

A Question of Culture . . ?

A scrutiny Report about Alcohol and Drug Misuse by Young People in County Durham

Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee 14 May 2007

Response from County Durham DAAT Partnership Board

County Durham DAAT welcomes the report by the Health Scrutiny Sub-Committee into the issues concerning young people regarding alcohol and drugs. It is a comprehensive overview of the situation facing young people in County Durham. The DAAT Board recognises the conclusion that the Sub-Committee has reached with regard to the size of the problem caused by alcohol as opposed to drugs in the lives of young people. This is not to down play the risks associated with drugs, but the scale of the problem associated with the much more readily available, culturally acceptable product –alcohol is more pervasive.

County Durham DAAT Board refocused the business of the DAAT Unit at its board meeting in November 2006. The Board supported the need for the DAAT Unit to become a commissioning body –not a hybrid of commissioning and providing. Here the Board emphasised the need for a focus on alcohol within County Durham which had not been there in the past. Subsequent to this the DAAT Unit received funding from County Durham PCT to be used in the development of an Alcohol Commissioner post to complement the existing Commissioning Manger post focused solely on substance misuse issues.

Therefore during the life of the Sub-Committee's investigation one of the main organisations referenced in the report has changed the focus of its activity. In many ways these changes mirror the recommendations made within the report and feel that the sub-committee will be pleased with the progress being made.

However, whilst there are some significant achievements to be recorded in the action plan (attached) it is worthwhile drawing to the attention of the Sub-Committee some of the inflexibilities of the funding streams associated with substance misuse and alcohol. The DAAT Unit is allocated approximately £4.5m to address adult substance misuse issues across all four tiers –awareness raising through to rehabilitation from the National Treatment Agency. It is allocated £550k by the Home Office to address young people's issues across the four tiers. This is a significant reduction on last years budget and must be spent within year. The DAAT Unit also receives other specifically allocated money, most noticeably £500k allocated from the Home Office for the Drug Intervention Programme. Details of 2008/09 funding arrangement are still awaited.

This highlights the scale of funds available to young people's development compared to adult service development to the DAAT. This is in conjunction with the fact that money allocated to substance misuse from National Government Departments cannot be used on the development of alcohol services. The DAAT Unit in this regard is fortunate to be in receipt of significant alcohol funding to develop local services via County Durham PCTs Local Delivery Plan process and Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. Durham is also fortunate that since the changes to the DAAT Board and DAAT Unit from November 2006 partners in Durham are able to consider aligning elements of their main stream budgets to support the direction of travel the DAAT Board has set.

Darren Archer
County Durham DAAT Unit Manager

DURHAM COUNTY COUNCIL –OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY –RECOMMENDATION/RESPONSE PROFORMA

TITLE/PROJECT NAME: A QUESTION OF CULTURE (ALCOHOL AND DRUG MISUSE BY YOUNG PEOPLE)

DATE ISSUED: 19 JULY 2007

LINK OFFICER/SERVICE: DARREN ARCHER (DAAT)/GERALD TOMPKINS (ADULT AND COMMUNITY SERVICES)

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	RESPONSE FROM EXECUTIVE/CHIEF OFFICER/PARTNER ORGANISATIONS	PROPOSED ACTION	LEAD RESPONSIBILITY	TIMESCALE	COMMENT/OS REVIEW PERIOD
<p>1. The County Council should consider (with its partners) the resourcing and commissioning of a comprehensive County wide study about young people’s lifestyle issues, with particular emphasis on young people’s attitudes to alcohol and drugs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Williams • Rachael Shimmin • Councillor Claire Vasey • Councillor Morris Nicholls • Councillor Brian Myers 	<p>C&YP survey carried out early in 2007 provided evidence of concerns of YP.</p>	<p>Carole Payne Head of Strategic Commissioning, CYPS</p>	<p>Annual</p>	
<p>2. That the Police, and District Licensing Committees be asked to consider whether any additional actions can be undertaken to prevent the purchase of alcohol by adults for those under 18 and how greater publicity can be given to prosecutions of adults who purchase on behalf of, and those</p>		<p>CDRPs consider licensing issues at a local level and this will continue to be address on the development of a single CDRP for County Durham.</p>			

licensees who sell to, under-age drinkers.					
3. The County Council and District Councils (via the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships) should continue to strongly support the "Whose Fault is it Anyway?" programme in schools. The DAAT should also consider with DISC whether opportunities exist to further enhance the "Outthere" Project.		<p>CYPS continues to promote the "Take Risks? Take Care" programme in schools (this has replaced the Whose Fault is it Anyway?)</p> <p>DAAT YP Commissioning group reviewed current commissioned provision and embarked on a reconfiguration of services for April 2008 commissioning priorities.</p>	Mark Harrison, DAAT Commissioning Manager	April 2008	
4. The DAAT, Children and Young People's Service and DISC should be asked to consider how the effectiveness of the above interventions can be better measured. The DAAT should also consider how better evaluation of <u>all</u> commissioned young people's alcohol and drugs interventions can be achieved.		<p>Review of YP Substance Misuse services by DAAT (Mark Harrison) to be concluded December 2007. Evidence-based VFM projects will be cornerstone of model. Some projects filed as good practice may not deliver required outcomes.</p> <p>As above. Performance Management will be addressed as part of service reconfiguration.</p>	Mark Harrison, DAAT Commissioning Manager	December 2007	
5. The Children and Young People's Service, DAAT and partners should		Working of YP Commissioning Group has been reviewed to ensure closer arrangements with YP			

<p>consider how greater consistency in the messages given to young people in our Schools and Youth Clubs about alcohol and substance issues can be achieved, with the primary focus being on harm minimisation, and noting that messages based on safe “units” of alcohol do not work for young people.</p>		<p>Commissioner. Currently there is no County or Countywide guidance.</p> <p>Healthy Schools Partnership is the main vehicle for promoting messages to young people via schools.</p> <p>Healthy Youth Work Award is based on the Health Schools award which covers alcohol and drugs</p> <p>Education outside of schools is in remit of Countywide alcohol service development. Pilot work in Dales area will provide guidance for other areas.</p>	<p>Wendy Bagnall</p> <p>Paul Hebron</p>		
<p>6. In developing messages aimed at young people, particular focus should be given to targeting young women, as research indicates that alcohol consumption by this group is rising rapidly.</p>		<p>Using national needs assessment tool to indicate priority areas of delivery.</p> <p>Service user consultation with young parents discussing issues around alcohol and unplanned pregnancy.</p>	<p>Mandy English</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	
<p>7. The DAAT should consider with its partners how a communications strategy and information about</p>		<p>DAAT to undertake review of parents and carers, including young carers regarding their needs.</p> <p>New Communications</p>			

<p>young people's alcohol misuse can be developed, specifically targeted at parents and carers.</p>		<p>Manager for CYPS and plan to include key messages to parents and Carers</p>			
<p>8. The County Council discuss with its partners (including GONE – Government Office North East) whether a regional conference to share good practice and effective interventions in the field of young people's alcohol and substance misuse should be held.</p>		<p>Operational group of Stakeholders established to inform Commissioning Group, and vice versa.</p> <p>DAAT Alcohol Prevention Group. Frontline staff meet to discuss alcohol prevention, identify gaps and good practice. This informs the commissioning process</p>			
<p>9. The County and District Councils investigate whether opportunities exist to better publicise the issues surrounding young people's alcohol misuse, and the role of agencies that provide support, via use of their free newspapers and websites</p>		<p>All avenues for publicity should be sought following the review of model and services in it, plus a review of educational material as above.</p> <p>Needs Assessment DAAT baseline data to be established. Pilot projects established in Sedgefield district. Derwentside young people alcohol misuse.</p>		<p>December 2007</p>	
<p>10. Given that research indicates a high</p>		<p>YP Commissioning Group Chair to meet Chair of</p>			

<p>proportion of unprotected sex between young people is drink or drugs related (and across County Durham teenage pregnancy rates remain high), the findings of this report should inform the Countywide Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and Action Priorities.</p>		<p>Teenage Pregnancy Group and review opportunities for joint working.</p> <p>New Teenage Pregnancy Co-ordinator is developing joint delivery plan as part of service development via TTPPB</p> <p>User consultation using photography of young parents – discussing experiences of how and where alcohol played a part in conception.</p>			
<p>11. The DAAT considers how, in future, it can raise its profile amongst partner organisations and the public, play a stronger co-ordinating role and be more transparent in relation to its aims, objectives and effectiveness.</p>		<p>DAAT accepts the need to make agencies inside and outside the County aware of its role.</p> <p>DAAT Executive Board considered profile in reviewing its role and responsibilities.</p> <p>DAAT website launched October 2007 to include clear business objectives</p> <p>Information workshop offered to Members at DCC.</p>			
<p>12. The DAAT consider, with the PCT</p>		<p>DAAT published web-based directory October 2007.</p>			

<p>and its partners, how the issues raised at the mapping event held in October 2006 can be progressed including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The development of a Countywide directory of alcohol/substance misuse services • How alcohol prevention work can be developed across the County • The means by which 24 hour provision can be implemented • The development and roll-out of a universal screening tool for use Countywide (perhaps based upon the XS model) • How consistent multi-agency training can be introduced. 		<p>Countywide alcohol services will be in place by January 2008 and fully functional by March 2008. This is a public health model incorporating yp and adult issues. The Countywide adult approach is unique in the North East.</p> <p>A needs assessment within the model development by DAAT will assess whether 24-hour provision is necessary and then whether it is affordable.</p> <p>YP Commissioning Group has supported the use of the tool. CYPS will roll-out with priority to Education Welfare Service and Looked After Children Nurses.</p> <p>Connexions staff already using the screening tool.</p> <p>YP Commissioning Group to sign off model to include training.</p> <p>Development of integrated Public Health Training Team to delivery drug & alcohol</p>		<p>March 2008</p>	
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		training along with other health promotion issues.		
13. The County Council consider whether it can provide support in connection with (b) above.		DCC is a fully involved partner. Business model for strategic direction needs development.		
14. The DAAT should review the current allocation of resources between adult services and young people's services, given the need to address urgently the alcohol misuse issues amongst young people highlighted in this report.		<p>Substance misuse-badged money (£4.5m) cannot be used on alcohol. YP-badged money (£500K) is not enough to address all the issues in this report. YP Commissioning Group needs to assure alignment of budgets in joint commissioning.</p> <p>Reconfiguration of services towards an integrated model of delivery will secure value for money within scare resources, which are likely to further reduce from April 2008.</p> <p>The Joint Commissioning Unit will commission (on our collective behalf) provision of an integrated substance misuse service with effect from 1st September 2008 based on specification currently being drawn up.</p>	<p>April 2008</p> <p>Sept 2008</p>	

<p>15. The DAAT and its partners should consider whether further opportunities exist to develop more diversionary activities for young people along the lines of those in COSIP.</p>		<p>This should be part of alcohol model.</p> <p>CYPS taking the lead on the development of Integrated arrangements for Youth Support Services. This includes consideration and delivery of 'places to go and things to do'. Rollout of Empowering Youth People pilot will give funding for activities to young people. Youth Opportunities fund and Youth Capital fund also contribute. Funding arrangements post April 2008 remain unclear.</p>		<p>April 2008</p>	
<p>16. The Children and Young People's Service should consider how the issues raised in this report can be adequately addressed in terms of support and effective interventions in the Family Support Strategy.</p>		<p>As part of strategic approach and joint commissioning.</p>			
<p>17. The County Council is a corporate parent in relation to Looked After Children. The Corporate Parenting Panel should consider</p>		<p>The report and the action plan need to be placed on the agenda of the corporate parenting panel.</p>	<p>Gail Hopper</p>		

whether the above findings and recommendations have any implications in relation to the way in which young people and their carers are supported.					
18. That a review of the recommendations in this report be undertaken 6 months after their consideration by Cabinet					

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