



Title of paper:	Reducing Substance Misuse	
Report to:	Children's Partnership Board	
Date:	10 th December 2014	
Relevant Director:		Wards affected: All
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Relevant Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) objectives(s):		
Stronger safeguarding – With a key focus on ensuring that there are high standards of safeguarding across all agencies and that the Partnership takes a pro-active approach to the elimination of domestic violence.		
Healthy living – With a key focus on increasing the proportion of children and young people who have a healthy weight.		
Reducing substance misuse – Partnership work to lessen the impact on children of parental drug and alcohol misuse and to reduce drug and alcohol misuse amongst children and young people.		X
Raising attainment – Raising the attainment levels and increasing engagement in employment, education and training.		
Improving attendance – Improving rates of attendance at both Primary and Secondary as a key foundation of improving outcomes.		
Summary of issues (including benefits to customers/service users):		
<p>The Children and Young People's Plan includes an objective to reduce substance misuse and its impact on children and young people. Responsibility of young people's substance misuse sits with the Crime and Drugs Partnership in conjunction with partners. A full review has been undertaken and a new specialist service has been commissioned.</p> <p>This report will update the Board on:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. the Review of the Young People's Substance Misuse system 2. the implementation of the new Young People's Specialist Substance Misuse service 3. Young People's Substance Misuse Treatment Services Performance 4. Implications of budget proposals for young people's substance misuse 		
Recommendations:		
1	Board members to note the content of the report	

1. BACKGROUND AND PROPOSALS

Drug and alcohol use by under 18s and its impact has been managed within the Crime and Drugs Partnership since April 2012, alongside the wider children and family context.

Nationally, there are two strategies that outline the Government's response to tackling drug and alcohol misuse; The 2010 Drug Strategy: Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply and Building Recovery, and the 2012 Government Alcohol Strategy.

The partnership continues to work on the Drug and Alcohol Strategy '*Nottingham Drug Strategy: Prevention, Treatment and Restricting Supply*' (2012-2015) and *Nottingham Alcohol Strategy: Safe, Responsible, Healthy* both of which address young people's drug and alcohol consumption within the themes of Prevention and Treatment.

There is a lack of local prevalence data in relation to children and young people's substance misuse with the most recent local needs assessment highlighting a need to undertake a full review to ensure that the development of services continue to meet changing need.

1.1 Review of Young People's Substance Misuse System

A comprehensive review of the young people's substance misuse system was completed by the Crime and Drugs Partnership in consultation with other partners. The objectives of the review were to:

- Explore the effectiveness of the young people's substance misuse provision. This included pathways, accessibility to services, and efficiency and intended outcomes for the service users.
- Determine value for money, best use of public funds, scope to enhance cost effectiveness and better integrated services.
- Provide an understanding of the benefits, blockages, cross cutting themes, interdependencies and gaps in the system.
- Map the existing system against the changing landscape of the wider Children and Families Service to ensure best use of resources, sharing information, avoid duplication and ensure the systems linked in seamlessly with any other changes. Thus ensuring it remains a robust system.
- Measure and compare performance to see its effectiveness and any scope to optimise performance.
- Identify whether the system was fit for purpose against the need and evidence base and whether it had capacity and ability to adapt to potential emerging needs e.g. new psychoactive substances also known as legal highs.
- Assess its compliance with national guidance and best practice and how continuous improvement occurred.
- Offer recommendations and options to ensuring the model continued to meet existing and emerging needs of service users.
- Ensure recommendations for consideration of change to the existing model had been explored.
- Attempt to identify any potential positive and negative risks and how these could be managed or minimised whether by remodelling the existing system or considering a new model.
- Link to the other reviews, projects, programmes and work streams that were underway or would be taking place across the partnership. This would provide the opportunity to share findings and best practice thereby contributing to any recommendations, and enable better understanding of any impacts each of these may potentially have.

Review Outcomes

The review found that whilst there were key strengths in both the current young people's substance misuse system and the wider universal systems and services, both systems were fragmented resulting in potential missed opportunities for early interventions. Key strengths include:

- The City has a specialist substance misuse system established for young people
- There are a range of good tailored interventions offered

- Parents and carers are involved where possible to ensure a family and person centred approach
- Services have an holistic approach to care plans and work and involve other relevant agencies
- There are some strong foundations in place to help shape a future model.

There is evidence of the following areas for improvement:

- Potential confusion around services and what they provide
- Accessibility to information about services
- Potential gaps in the current system
- The need to more fully consult with young people to drive the service planning and delivery
- Enhance partnership working under the wider health and wellbeing and early intervention and prevention programmes
- Improved links to the safeguarding agenda through contract management.
- Opportunities to utilise existing assets within the City and additional external funding.

The review findings, recommendations and actions present a good opportunity to link the substance misuse system and wider young peoples' provision, working towards a more efficient and effective system. All of the actions and recommendations identified are achievable through good partnership working and a lead driver for the changes to continue to take place.

The review addressed a lack of local prevalence data as identified in the Children and Young People's Plan priorities for years two and three of tackling the negative impacts of substance misuse.

The review utilised national data as well as looking demographics both locally and nationally including:

- looked after children and children in care,
- exclusions,
- ethnicity,
- truancy and absenteeism,
- young offenders,
- NEETs
- Homelessness.

The review used data from the national *Smoking, Drinking and Drug Use Survey (2012)* to develop a local population estimates proxy measure for drug use by age. From the national data it is estimated that:

- 2706 young people in Nottingham aged 11-15 have ever taken drugs
- 955 had taken drugs in the last month

Estimating the level of drug use amongst 16 and 17 year old is more problematic as the *British Crime Survey: Drug Misuse Declared* survey looks at 16-24 year olds. However, utilising an adjusted proxy measure, the review estimates that:

- 4389 16 and 17 year olds had taken drugs in the last year.

The review also undertook consultations with young people to validate prevalence estimates including the Youth Council, an online survey, focus groups and the DVibe online survey used as part of the DrugAware programme in schools. The findings of the consultations offered a similar picture to that nationally. It also highlighted that young people in Nottingham know how to access services, they have a good understanding of the harms of substances.

Recommendations from the prevalence section of the review include:

- Continue to develop and implement a partnership consultation programme
- Share data and findings across services to help better inform delivery, planning, monitoring and workforce development.
- Increase partnership working
- Explore better use of technology

1.2 Re-commissioned Specialist Young Peoples' Substance Misuse Service

As part of the review, a number of options were considered for the future model of young peoples' substance misuse. These included the option to make some changes to the existing model to increase the focus on early intervention and prevention then to tender the specialist service.

To fulfil the recommendations of the review the service specification included the need to support to the wider children and young peoples' workforce, to increase knowledge and skills in identifying substance use and misuse and in delivering lower threshold interventions. This has the longer term aim of freeing up the service to deliver specialist treatment only to those that need it, thus reducing the cost of a service over the time.

A competitive tender process took place over the summer of 2014. The successful bidder was Lifeline. Their new service, *Lifeline Journey*, commenced November 3rd 2014. Lifeline also delivers *Explore Family* in the city, a support service for carers, children and families affected by another's substance misuse.

Lifeline Journey is based at Russell Place but will also operate satellite delivery at locations that best meet the needs of young people, with flexible times. They will continue to work in schools and with the YOT, utilising a lead worker approach with single points of contact for partners.

1.3 Young Peoples' Substance Misuse Performance

Young people's substance misuse treatment performance is reported locally and collated nationally by the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). This data is useful for contract and performance management of individual services, helps inform needs assessments and also contributes to measuring how we are meeting the objectives within the Children and Young People's Plan.

Performance for Quarter 1 2014/15:

Objective	Indicators	Performance
Reducing young people's substance misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number in treatment The number of new presentations to specialist young people drug and alcohol services 	<p>216 young people in specialist treatment, of which 32 were new presentations in the quarter.</p> <p>Locally numbers in treatment are down by 9% compared to 2% nationally. Estimated penetration rates (proportion of those in treatment that require treatment) in Nottingham are higher than nationally.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % of all clients for whom alcohol is the 1st, 2nd or 3rd substance 	<p>56% of young people in treatment cited alcohol as a problem. This reflects the national picture and has remained fairly consistent since 2012/13.</p>
Reducing the impact of young people's substance misuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The percentage of referrals into specialist young people drug and alcohol services 	<p>Referrals from both children and family services and education services have decreased by 7%/13% respectively over the last year whereas they have remained constant nationally.</p> <p>Half (49%) of all referrals come from youth justice. This has increased over the last year by 17%. This has remained at approx. 32% nationally.</p> <p>There has been a slight increase in referrals from health and mental health services and now reflects national referrals at 8%.</p> <p>Work will continue to increase referrals from children and family service and education in the city.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of young people who exit treatment in a planned way 	<p>68% of young people left treatment in a planned way, 8% less than Q1 13/14. Nationally planned exits have remained at</p>

		80%.
	Achieve at least 80% on all outcome records	Over 80% of outcome records have been completed at start of treatment and exit (see below for a summary of young people's outcomes)
	The number of youth drug and alcohol ASB markers recorded by the police	There were 50 ASB calls in 13/14 with youth and alcohol markers, down from 63 in 12/13. There were 39 drug incidents with a youth tag markers, up from 33 in 12/13. This is police data and not available for Q1. Work is underway with Nottinghamshire Police to consider this data.
	Harm Reduction	100% of young people were offered a Hep B vaccination and a Hep C test. 0% of young people accept the offer which is lower than the national of 2%, however risk is deemed low as there are no injecting under 18 year old drug users in treatment in Nottingham. Furthermore, 100% of young people were offered sexual health screening at assessment.

In 2013/14 almost half of young people in specialist treatment remained in treatment for up to 12 weeks (45% in Nottingham, 42% nationally). Just over a third (37%) had previously been in structured treatment (23% nationally). Cannabis and alcohol remain the most prevalent substances for those presenting to treatment. Approximately a third of those in treatment are female, which is similar to the national picture. 59% are in mainstream or alternative education provision and 22% are NEET, which is 8% higher than nationally.

The Young People's Outcome Record looks at improvements in health and wellbeing across 5 areas:

- Life satisfaction
- Feeling worthwhile
- Anxiety
- Happiness
- Getting on well with family/friends

Of those exiting treatment in quarter 1 2014/15 100% demonstrated an improved rating across all 5 areas with exiting ratings either the same or better than national ratings.

The new treatment service will continue to improve performance and address areas of underperformance.

2. RISKS

(Risk to the CYPP, risk involved in undertaking the activity and risk involved in not undertaking the activity)

Key risks are mainly related to the recommendations of the review not being delivered. For example, if we don't improve and utilise data we will not get an accurate reflection of this cohort and their wider vulnerabilities, resulting in being unable to fully meet their needs. Similar if we don't continue and build on our partnership working across the wider young people's agenda we will not be able to reduce vulnerability collectively. Furthermore, if we don't continue to implement a wider consultation programme with young people we will not be meeting our obligations under Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child which states that children and young people have a basic right to have a say and be taken seriously in all matters which affect them and requires government organisations to actively engage them in decision making.

Another key risk is the financial risk of reducing funding which may result in young people's substance misuse needs not being met fully.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The Young People's Substance Misuse system is jointly funded by Public Health, Police and Crime Commissioner and Nottingham City Council (Children and Families).

This funding pays for specialist substance misuse treatment, a prevention programme and a contribution to a young peoples' dual diagnosis service.

Savings from the public health budget have been identified for three years ending 2016/2017. The tendering has enabled saving to contribute to the medium term financial plan. Partnership working will need to continue to enable the specialist service to focus on specialist treatment only over the next 12 months.

4. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

This report provides an update on the Young People's Substance Misuse System, the content of which raises no legal implications at this time.

Continued development and understanding of the system with a partnership consultation programme, will assist in assuring that young people's substance misuse needs are addressed more effectively within the City.

5. CLIENT GROUP

(Groups of children, young people or carers who are being discussed in the report)

All children aged under 18 years.

6. IMPACT ON EQUALITIES ISSUES

(A brief description on how many minority groups are being engaged in the proposal and how their needs are being met: This section includes traveller and refugee families. The themes of the Shadow Boards – children and young people; parents and carers; equalities issues and the voluntary and community sector should be considered here.)

Equalities were a focus within the review, including particular vulnerable groups and their specific needs. An Equality Impact Assessment was completed as part of the tendering of young people's substance misuse.

7. OUTCOMES AND PRIORITIES AFFECTED

(Briefly state which of the CYPP objectives and priorities will be affected)

Reducing substance misuse and its impact on children and young people

8. CONTACT DETAILS

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