

Health and Wellbeing Board

14 May 2015



County Durham Dual Needs Strategy

Report of Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health County Durham, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with the refreshed copy of the County Durham Dual Needs Strategy for endorsement. This strategy builds on the existing strategy but has now been updated to account for the changes from the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

Background

2. The aim of this strategy is to identify people with dual needs and ensure they have access to coordinated and responsive services to meet their complex and changing needs and that their families and carers are supported. It is important that that joint commissioning opportunities and pathway design is undertaken collaboratively.
3. People with dual needs have concurrent learning disabilities and/or mental behavioural diagnosis and/or dementia as well as a substance misuse issue. Nationally and locally they have reported difficulty in accessing services able to address their complex needs. Although guidance refers to 'diagnosis' it is vital that our focus is on the **needs** of people with dual problems and their families. People with dual needs experience problems in many diverse ways with varying degrees of severity and may require different services to help them.
4. Previously those with dual needs received services delivered in a 'serial' or 'parallel' way. 'Serial' refers to the person having to resolve their substance use problem before mental health services become involved. 'Parallel' refers to both services providing care at the same time, yet not collaborating effectively. The 'Collaborative' model refers to services working together, each bringing their specialised skills to implementing a single plan of care and providing mutual staff support. Services across County Durham are committed to working in a collaborative model.
5. This strategy sets out ways to help individuals, families, carers, providers and commissioners work together to respond to the complex and changing needs of individuals and families living with dual needs. The scope of this strategy covers all ages.

6. This strategy has been developed in partnership with organisations working with people with dual needs, individuals with dual needs and their families. Strategy consultation included a public event, open workshops and public consultation through Durham County Council website.

Dual Needs Strategy Vision and Objectives

7. The Vision:

‘Improve the mental and physical health of people with dual needs through improved care and support to individuals, their families and carers’.

8. Key Objectives

Prevention

Objective 1: Reduce stigma and discrimination towards people who experience dual needs by raising awareness with the general public, workplaces and other settings.

Objective 2: Develop a multiagency workforce able to support people with dual needs, their carers and families.

Objective 3: Define and collate data on people with dual needs and use to identify gaps ensuring a seamless pathway of support.

Objective 4: Improve access to support services including housing, employment, financial and relationship support.

Early identification and intervention

Objective 5: Develop capacity in the voluntary and community sector increasing opportunities for early intervention.

Objective 6: Improve access to family support and interventions for children at the earliest opportunity.

Objective 7: Increase early identification through screening and improved response to dual needs.

Objective 8: Improve the physical health of people with dual needs.

Improve the care of people with dual needs

Objective 9: Ensure ease of access to services through referral pathways and clear joint working arrangements including agreement of the Lead Professional role.

Objective 10: Adopt a ‘whole family approach’ when offering interventions including support for carers and pathways for parental dual needs.

Recovery

Objective 11: Promote long term recovery and empowerment of the individual by developing community projects including mentoring and a visible recovery community.

Objective 12: Develop a person centred recovery approach when agreeing care/interventions which includes involvement of individuals, families and carers to ensure services are coordinated and responsive to their needs (including children within the family).

Next Steps

9. The Dual Needs Implementation group will drive forward the strategy as well as acting as the forum for arbitration. An action plan for the first year will be agreed by October 2015.
10. It is recommended that the Dual Needs Implementation Group reports to the Mental Health Partnership Board.

Recommendations

11. The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
 - Endorse the Refreshed Dual Needs Strategy.
 - Agree to receive the first year action plan and update reports on delivery of the strategy at future meetings.
 - Note the joint commissioning opportunities to ensure the needs of those with dual needs are met.

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance:

Funding of services for people with dual needs is the responsibility of the following commissioners.

- *Clinical Commissioning Groups*- Primary and Secondary Mental Health Services, healthcare services for people with Learning Disabilities.
- *Public Health in Local Authorities*- Drug and Alcohol Treatment in the community and custody settings.
- *NHS England (Health and Justice Team)* – commission all healthcare within prisons including mental health, drug and alcohol services
- Integrated Learning Disability Services are delivered in *Local Authorities*.
- *Police and Crime Commissioners* - Drug Intervention Projects

Staffing

No additional staffing required however training for staff core to the success of the strategy.

Risk

Ensuring joint commissioning opportunities are fully explored.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

No implications

Accommodation

No implications

Crime and Disorder

The *Prison Reform Trust Bromley Briefing* (2010) reports that 75% of all prisoners have a dual diagnosis.

Human Rights

No implications

Consultation

A consultation event was held in October 2014 with further events held in January and February 2015

Procurement

None

Disability Issues

People with dual needs have concurrent learning disabilities and/or mental behavioural diagnosis and/or dementia as well as a substance misuse issue.

Legal Implications

None