



Mayor and Cabinet

Permitted extension to the contract for a Substance Misuse and Sexual Health Service for Young People (Insight Lewisham)

Date:

Key decision: Yes

Class: Part 1

Ward(s) affected: All

Contributors: Emily Newell, CYP Joint Commissioner

Outline and recommendations

This report seeks approval from Mayor and Cabinet to extend the existing contract for a Young People's Substance Misuse and Sexual Health Service with WayThrough (previously known as Humankind), following successful delivery of the contract over the initial contract term. This optional extension is allowed for in the original contract award.

It is recommended that the contract with WayThrough be extended for two years, from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2027. The cost of the contract during this extension period will be £916,096 (£458,048 per year), or £2,718,921 over the five-year lifetime of the contract (1st April 2022 to 31st March 2027).

This report summarises the performance of the contract over the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The provider has made significant improvements in terms of service reach, and in uptake of interventions during this period, and this positive trajectory has continued into the 2024/25 financial year.

Timeline of engagement and decision-making

9th December 2021: Mayor and Cabinet agreement to extend contract to March 2022 to allow for the service review and procurement exercise to take place.

March – April 2021: Consultation survey with local professionals

April – May 2021: Focus groups with local young people

May – June 2021: Recommendations for future commissioning approved by Public Health SMT, Children and Young People's DMT, Community Services DMT, and Lewisham CCG SMT.

June 2021: Business case and procurement strategy agreed by Mayor and Cabinet

July 2021: Market engagement event

December 2021: Contract awarded to WayThrough by Mayor and Cabinet following competitive tender process

1st April 2022: Contract commenced

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report seeks approval from Mayor and Cabinet to extend the contract for the Lewisham Young People's Substance Misuse and Sexual Health Service provided by Waythrough (previously known as Humankind), following successful delivery of the contract in the initial contract term. This extension is allowed for in the original contract award.
- 1.2 The integrated Substance Misuse and Sexual Health Service, known as 'Insight Lewisham', aims to increase access to information, advice and support around substance misuse and sexual and reproductive health and relationships, and reduce the harm associated with drug and alcohol use and risky sexual behaviour.
- 1.3 WayThrough were awarded the contract in December 2021 following a competitive tender process. The contract commenced on the 1st April 2022 for an initial period of 3 years up to 31st March 2025, with an option to extend for an additional 2 years up to 31st March 2027.
- 1.4 This report summarises the performance of the Insight Lewisham contract over the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The service made significant improvements in terms of reach, and in uptake of interventions, during this year, and this positive trajectory has continued into the 2024/25 financial year. Thus it is recommended that the optional extension period be enacted.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Mayor and Cabinet approve the extension of the contract for a Young People's Substance Misuse and Sexual Health Service with WayThrough (previously known as Humankind), for a period of two years, from 1st April 2025 until 31st March 2027. The cost of the contract during this extension period will be £916,096 (£458,048 per year), or £2,718,921 over the five-year lifetime of the contract (1st April

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2022 to 31st March 2027).

3. Policy Context

3.1 The recommendations within this report relate to the following priorities in the Council's new Corporate Strategy 2022-2026, namely:

- Children and Young People; the renewal of the contract will provide treatment and support to families where substance misuse has been identified as a concern regarding child protection and safeguarding.
- Safer Communities: the renewal of this contract will support the work within the partnership to combat anti-social behaviour that is linked to alcohol and drug misuse.
- Health and Wellbeing; the services within the contract will provide holistic assessments on all service users and where appropriate refer to primary and secondary NHS services. The London Borough of Lewisham has a statutory responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work with partners to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse.

3.2 This contract contributes towards the aims of the Government's 2021 [drug strategy](#), and is partially funded by the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTR). This grant is provided to the Council enabling it to achieve the following strategic outcomes in Lewisham:

- reduced likelihood of drug and alcohol related deaths.
- a reduction in drug and alcohol related reoffending amongst prolific offenders.
- increase in the numbers of drug and alcohol users, especially offenders, engaging in treatment as well as increases in those achieving and sustaining recovery.
- reduced costs for local health services and police forces due to lower health and crime harms, and lower costs to the criminal justice system (as fewer people are dealt with by the courts).

3.3 The National Alcohol Strategy also sets a range of outcomes underpinned by an understanding of the need to; ensure everyone is aware of the risks of excessive alcohol consumption and can make informed choices about responsible drinking, and; recognise that some people will need support to change their behaviour and ensuring that this is available, particularly for the most vulnerable in our community. The Strategy has identified reducing Alcohol Harm as one of nine priority areas for action highlighting identification of harm, reduction of hospital admissions and increased numbers of young people accessing and completing services, as areas where more work is required.

3.4 The service outlined in this report also meets the Council's responsibilities to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) which delivers the Mayor's role as the Police and Crime Commissioner for London. MOPAC are committed to delivering their Police and Crime Plan and have provided funding to local authorities to deliver specific local delivery projects, of which this service is one.

3.5 The provision of this service contributes towards the Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy (2019-24) and Lewisham's Local

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Sexual Health Action Plan. It will help to achieve the following visions of the strategy; 'People are empowered to make their sexual relationships healthy and fulfilling', 'People effectively manage their fertility and reproductive health, understand what impacts on it and have knowledge of and access to contraceptives', and 'The local burden of STIs is reduced, in particular among those who are disproportionately affected'.

4. Overview of Insight Lewisham service model

- 4.1 The Insight Lewisham Substance Misuse and Sexual Health Service is for young people aged 10-25 living, attending school or registered with a GP in Lewisham, and their families. It is a single integrated service providing brief education and psychosocial interventions for sexual health and substance misuse, plus specialist structured support for substance misuse. The overarching aim of this provision is to increase access to health services and to reduce health inequalities amongst young people, particularly those considered most at-risk, vulnerable and/or under-represented.
- 4.2 The service aims to increase access to information, advice and support around substance misuse and sexual and reproductive health and relationships, and reduce the harm associated with drug and alcohol use and risky sexual behaviour. The overall outcomes expected from the service are:
- Reduced harm caused to young people partaking in risky sexual behaviours and substance misuse.
 - Improved knowledge of issues and potential problems associated with drugs, alcohol, and risky sexual behaviours.
 - Increased awareness of access to advice, information and services for sexual and reproductive health and substance misuse.
 - Reduced health inequalities amongst young people, particularly those considered most at-risk, vulnerable and/or under-represented.
 - Improved mental wellbeing in affected young people, by building resilience, coping strategies and decision-making skills, in partnership with other agencies.
- 4.3 The service is delivered across three service 'levels' as below:
- Universal and open-access services** - Access for all young people to information, advice, and brief interventions including; education and harm reduction for substance misuse; C-Card; STI screening; and support to access specialist and clinical services. This will include a strong online presence for health promotion and information, including via social media and instant-messaging functions.
- Targeted outreach and co-location** - Persistent and assertive engagement with at-risk young people in locations where they are already based. Delivery of the full range of information, advice and brief interventions outlined above, but tailored to meet the needs young people that are at higher risk of experiencing or being affected by substance misuse or risky sexual behaviour. This is particularly focusing on the groups below and will include co-location with relevant partner agencies:
- Young people involved in the criminal justice system

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- Young people that are involved in or at risk from criminal or sexual exploitation, and violent crime
- Young people with parents or carers that misuse substances
- Young people that are not in education, training or employment, or in alternative education
- Young people known to Children’s Social Care (including Family Thrive)
- Young people seen in A&E or hospital due to risky sexual behaviour and/or substance misuse

Specialist support and case management for substance misuse – This provides longer-term structured support for young people affected by substance misuse to help them achieve abstinence, and will include a holistic assessment of need and risk, structured psychosocial interventions, pharmacological treatment for substance misuse in partnership with adult services and GPs, and support for young people to access wider provision to build up other life skills.

4.4 In each year since contract commencement, additional funding from the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment Grant has been awarded to WayThrough to expand the Insight Lewisham Service to meet the requirements of the national drug strategy (as set out in point 3.2 above). This funding has been used to commission the following enhanced services to be delivered by WayThrough and embedded into the Insight Lewisham service to create a seamless, whole-family offer:

- Hidden Harm Worker x 1FTE providing support to children affected by parental substance misuse
- Parental Health & Wellbeing Worker x 1FTE providing support to parents of children and young people affected by substance misuse
- Specialist Substance Misuse Schools Co-Ordinator x 1FTE providing liaison, training, and workshops in universal education settings
- Criminal Justice Recovery Co-Ordinator x 1FTE providing dedicated support for children and young people at risk of extra-familial harm and exploitation.
- Adfam Training supporting the partnership on whole-family substance misuse treatment
- Activities for young people within the service
- Website Resource Development

5. Contract Performance in 2023-24

5.1. The section below summarises the performance of the Insight Lewisham contract over the year 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024. The service has made significant improvements in terms of reach and in uptake of interventions during this year, and this positive trajectory has continued into the 2024/25 financial year.

5.2. *Caseload*

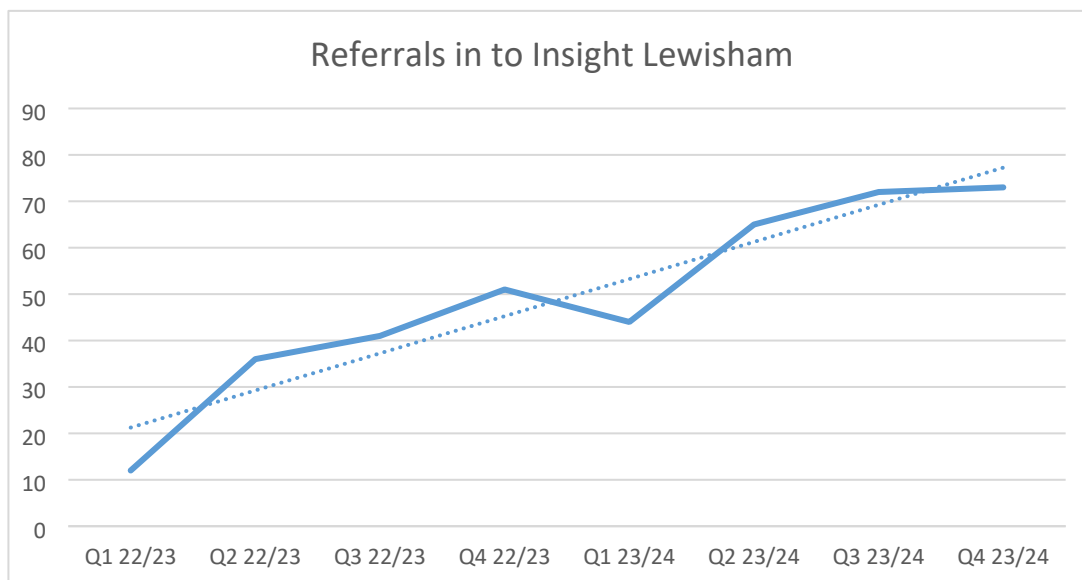
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- 253 young people were referred to Insight Lewisham in 2023/24, compared to 182 in the previous year (see figure 1).
- 204 of these young people went on to receive a full assessment and ongoing support from the service compared to 117 in the previous year. This 204 doesn't include the large number of young people supported via one-off or brief interventions (set out below).

Figure 1



- Of 33 young people that have provided feedback on their experience of Insight Lewisham, 19 rated the service as 5/5, and 13 rated the service as 4/5, and one rated the service as 3/5. 100% of young people said that they would recommend the service to others.

5.3. **Outreach, training and partnership working**

- Insight Lewisham were co-located at the Youth Justice Service for 27 days in 2023/24, compared to 14 in the previous year. They were co-located with Family Thrive for 30 days, compared to 0 in the previous year. As of October 2024, the service is also regularly co-located with the Safe Space Team.
- As of the end of 2023/24, Insight Lewisham are running regular drop-in sessions at the following locations; supported housing (seven locations); Family Hubs (three locations); Youth Justice Service; XLP Bus; Goldsmiths Uni; Lewisham College; Deptford College; Etham College; Community Space (Lewisham Shopping Centre); Bellingham Gateway Youth Centre.
- Insight Lewisham attend the following multi-agency meetings on a regular basis; UHL A&E Discharge Panel; YJS Turnaround Panel and Out of Court Disposal Panel; CGL/PCRS referral meeting; CAMHS Dual Diagnosis Forum; SLAM Interface Meeting; MASH Panel; Serious Youth Violence Panel; IAPT.
- Insight Lewisham delivered 10 workshops, reaching 108 attendees, across schools, youth clubs and across voluntary and community sector settings.
- Insight Lewisham have delivered 9 training sessions for professionals, with 159 attendees in total.

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- The service has had a presence at 26 community events, reaching 764 attendees in total

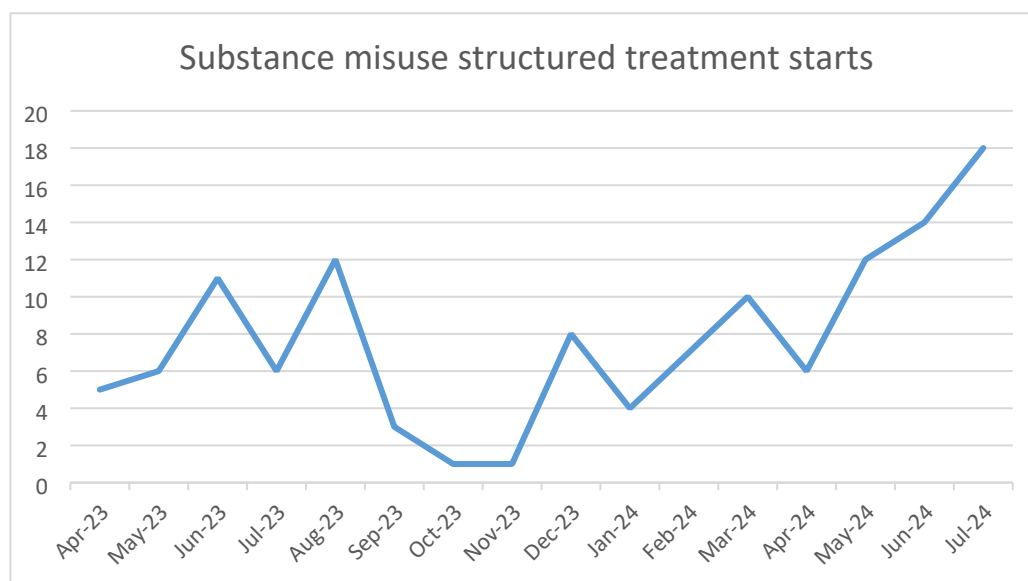
5.4. **Social media**

- Insight Lewisham’s Social Media Strategy has resulted in a significant increase in the number of people reached through their Instagram account. Insight Lewisham content (both static posts and videos) has reached 2,014 unique users in total in 2023/24 (see graph in appendix 1).
- The Insight Lewisham webpage is the top viewed of all WayThrough young people’s services nationally.

5.5. **Substance misuse performance against targets**

- The service met its targets for delivery of brief interventions for substance misuse, both at tier 1 and tier 2. There has been a significant increase in the delivery of these interventions over the year (see graph in appendix 1).
- The service was behind target for the number of young people starting structured substance misuse treatment, though this figure has increased over the year, and continues to increase in Q1 of 2024/25 (see figure 5).
- Insight Lewisham have not met the target for planned completions of substance misuse. The target is 80% and the average for 2023/24 has been 65% (see graph in appendix 1).

Figure 5



5.6. **Sexual health and relationships performance against targets**

- Insight Lewisham significantly increased the number of young people reached for support for sexual health and healthy relationships in 2023/24.
- The service has exceeded the target for the number of young people registered with the C-Card scheme and provided with an initial supply on condoms. 194 young people were provided with an initial supply, compared to 39 in 2022/23 (see graph in appendix 1).

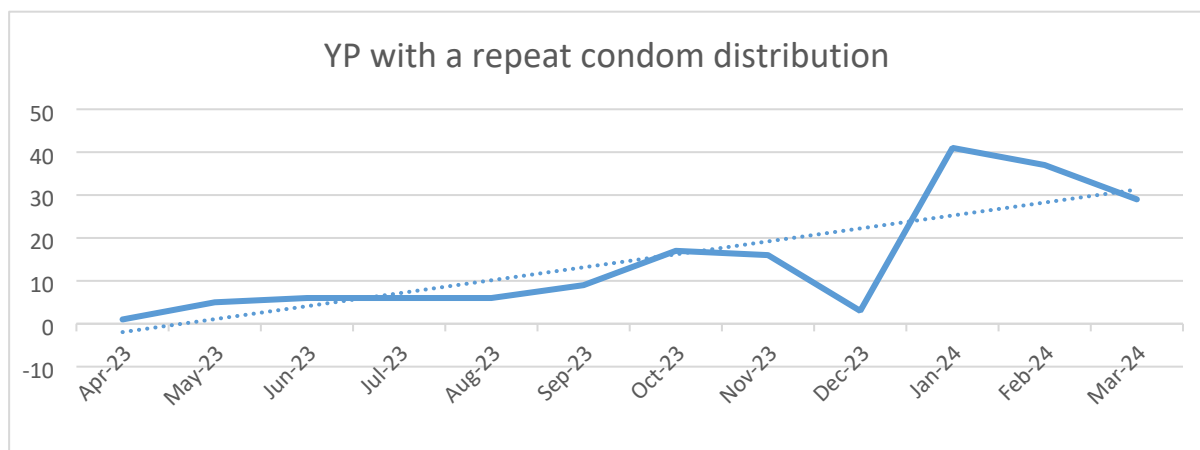
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- The service has significantly increased the number of young people coming back for a repeat distribution of condoms over this year (see figure 8). 176 young people received a repeat supply of condoms, compared to just 14 in 2022/23.
- The number of young people receiving brief interventions in relation to risky sexual behaviour and healthy relationships has also increased over the year, with 176 young people receiving support compared to 86 in the previous year (see graph in appendix 1).

Figure 8



5.7. **Priorities for 2024/25**

The priorities for the service in this financial year are to:

- Increase number of young people in structured substance misuse treatment, with a focus on those aged under 18, in line with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities' (OHID) targets.
- Improve the rate of planned exit from substance misuse treatment
- Increase engagement with schools (including Alternative Education Settings and Pupil Referral Units), to increase the number of young people being referred through this route.
- Improve pathway into clinical sexual health services, including supporting access to long-acting reversible contraception (LARC) and Emergency Hormonal Contraception (EHC)
- Strengthening relationship with the Integrated Adolescent Safeguarding service and Corporate Parenting Service

6. **Finance implications**

6.1 The total contract value over the lifetime of the contract (five years) is £2,718,921, as set out in the table below.

6.2 For the period 1st April 2022 to 31st March 2025, this contract value includes funding from the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTR) provided to the Council by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID). The continuation of this grant funding is not yet confirmed beyond 31st March 2025. If funding is confirmed, this Contract will subsequently be varied accordingly.

	Initial contract term	Extension period	TOTAL
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	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	contract value
Core Contract	£460,972.00	£458,048.00	£458,048.00	£458,048.00	£458,048.00	£2,293,164
SSMTR services	£59,376.00	£136,441.00	£229,940.00	Not yet agreed	Not yet agreed	£425,757
Total	£520,348.00	£594,489.00	£687,988.00	£458,048.00	£458,048.00	£2,718,921

6.3 The contract will be funded by contributions from the grants below. There is no contribution from the Councils General Fund budgets.

Funding source	Budget line	Annual contribution
Public Health Grant	School-aged health	£154,048
	Sexual and reproductive health services	£125,000
	Substance misuse	£91,000
MOPAC Crime Prevention Fund		£88,000
TOTAL budget allocation		£458,048

7. Legal implications

7.1 The recommendation in the report is to extend the contract with WayThrough for 2 years at a value of £916,096.

7.2 This report explains why the extension to the contract for 2 years is proposed.

7.3 The Health Care Services (Provider Selection Regime) Regulations 2023 (“PSR”) came into force on 1st January 2024. From that date, for services to which the PSR applies, the Council must use the PSR even where the original contract was procured and awarded under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The services that are the subject of this report fall under the PSR.

7.4 Under the PSR a modification is permitted where it is clearly and unambiguously provided for in the original contract. The report sets out that the original contract was procured on the basis of 3 years with the option to extend for a further 2 years. Officers are requesting that the option to extend is approved. Where a modification exceeds £500k a transparency notice must be published within 30 days of the modification.

7.5 The extension of this contract is not a Key Decision under the Constitution because the approval to award the contract on the basis of the extension was approved at the point the contract was awarded. However, where the value of an extension to a services contract is more than £500,000, the decision on the extension is reserved to Mayor and Cabinet.

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8. Equalities implications

- 8.1 An Equalities Analysis Assessment (EAA) was carried out during the previous commissioning process to assess the impact of the changes proposed through the re-commissioning and service redesign. Overall, with all factors and wider commissioning decisions taken into consideration, the impact was found to be neutral across all protected characteristics and the commissioning would lead to an overall increase in the access to support for children, young people and their families.
- 8.2 This anticipated increase in reach and access to the service has been realised and evidence through the performance data set out above. The extension to this contract will continue to support this positive impact on young people across all protected characteristics.
- 8.3 A core principle within the service is to deliver equitably to service users from all cultural, sexual and ethnic backgrounds, to service users with disabilities and learning difficulties and to service users with complex needs including co-morbidities. The service will continue to prioritise reach to young people from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic groups, and young people identifying as LGBTQ+.

9. Crime and disorder implications

- 9.1 London Borough of Lewisham has a statutory responsibility under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work with partners to reduce crime, disorder and substance misuse. The service outlined in this report also meets the Council's responsibilities to the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) which provides London Crime Prevention Funding for this service to deliver substance misuse support to young people involved in the Lewisham Youth Justice Service.
- 9.2 The service is required to target support at a number of priority groups, including those that are involved in the youth justice system, and those that are experiencing or at risk of child criminal or sexual exploitation. The service works proactively and persistently with these groups of young people in locations and using methods that are accessible to them, and is measured on their performance in these areas.

10. Health and wellbeing implications

- 10.1 The overarching aim of this provision is to increase access to health services and to reduce health inequalities amongst young people, particularly those considered most at-risk, vulnerable and/or under-represented. The performance data set out in this report evidences how the contract has achieved this so far, and the service will continue to deliver these benefits for young people through this extension period.

11. Social Value implications

- 11.1 As part of the tender process, WayThrough were required to demonstrate their commitment to social value in delivering this service. A method statement on social value was required, which accounted for 5% of the overall evaluation, as part of the quality score. This included a commitment to providing volunteering and work experience placements for Lewisham young people, and recruiting staff from the local area.

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11.2 WayThrough are routinely reporting on their delivery of Social Value. During Q1 2024/25:

- 108 hours of Wellbeing Practices for Employees were taken up
- 100% staff provided with on-the-job development/growth opportunities for existing staff
- 8 LBL unemployed people were in receipt of support
- 182 hours of volunteering opportunities were taken up

12. Report author(s) and contact

Report author - Emily Newell, CYP Joint Commissioner, 07825 456559,
emily.newell@lewisham.gov.uk

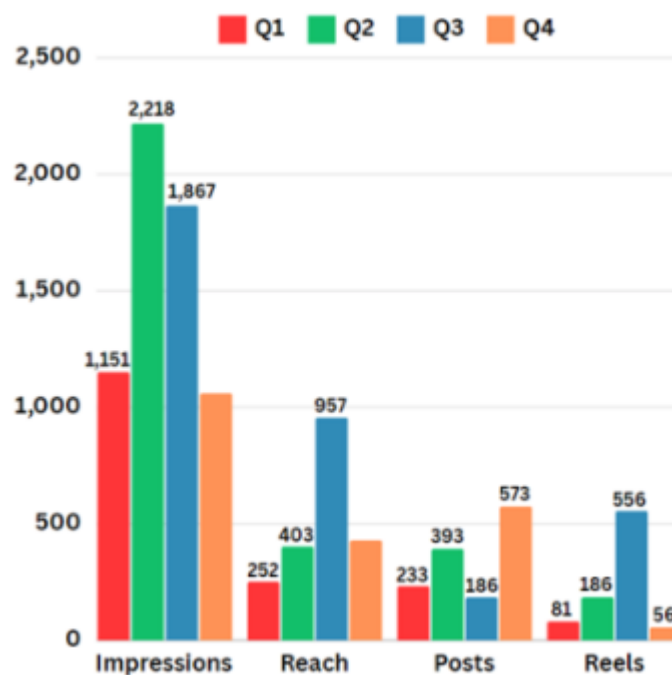
Financial implications – Yusuf Shaibu, Strategic Finance Business Partner (Community Services)

Legal implications – Mia Agnew, Senior Contacts Lawyer

13. Appendices

Contract performance 2023/24

Figure 3



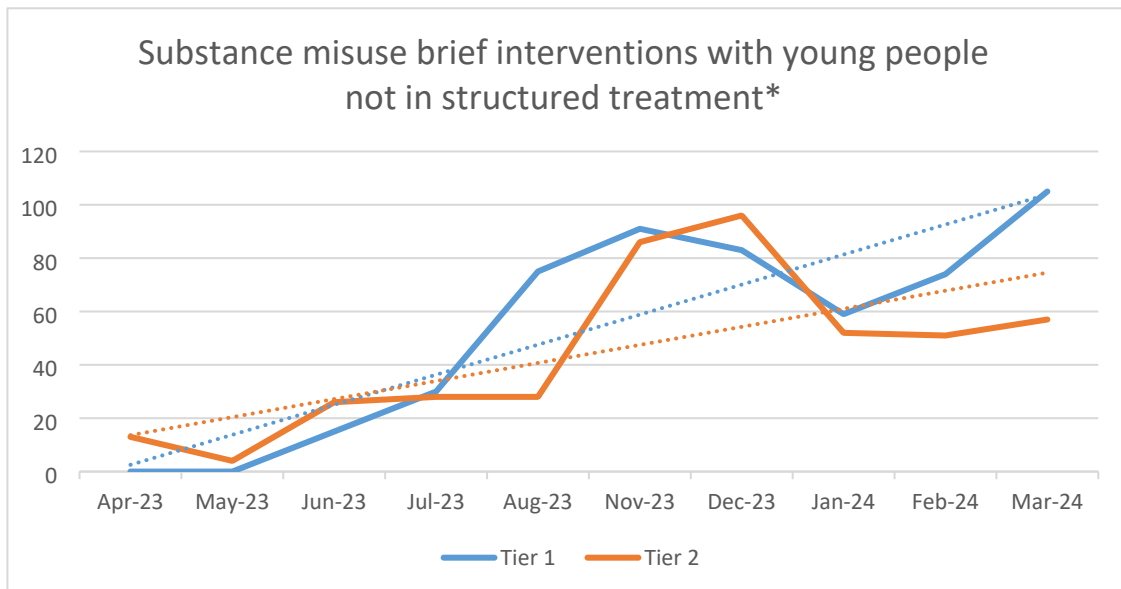
*Impressions = The number of times Insight Lewisham content was shown to users.
Reach = Number of unique users that have been served Insight Lewisham content.
Posts = Number of interactions with a post (likes, comments, shares etc.)
Reels = Number of interactions with a reel (plays, likes, comments etc.)*

Figure 4

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**Data collection method changed in September and October causing a spike in the number of interventions recorded. These months have been removed as they cause the data to be skewed*

Figure 5

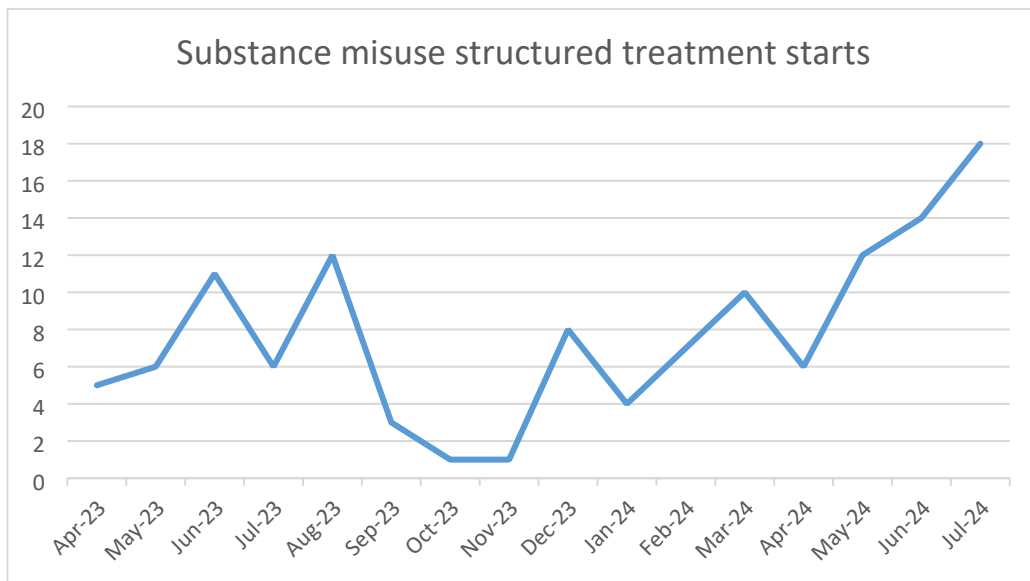


Figure 7

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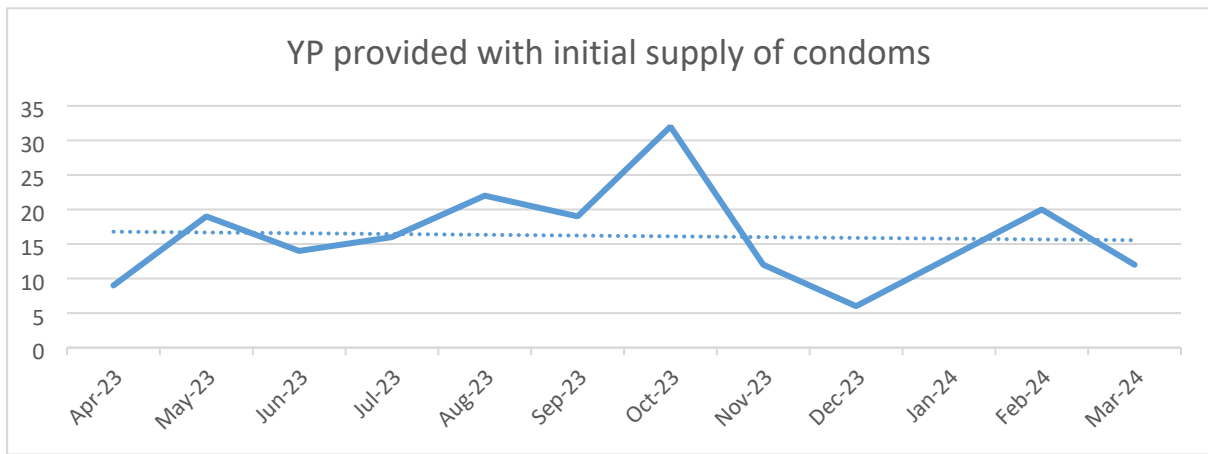


Figure 8

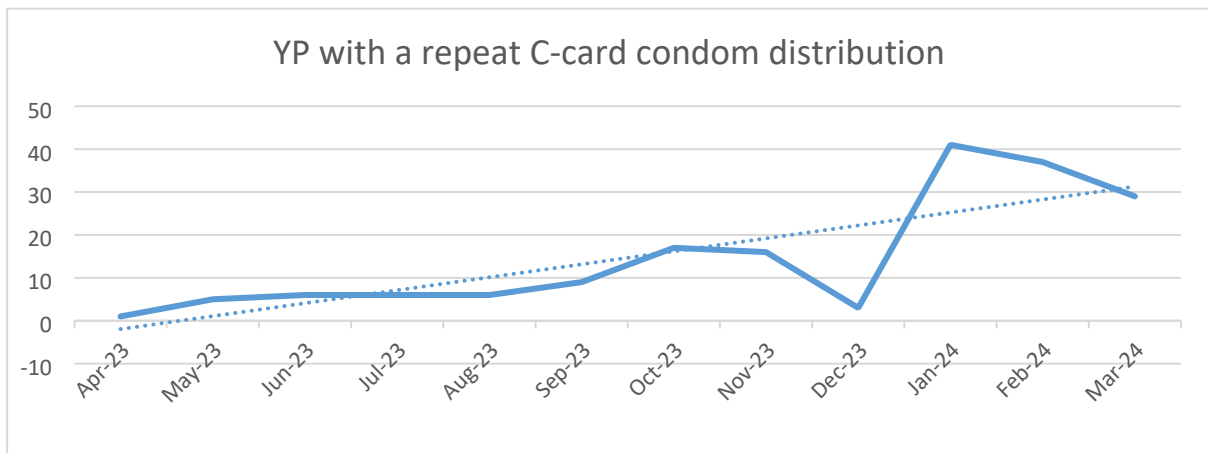
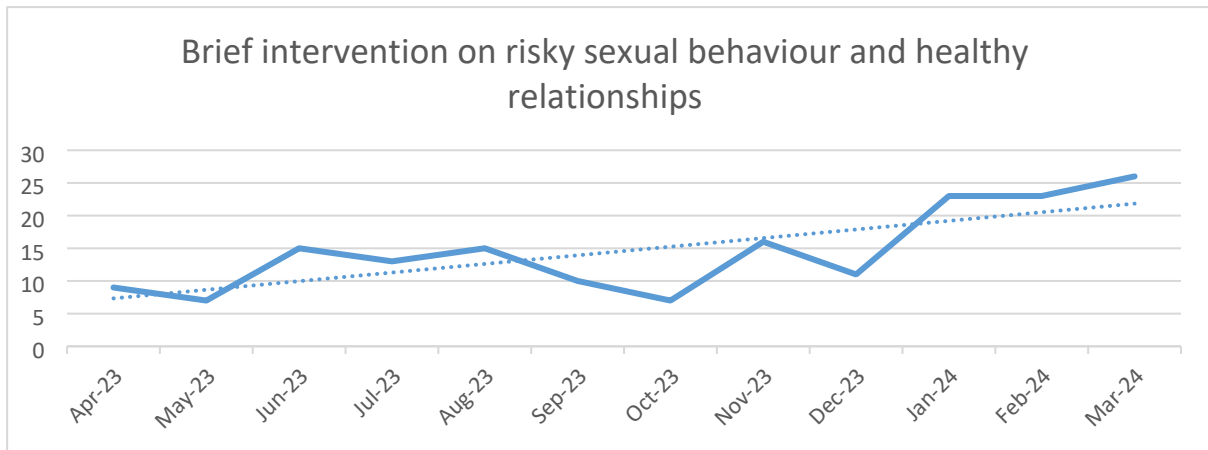


Figure 9



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