

## **Annex B**

### **Application guidance for Children and Young People Point of Arrest Diversion Pathfinders**

#### **General**

These notes are intended as a general guide to those who are considering submitting an expression of interest for developmental funds to bolster existing liaison and diversion schemes for children and young people.

#### **Purpose of the funding allocation**

This allocation is available to strengthen identification, support and pre charge diversionary activity for children with mental health difficulties and risk factors, learning disabilities, speech and communication needs, health inequalities, brain injury, and safeguarding needs at the point of arrest. Applicants will need to demonstrate that they already have in place a point of arrest scheme which includes systematic screening, collaborative decision making with the police about disposal and/or pathways to restorative interventions and support into local services.

#### **Who is able to submit an expression of interest?**

Any local area that already has an existing model of point of arrest diversion in place for children and young people.

#### **What is Diversion?**

'Diversion' means identifying young people who need help as early as possible and making sure that they get support as quickly as possible. Diversion can mean diverting someone *within* the youth justice system or it can mean diverting people away from the system and towards mental health, social care or voluntary sector support where this is thought to be appropriate. Diversion can happen at any point in the system, but it works best when it happens early. It can reduce re-offending and can prevent young people with mental health and other needs from drifting deeper into the system. Evidence based early intervention for children and young people with mental health difficulties has been calculated to save cross government costs.

#### **Completing and submitting an expression of interest**

Expressions of interest are made by completing the application form in Annex D and returning it via email to [carly.tutty@dh.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:carly.tutty@dh.gsi.gov.uk) and post to:

Carly Tutty  
Project Manager, Children and Young People Programme  
Wellington House  
135-155 Waterloo Road  
London  
SE1 8UG

Expressions of interest must be received by 5pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March 2011.

### **The application form**

The Department of Health requires those wishing to submit expressions of interest to demonstrate how they will bolster existing diversion schemes by self assessing against set criteria. Based on learning from the six youth justice liaison and diversion pilot schemes which are currently running, this selection criteria sets out our learning so far about the core components of a successful point of arrest diversion model. Applicants are asked to evaluate their confidence in fulfilling these criteria, based on existing performance. The application form contains the following six distinct sections, relating to core components of the diversion model:

- Existing diversion activity taking place
- Partnerships
- Accountability and governance
- Out of hours response and care
- Evaluation and outcomes
- Sustainability and future commissioning arrangements

### **Site selection process**

The submitted application form will be evaluated and applicants will be shortlisted with reference to both qualitative and quantitative responses. Responses will also enable the Department of Health to identify trends and areas for broader developmental work to support local areas to prepare for any future phase of rollout.

Applicants should assess confidence levels against each of the set criteria using a scale of 0–4. The same scale of 0–4 will be used by the Department of Health when evaluating applications. The scores will not be cumulative: each standard and the evidence for it will be evaluated on a case by case basis.

The ratings are as follows:

- 0 Not at all confident
- 1 Not sure whether this would be possible
- 2 Not currently fulfilling this, but confident it could be arranged
- 3 Occasionally meeting this criteria but not systematic
- 4 Already meeting this criteria on a systematic basis

In addition to the numerical score a narrative statement should also be included to support and explain the rationale for the chosen rating. For example a brief description of how the criteria are currently being met, or an outline of how sites might use the money to adapt current practice so that what is done might better reflect criteria in the future. It would be also be helpful in these sections to indicate key strengths of current models or areas identified as needing further improvement

The Department of Health does not require any evidence to be supplied with the application. The report should simply summarise evidence demonstrating how applicants meet the selection criteria.

### **Timeframes**

Applicants are required to submit expressions of interest by 5pm on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> March. A selection panel will be convened during w/c 21st March. Sites will be informed of the decision no later than 31<sup>st</sup> March.