnership brings together the Recovery Group UK, DrugScope and the Substance Misuse Skills Consortium. The co-chairs of the Partnership are Noreen Oliver (Recovery Group UK), Martin Barnes (DrugScope) and Vivienne Evans (Substance Misuse Skills Consortium).

Since its formation, the Partnership has, for example, submitted several papers to the Inter-Ministerial Group on Drugs (IMG) on specific issues relevant to treatment and recovery: payment by results; housing and recovery; employment, education and training. The Partnership has given a presentation to the IMG highlighting concerns in the sector about the risk of disinvestment in drug and alcohol treatment following the introduction of the new public health service. The Partnership meets regularly with officials across government departments and has contributed to cross-departmental working groups.

The work of the Recovery Partnership has been formally endorsed by Ministers and the Inter-Ministerial Group on Drugs.

Residential rehabilitation

Last year the Recovery Partnership was invited by the Inter-Ministerial Group on Drugs to produce a paper on residential rehabilitation. An independent 'expert group' was established to help inform identification of the issues and potential recommendations. The initial purpose of the expert group was to:

- share experiences and perspectives on residential rehabilitation provision and access;
- identify key issues facing the provision, commissioning and role of residential rehabilitation;
- agree practical steps and actions to address these issues (including developing tools and guidance).

Chaired by David Burrowes MP (acting in an independent capacity) the group brings together representatives of different service providers, commissioners, people in recovery, and officials from the Department of Health and the National Treatment Agency (NTA).

The expert group has undertaken four strands of work:

1. Agreeing a definition of residential rehabilitation services

Given the range of services described as ‘residential rehabilitation’, there is considerable variation and difference – e.g., on the clients provided for; referral and assessment criteria; induction and length of stay; philosophy and programme of care; discharge and completion criteria; aftercare and so on. This is important for service users and their families and carers, but also for how services are funded and commissioned.

The expert group has made progress on providing a consistent and agreed definition for the range of services provided.

2. Mapping provision of services

The expert group has begun a process to get a full picture of what residential rehabilitation services are available and the type of support and interventions provided. Following an initial questionnaire for services providers, this work continues.

3. Establishing a ‘quality framework’ for services

Building on and utilising existing service quality frameworks and benchmarks, a new quality framework for residential rehabilitation services will help support consistency and delivery of improved outcomes. It will also help provide a template for informing choice and decisions by service users and people in recovery, their families, and also commissioners and funders.

This is the key area of work identified by the expert group and is the basis for this invitation to bid – see below.

4. Supporting and developing the workforce

Quality services across the drug and alcohol treatment sector – residential, prison and community based – require skills and confident and supported staff and managers. The expert group will be working with the Substance Misuse Skills

Consortium and the Federation of Drug and Alcohol Professionals (FDAP) in developing and supporting the workforce in residential and community based services.

A Quality Framework for residential rehabilitation services

The project will produce a comprehensive 'quality standards framework' for residential rehabilitation services. Building on previous and existing quality and standards frameworks, it will be up-to date (e.g., fully reflecting the ambitions for recovery in the drug strategy) and informed by consultation with the sector, service users and people in recovery, key officials and others.

We envisage that the activities involved could include:

- an analysis of the expert group's work on definitions of residential rehabilitation services;
- a review and assessment of previously published quality standards and frameworks (and their utility and impact);
- consultation with residential rehabilitation services and other service providers in the treatment and recovery sector;
- consultation with service users and people in recovery;
- identification of gaps in quality standards relevant to the residential rehabilitation sector;
- identifying new quality standards to meet the identified gaps and consultation to ensure relevance and effectiveness;
- establishing links with the regulators of residential care (and potentially promoting and disseminate the standards framework);
- devising a communication and implementation plan for the project;
- advising on the creation of a linked or related accreditation standard;
- producing a framework which is robust, accessible and which can become a web-based tool (e.g., with links to other relevant documents and resources).

Requirements: successful bids/applications should demonstrate:

- a working knowledge or an understanding of the different models of residential care available within the drug and alcohol sector;
- a working knowledge or understanding of quality standards applicable to the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery sector;
- understanding of the funding and commissioning process for substance misuse services;
- understanding of policy and practice developments in the sector, including payment by results and outcome-based commissioning, the introduction of the new public health service and the expected role of Health and Wellbeing Boards;
- ability to delivery to tight time scales;
- self management and the ability to develop and manage a work plan;
- analytical skills in regards to complex issues;
- excellent communication skills;

- competency in establishing effective working relationships with a range of institutions, organisations and individuals.

Project management

The contract/employment will be with DrugScope as the budget holder for this project. The project will be overseen by the co-chairs of the Recovery Partnership and will report to the 'expert group'.

All material developed as part of the project will be the property of DrugScope and the Recovery Partnership.

Payment and budget (bids):

25% of an agreed contract price will be paid at the start of the project. The remainder will be paid on submission and approval of the final quality standards framework.

The total budget for this project (consultancy), inclusive of any expenses and VAT, is £26,000.

Submitting a bid

It would be helpful if you could include the following information with you bid application:

- your relevant experience, skills and competencies;
- details of any similar projects or activities you have undertaken;
- a proposed project plan for the work with a suggested timetable;
- your expectations of any support or inputs from the Recovery Partnership and/or expert group;
- details of financial costs.

Please submit your bid to Martin Barnes, Chief Executive of DrugScope at: martinb@drugscope.org.uk

Submitting an application for temporary employment

If you are interested in being considered for a temporary (six-month) employed post, please submit an application in the form of: a copy of your CV, a covering letter describing how you are able to meet the 'requirements' set out on page 3; a description of how you would delivery the project; the names and contact details of two referees (these will not be approached unless a provisional offer of employment is made. Please submit your application to martinb@drugscope.org.uk

It is envisaged that the employment will be full time – i.e., 35 hours a week.

The full salary for this post (if appointed – for the six months) will be £25,000 plus 6% pension contribution.

Timetable

Bids and applications must be submitted by **28th September**.

The co-Chairs of the Recovery Partnership will assess bids and will invite those shortlisted to a meeting to discuss their bids. Interviews for shortlisted bids or applications will be held within two weeks of the deadline.

September 2012