

Adult Services & Health Select Committee

A meeting of Adult Services & Health Select Committee was held on Monday, 6th August, 2007.

Present: Cllr Mrs Ann Cains (Chairman), Cllr Mrs Lynne Apedaile, Cllr Jim Beall, Cllr Aidan Cockerill, Cllr Ken Dixon, Cllr John Gardner and Cllr Mohammed Javed.

Officers: G. Birtle, Miss F Shayler (LD).

Also in attendance: Dr Stephen Singleton (Regional Director of Public Health, Government Office North East), Margaret Kynoch-Macdonald (Health Inclusion Manager, Government Office North East), Dr David Chappell (Assistant Director - Programmes, North East Public Health Observatory), Mark Reilly (County Durham and Tees Valley Public Health Network).

Apologies: were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Craggs and Mrs Nesbitt.

ASH 12/07 Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd July 2007

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd July were agreed as a correct record subject to an amendment to the item - Review of Alcohol Services, which was as follows:-
delete 'funding cuts' and replace with 'time limited funding up until March 2008'.

ASH 13/07 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

ASH 14/07 Review of Alcoholism

A presentation was provided by Dr David Chappel from the North East Public Health Observatory (NEPHO) on the data surrounding alcoholism. The data received was from a number of different sources with some data sources being more reliable than others.

It was felt that there was a lack of services regionally and that a comprehensive list of all existing services was required. This would ensure that professionals would know all of the services that were available so that they could suggest the most appropriate.

The benefits of having a Drugs and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) rather than a Drugs Action Team (DAT) were highlighted. Stockton has a DAT but some other neighbouring authorities have a DAAT.

Dr Stephen Singleton and Margaret Kynoch-Macdonald from GONE highlighted campaigns that were being piloted and the screening process that is being used by Holme House Prison as part of a Department of Health (DH) Trail Blazer Programme. The screening process was used to determine the amounts of alcohol consumed with specific questions used to try and reduce their alcohol intake.

It was felt that Probation, Women's Refuge, Police, G.P's etc. needed to work in a singular way with regard to alcohol problems and integrate services to make them more readily available.

Discussion was held on putting health warnings on alcoholic drinks as the Government does with tobacco. It was stated that the DH Trail Blazer had begun to do some work on labelling of alcohol.

Members discussed underaged drinking and the work that Trading Standards does to reduce underaged purchasing of alcohol. Discussion was held on raising awareness in schools on the effects of alcohol.

The Chairman informed Members that she had been invited to join the Pathways to Healthcare Partnership Panel and had accepted this invitation.

CONCLUDED that the information provided be noted.

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15/07**

Work Programme

Members were informed that Ruth Hill, Link Officer, was currently identifying different organisations to invite as witnesses for the review of Alcohol Services. Members discussed the range of witnesses from the Voluntary and Community Sector.

Publicity was required to inform interested parties and members of the public of the review. Discussion was held on mystery shopping and whether this form of research would be useful for this review.

CONCLUDED that the work programme be noted.