

European Social Funded Initiative:



The Peer Mentoring Scheme:

Background:

The Welsh Assembly Governments Substance Misuse Strategy 'Working Together to Reduce Harm' set out a Ten year programme of activity designed to reduce the negative impact of illicit drugs, alcohol and other stimulants. Central to this strategy is the delivery focus on helping people overcome their problems via treatment, counselling, case work help and support.

It is this later area which requires further attention via a new and innovative approach to the simple task of helping people. It is felt that the development of a Pan Wales **Peer Mentoring Scheme** will add significant value to and compliment existing work with specialist clinic and psycho-social interventions.

At its simplest, Peer Mentors will advise, assist and befriend individuals who are experiencing significant and acute problems with their abuse of substances. They will focus exclusively on helping that person to overcome their problems by achieving economic independence through paid employment, skills development, adult education or other forms of Training.

Funded by the European Social Fund, the innovative nature of this scheme and the outcomes anticipated, it is an expectation that Tendering Agencies give serious consideration as to how they, along with other delivery partners, could deliver this scheme across an operational area designed to model the newly configured seven Local Health Boards.

Context

The wider context to this proposed scheme is that across all current delivery services, case work capacity is already very stretched. Value added support- often referred to 'wrap around services'- are not fully developed. The main reason for this is the self evident reason of cost; revenue budgets with core services are already heavily committed. With access to new Money via ESF, the development of a Peer Mentor Scheme, designed to help individuals not only complete treatment episodes but provide sustained help and support in order the very fabric of someone's life can be developed. This can only be achieved, realistically, through achieving economic independence.

Peer Mentors will be drawn from a pool of people who are likely to have had problems with substance misuse themselves; or family members, carers, concerned others and so on. They will be trained, developed, properly supervised and supported in order an International class scheme can be developed.

The Community Safety Division within the Welsh Assembly Governments Social Justice and Local Government Directorate will oversee the development of this scheme in its official role as Project Sponsor. It will work in collaboration with both stakeholders and partners including the Welsh European Funding Office (WEFO).

Outline Specification

The Welsh Assembly Government through its Community Safety Division are now inviting prospective providers from the Substance Misuse treatment and related sectors to tender for the 'Development of a Peer Mentoring Scheme' across Wales. The project will be referred to as the Peer Mentoring Scheme.

The details below sets out what prospective providers are being ask to do; how they are being asked to bid; and the various assurances needed in respect of Match Funding: an ESF requirement of this scheme.

The proposed contract will commence as of the 1st October 2009 and will run for four years and conclude on the 30th September 2013.

It is not anticipated that this contract will be extended beyond this date.

The Contracts are awarded on a fixed price basis. It is assumed that the mobilisation phase of the Contract will take four months and costs will reflect the start-up phase. Thereafter, the fixed price basis will be apportioned for each quarter. All tenders will need to clearly demonstrate what will be delivered for the fixed price and to clearly demonstrate how funding will be matched.

It is anticipated that the maximum price of this contract will be publicised in order to assist all potential service providers understand the Match Funding values required.

The delivery areas are Pan-Wales and will be modelled against the new Local Health Board areas, namely; North Wales; Dyfed; Powys; West Glamorgan; Merthyr and RCT; Cardiff and the Vale of Glamorgan; Gwent.

The Service Requirement:

The aims of this scheme include:

The Peer Mentoring Project is designed to provide new and additional strength to substance misuse services through the introduction of a new resource in the form of Peer Mentors. They will focus exclusively on helping substance misuse dependent individuals achieve ***economic independence*** via access to sustainable employment.

It is expected and anticipated that Peer Mentors will become embedded within main-stream substance misuse services and compliment, enhance and improve case work capacity in order to achieve improved outcomes. The critical elements of the Peer Mentors role and the services they provide will include:

- Helping and supervising individuals to remain focussed on completing specific treatment for their substance misuse and to provide on-going and intensive therapeutic support to help achieve this outcome.
- Providing critical help support and guidance- post treatment- designed to help maintain positive momentum towards the ultimate goal of achieving economic independence and an enhanced quality of life.
- Provide critical relapse prevention support.
- Provide post treatment focus for partners and wider family support networks.

- Provide a potential career pathway for ex-service users or individuals with unique insight into substance misuse dependency, to develop their own skills as practitioners and promote opportunities to become a Peer Mentor.
- Filling an acknowledged gap within current services, given case work support often stops at the conclusion of a clinical treatment episode.

Whatever the treatment modality, it remains the case that both during and after treatment intervention is when the individual is at their most vulnerable but also highly receptive to help, guidance, support and individualised attention. Current commissioned service provision can rarely provide this degree of intensive help, especially with a specific focus on accessing employment and becoming economically independent. Consequently, there is a need and demand to fill this gap if this traditionally 'hard to reach' group are to be helped.

It is proposed, therefore, that the additional financial resources will 'buy' this additional, value added capacity, using new (Human) resources which extend to; Peer Mentors, Senior Case Work Practitioners and Operational Management.

Key Deliverables:

- Design an operational model that delivers the key aims of the Peer Mentor Scheme
- Recruit select, train, accredit and develop Peer Mentors and build an operational support framework of Case work supervisors, administrative support and operational service management
- Achieve the agreed operational Key Performance Indicators with the absolute focus on helping substance misuser's return to work and achieve economic independence
- To increase year on year the proportion of individuals successfully completing treatment programmes by providing access to Peer mentors who will work with and alongside clinicians, specialist substance misuse practitioners, families, carers and significant others
- Monitor outputs and outcomes
- Adhere to ESF rules
- Implement policies designed to ensure the scheme developed is safe, inclusive and operates within employment 'best practice' guidelines
- Promote the scheme and enhance its development in accordance with agreed outcomes
- Develop case management and data collection systems that are compatible with existing arrangements

A full specification will be provided to those who will be eligible to submit a full submission.