

TO: EXECUTIVE
23 JUNE 2015

**JOINT RESPONSE TO THE CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND LEARNING OVERVIEW
AND SCRUTINY REPORT ON SUBSTANCE MISUSE INVOLVING CHILDREN AND
YOUNG PEOPLE**

**Director Children, Young People & Learning
Director Adult Social Care, Health and Housing**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Members of the Executive of the response from the Executive Member for Children, Young People and Learning and the Executive Member for Adult Services, Health and Housing to the Overview and Scrutiny report on substance misuse.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the following recommendations of the Working Group “A Review of Substance Misuse Involving Children and Young People” be accepted:

- 2.1 **Following consultation with the Youth Council and/or other relevant groups of local young people, the substance misuse leaflet be updated on a partnership basis to ensure that up to date information is disseminated and that all partners are working together with common understanding and goals.**
- 2.2 **Awareness raising booklets including ‘before and after’ pictorial content be produced to alert parents to the signs and symptoms of substance misuse by their children, and to provide a step guide to recognising a substance misuse issue, acknowledging its potential impact on the family and seeking advice/assistance/treatment to overcome it to be produced.**
- 2.3 **A substance misuse peer mentoring scheme be introduced in Bracknell Forest schools to support children and young people with related issues.**
- 2.4 **Additional training for both newly qualified and established teachers be provided to enable them to detect early signs of substance misuse and then offer support and signposting to services.**
- 2.5 **A programmed, consistent and joined up partnership approach to substance misuse prevention education in schools involving misuse youth workers, the Youth Offending Services, police and other relevant organisations.**
- 2.6 **Opportunities are taken to pursue closer family-wide substance misuse working practices between Children’s Social Care, Adult Social Care and Public Health.**
- 2.7 **Efforts be made to secure the closure of the gap in CAMHS Tier 2 preventive mental health services and to increased CAMHS service provision to assist young people to break free from substance misusing peer groups and support young people at risk of offending and entering the court system owing to substance misuse.**

- 2.8 A Berkshire wide substance misuse data sharing protocol be developed to enable comparisons with other local authorities and to facilitate identification and response to issues.**
- 2.9 In recognition of the link between substance misuse and child sexual exploitation, relevant groups such as Children's Social Care, the police and Local Safeguarding Children's Board strategic group be requested to monitor this situation and report to the Children and Young People Overview and Scrutiny Panel on request on a regular basis.**
- 2.10 Where appropriate, child protection plans include the requirement for parent(s)/guardians to attend a relevant substance misuse support for treatment programme.**
- 2.11 The Working Group has carried out a thorough review of substance misuse services involving children and young people. Although the review is focused on the impact of substance misuse on children and young people, it also involved adult family members and the drug and alcohol services function which falls within the portfolio of the Executive Member for Adult Services and Health.**

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Working Group has spent considerable time on the review and the Executive are asked to support the recommendations outlined above.

4. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- The recommendations and early actions in support of these are set out below:-
- 5.1 There are ten recommendations made in the report six have been accepted in full and four have been partially accepted. This is because of the cost implications of full implementation of three of the recommendations, therefore they have been accepted in part and actions agreed from within existing budgets.
 - 5.2 We would like to thank the Working Group for their very helpful and well informed report which will enable us to further improve and develop our services. It is also of note that in the conclusion the successful work of the services to addressing substance abuse is commended and in particular the high level of partnership work which takes place in Bracknell Forest.

5.3 **Recommendation 1**

Following consultation with the Youth Council and/or other relevant groups of local young people, the substance misuse leaflet be updated on a partnership basis to ensure that up to date information is disseminated and that all partners are working together with common understanding and goals.

5.4 Accepted. The Executive Members both share the group's view of the valuable role of providing and promoting up to date information. The substance misuse leaflet will be updated as requested. It is recommended that this is also prepared as electronic copy so that they can be more widely and cost effectively disseminated through the Youth Council, schools and relevant community groups. The Drug and Alcohol Strategic Group has tasked the operational group to review and revise the information currently being supplied. An initial draft document has been completed with young people and further editing is being undertaken.

5.5 The development of a local drug and alcohol website by the DAAT and the Public Health Team will allow us to include any leaflets, information and advice and will sign post adults and young people to further support and information.

5.6 The DAAT has recently purchased a license for an online programme which contains over 20 psychosocial interventions. This programme is for adults and young people and can be used as part of one to one sessions. It also provides the ability for people to use the programme on their own and e-mail their work to their recovery facilitator. The programme also has a dashboard for monitoring use and progress towards outcomes.

5.7 Working with the police and other partners we will ensure that the information is widely disseminated via schools and community venues.

5.8 The estimated costs of printing leaflets will be approximately £208 for 2,000 black and white leaflets or £295 for 2000 colour. This would be met from existing DAAT budgets.

5.9 **Recommendation 2**

Awareness raising booklets including 'before and after' pictorial content be produced to alert parents to the signs and symptoms of substance misuse by their children, and to provide a step guide to recognising a substance misuse issue, acknowledging its potential impact on the family and seeking advice/assistance/treatment to overcome it be produced.

5.10 Accepted. The Drugs and Alcohol Team will undertake research into any existing resources in respect of raising parental awareness in respect of drug and alcohol misuse. The Drug & Alcohol Strategic Group will consider the use of before and after pictures to illustrate the harm that drug and alcohol misuse can cause as well as researching images that may provide pointers to parents. It is recommended that these are also prepared as electronic copy so that they can be more widely and cost effectively disseminated to the local community through schools and community groups.

5.11 The development of a local drug and alcohol website by the DAAT and the Public Health Team will allow us to include any leaflets, information and advice and will sign post parents to further support and information.

5.12 The estimated costs of printing and disseminating awareness raising booklets is not yet known as there may already be resources available for downloading. If funding was required to produce specific leaflets this would require approval from the Drug & Alcohol Strategic Group.

5.13 **Recommendations 3-5 are accepted in part and will be promoted and discussed with Headteachers, but implementation will be reliant on the taking up the recommendations.**

5.14 **Recommendation 3**

A substance misuse peer mentoring scheme be introduced in Bracknell Forest schools to support children and young people with related issues.

5.15 Accepted in part. The recommendation can be promoted as an idea to schools alongside the work that the Youth Service and DAAT already carries out in schools, but developing and implementing a peer mentoring scheme for substance misuse will depend on head teachers wanting to promote and develop such a scheme in their school, and use their staff and other resources to commission, develop and continue such a scheme in the long term, as well as allocate time in school to meet this recommendation.

5.16 Consideration should be given to Youth Services rolling out a mentoring programme in schools as two of the substance misuse youth workers have experience of developing these schemes and have previously done so in community settings in Bracknell Forest. Any such scheme would need to be fully costed before a decision is made as to the practicalities and affordability of this type of scheme.

5.17 **Recommendation 4**

Additional training for both newly qualified and established teachers be provided to enable them to detect early signs of substance misuse and then offer support and signposting to services

5.18 Accepted in part. The LA promotes a wide range of training opportunities and courses to schools. Substance misuse will be included in the future provision advertised to schools however courses all have a charge for attendance. It is therefore the school's decision which staff attend particular training courses and how school in-service days are used.

5.19 Consideration should be given to providing short awareness raising session for teachers as part of in-service days. The approximate cost of this would be £250 per half day.

5.20 Alternatively the DAAT provides a full training programme which teachers are in a position to access for a small charge.

5.21 **Recommendation 5**

A programmed, consistent and joined up partnership approach to substance misuse prevention education in schools involving substance misuse youth workers, the Youth Offending Services, police and other relevant organisations be adopted.

Unrestricted

- 5.22 Accepted in part. The recommendation can be promoted to schools alongside the work that the Youth Service and DAAT already carry out in schools. It will be up to individual schools to take this work forward.
- 5.23 DAAT can provide on request substance misuse information sessions for children in year six and their parents in preparation for their transition to secondary school.
- 5.24 The DAAT has been in discussions with the information lead for Alcoholics Anonymous with a view to offering awareness sessions in schools. These sessions will include a short video presentation followed by a questions and answers session with people who are in recovery from drug and alcohol misuse.
- 5.25 We recognise that Recommendations 3-5 are of value, but will carry a significant cost implication to be fully implemented.
- 5.26 **Recommendation 6**
- Opportunities are taken to pursue closer family-wide substance misuse working practices between Children's Social Care, Adult Social Care and Public Health.**
- 5.27 Accepted. It should be noted that there are already close working relations with these teams. The DAAT team lead on this work and we will continue to develop our good practice.
- 5.28 **Recommendation 7**
- Efforts be made to secure the closure of the gap in CAMHS Tier 2 preventative mental health services and to increased CAMHS service provision to assist young people to break free from substance misusing peer groups and support young people at risk of offending and entering the court system owing to substance misuse.**
- 5.29 Accepted. This recommendation consists of three strands of work, that relate to improving preventative support for CAMHS Tier 2 is being overseen by the Health and Wellbeing Board. The young people who are at risk of offending or who are known offenders have access to a wide range of high quality preventative support through the Youth Offending Service. We will seek to further emphasise the links with substance misuse as a result of this recommendation. The DAAT has commissioned 'Mindfulness' training to help staff to better support people and their families with substance abuse.
- 5.30 **Recommendation 8**
- A Berkshire wide substance misuse data sharing protocol be developed to enable comparisons with other local authorities and to facilitate identification and response to issues.**
- 5.31 Partially Accepted. The DAAT team have access to a wide range of information at a local, Berkshire wide and national level. The Public Health Team have access to the full range of information and are already in a position to make comparisons as required. Regular needs assessments are undertaken in respect of both adults and young people to identify any emerging trends or barriers to entering treatment.
- 5.32 The JSNA also includes substance misuse and using national comparisons in terms of hospital admissions, treatment uptake and successful outcomes.

5.33 The Berkshire DAAT leads meet quarterly with the Drug & Alcohol Lead Consultant for Public Health and raise issues, concerns, emerging trends and examples of best practice.

5.34 **Working Group Recommendation 9**

In recognition of the link between substance misuse and child sexual exploitation, relevant groups such as Children's Social Care, the police and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board strategic group be requested to monitor this situation and report to the Children and Young People' Overview and Scrutiny Panel on request on a regular basis.

5.35 Accepted.

5.36 **Recommendation 10**

Where appropriate, child protection plans include the requirement for parent(s)/guardians to attend a relevant substance misuse support or treatment programme.

5.37 Accepted. A Child Protection Plan can request attendance at relevant treatment or support and they already do, with parents/guardians being required where appropriate to provide evidence that they have not been using drugs.

5.38 The DAAT Team Leader and SMART Service Co-ordinator have recently met with the Independent Safeguarding Chairs to discuss the use of drug testing and attendance at group sessions in CP & CIN plans. A further visit to a team meeting is planned to ensure that all Independent Chairs have information on the relevant groups.

5.39 The Head of Drug & Alcohol Services has reviewed and revised the Substance Misuse Testing Policy and this has been provided to the Chief Officer for CSC and all relevant Heads of Service and Team Managers to try to reduce the amount of regulated testing being used and replaced it with random testing which is considered far more effective.

6 ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS

Borough Solicitor

6.1 The relevant legal provisions are contained within the main body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

6.2 The Borough Treasurer is satisfied that there are no significant financial implications arising out of this report. Where there are costs associated with the recommendations that have been accepted, these are marginal and can be met from within existing budgets.

Equalities Impact Assessment

6.3 N/A

Strategic Risk Management Issues

6.4 N/A

7 CONSULTATION

Principal Groups Consulted

7.1 N/A

Method of Consultation

7.2 N/A

Representations Received

7.3 N/A

Background Papers

Report by the Working Group of the Children, Young People and Learning Scrutiny Panel 'A Review of Substance Misuse Involving Children and Young People'.

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