

Brief

North Inner City Drugs Task Force (NICDTF) invites tenders for the creation and delivery of a customised programme in parenting skills to parents in recovery from drug use / stable on methadone. This document outlines the key elements of what is required, including the tender process.

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A: Background

The NICDTF supports community based responses to addiction and related issues in Dublin's North Inner City¹.

Issues around parenting and drug use have been highlighted repeatedly by projects² in the NICDTF area. In April 2007, NICDTF held a meeting with representatives of projects / groups³ to attempt to define the issue. The following was agreed upon as a working definition of the problem.

"Parents who use drugs face a unique challenge as they become drug free - the need to re-engage with their children. This is an extremely important issue, both in terms of the parent's recovery and of the child's development. To successfully manage this issue, a high level of intervention / support for parents is needed. Local projects⁴ have neither:

- a) The capacity to provide this level of support at the moment, nor,
- b) Staff that could be trained to provide this support adequately.

Therefore, what is required is dedicated, ongoing provision of parenting support to this particular group of project users. This would be provided by an external group with the expert capacity needed to cater to parents who are recovering from drug use and seeking to engage with their children."

Following this, input was sought from the National Documentation Centre on Drug Use. Based on the information supplied, a brief proposal was drawn up and presented to the full NICDTF in August 2007. NICDTF chose to support this

¹ See www.nicdtf.ie

² Soilse, North West Inner City Training and Development Project (NWICTandDP), Gateway, SAOL Project

³ Soilse, NWICTandDP, North West Inner City Network (NWICN), Gateway

⁴ Soilse, NWICTandDP, Gateway

project. Other organizations⁵ that had raised the issue with NICDTF in the meantime were informed and consulted. Now the group is seeking to appoint a suitable external group to conduct a pilot study with parents engaged with local projects.

B: Scope

Overview

To create a pilot version of a parenting skills program for parents who are **either**:

- a) Drug-Free, **or**,
- b) Stable on methadone / other prescribed medication (i.e., not using illicit drugs)

In addition, the parents will have identified the issue of reintegration with their children as an issue of concern for them in their recovery. As such, parents will already be in contact with their children as part of their recovery.

Key considerations

- It is envisaged that this program will take place on a one-to-one basis (i.e. not group work with other parents), or on a one-to-one basis with some element of groupwork
- It is envisaged that only a small number of parents will be involved in the pilot (5-10)
- It is envisaged that the program will be self-contained (i.e. will not require other inputs), and will provide high support over a short period of time
- The program needs to take into account the fact that other family members may have been looking after the child/children while the parent was using drugs
- The program must be designed with sustainability in mind
- The program must include an evaluation

C: Deliverables

The successful applicant(s) will be responsible for:

- The design of the pilot program
 - In consultation with local projects / NICDTF
 - In line with international best practice
 - Mindful of the 'key considerations' (above)
- The delivery of the pilot program
 - Selection of participants in consultation with local projects
 - All sessional work with parents related to the pilot
- The evaluation of the pilot program
 - Selection of key performance indicators
 - Data recording and analysis

⁵ Deora Counselling, Family Support Network, UISCE

- Provision of short report on pilot program, to include recommendations

D: Tender Details

Approximate Timescale

May 2008 – July 2008:

- Design of pilot program in consultation with local projects
- Selection of participants

July 2008 – September 2008

- Delivery of program

October 2008 – December 2008

- Data analysis
- Submission of report and recommendations

Budget

The budget for this work is €12,000, inclusive of associated costs and VAT

Tender Process / Submission Details

The contract for this work will be awarded by competitive tender.

Parties interested in submitting a tender should include:

- A brief outline of their suitability to undertake the work⁶
- A brief overview of the key issues, from their perspective
- A methodological outline
- A brief background on the individual(s) who would be involved in this work
- A project budget
- A project timescale
- Contact details

A shortlisting of tenders may apply.

Please submit tenders by email to:

marcus@nicdtf.ie

Marcus Keane

01-8366592

Closing date for submission of tenders is Friday 25th April, 2008 at 12.00 noon.

⁶ Experience of design and delivery of parenting programmes is essential. Experience of working with parents / families experiencing addiction is desirable.