

Adults' Health and Wellbeing Partnership

A meeting of Adults' Health and Wellbeing Partnership was held on Tuesday 3 February 2015.

Present: Peter Kelly (Chairman),

Steve Rose (Catalyst), Superintendent Ian Coates (Cleveland Police), Mick Hickey (Stockton Riverside College), Simon Forrest (Durham University), Natasha Judge (Healthwatch), Jeff Evans (Probation); Julie Parkes (NTHFT); Jane King (Substitute for Tina Jenks), Rachelle Kipling (Office of the PCC), Lesley Gibson (Harbour); Cllr Jim Beall, Emma Champley, Sarah Bowman-Abouna, Jane Humphreys, Colin Snowdon, Richard Poundford, Reuben Kench, Neil Russell, and (Stockton on Tees Borough Council)

Officers: Margaret Waggott, Michael Henderson, Kerry Anderson, Rachel Braithwaite (Stockton on Tees Borough Council)

Apologies: Steve Chaytor (Tees Active), Jonathan Berry (HAST CCG), Tina Jenks (TEWV), Andrea Walker (Prison Service); Julie Nixon, Steve Hume, Dave Kitching, Graham Clingan, Simon Willson (SBC)

1 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Jim Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in the item entitled 'Substance Misuse', as a member of his family worked for CRI.

2 Minutes of the meeting held on 6 January 2015

These would be circulated for consideration at the Partnerships next meeting.

3 Minutes of the Children and Young People's Partnership held on 9 December 2014

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 December 2014 were noted.

3 Domestic Abuse Communications Campaign

Members were reminded of its previous consideration of the Domestic Abuse Strategy and supporting 2014/2015 Action Plan. It had been agreed that the Partnership would review the domestic abuse communications plan, including the methods of communication, the intended target audience and the key messages.

During discussion:-

- Members noted some of the communications activity that Harbour was involved in, including working with schools. This could be further discussed outside the meeting.
- There was a feeling that the intended posters may be 'too busy' and it

was suggested that a simple image, short text and contact number would

- be more effective and accessible to victims.
- Posters could provide a signpost to leaflets containing more information.
- It was important that the Police were highlighted as an emergency contact.
- any proposed work in schools needed to be discussed with the Council's Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care.
- it was noted that consultation on the Strategy had revealed that people did not fully understand what domestic abuse included. Many people related it purely to violence, when it actually covered a much broader spectrum of abuse.
- it was suggested that different language versions of any posters/ literature be considered.
- there was support for highlighting the different types of abuse like financial, emotional and physical, perhaps via a suite of material
- all partners would be responsible for disseminating any posters/ leaflets coming from the communication plan and ensuring their staff were pushing the key messages. The Partnership must inform people and look to change attitudes.

RESOLVED that:

1. further discussions, as described above, take place with Harbour (in terms of communications activity it was involved in) and the Corporate Director of Children, Education and Social Care (in terms of any planned work with schools).
2. consideration be given to the points raised by the Partnership and that revised proposals be submitted to a future meeting.

4 Substance Misuse

Members received a presentation on adult substance misuse.

The Board received a presentation relating to Adult Drug Misuse in the Borough and considered:

- Local needs - demographics - prevalence

- Considerations/complexities
- Performance against Public Health Outcomes Framework
- Challenges/issues

It was noted that 1224 adults were in drugs treatment and 1071 of these were opiate and crack users. 73% of those in treatment were male and the age profile was getting older with the average being 36 years.

Stockton had a significantly higher penetration into estimated numbers of opiate and crack users and retained a high number of clients in treatment for over six years. It was noted that the length of time in treatment reduced the likelihood of a successful treatment exit and higher penetration rates brought a higher proportion with additional complexities and lower motivation to recover. Given Stockton's complexities and projected future client profile it was considered that it would be difficult to increase the completion rate for opiate clients into the current top quartile performance of over 9.39%; and 8% was more realistic.

In terms of non-opiates it was explained that the number of clients had peaked in May 2013 at 266 falling to 251 in January 2014. However since March 2014 the number of referrals from the arrest referral service had stalled following re-commissioning in April. The number of referrals had increased since the new arrest referral team became fully functional, in August, but it was anticipated that completion rates and rolling twelve month numbers, in treatment, would remain suppressed until after Q2 2015/16.

Members noted that, currently, 5.2% of opiate clients and 28% of non-opiate clients completed treatment and did not re-present.

The Board noted some of the challenges including:-

- Poly drug use and increased alcohol use
- Future of arrest referral
- future of Integrated Offender Management
- the future of the Specialist GP contract at Birchtree. This would be the subject of a future update report to the Partnership.

During the presentation the Partnership raised a number of issues, including:

- Were current treatment models appropriate?
- Should some treatments be time limited? It was noted that only clinicians could agree to withdraw certain treatments.
- The use of methadone had had a positive impact on reducing offending in clients with heroin addiction. It was suggested that any reduction to this treatment could lead to clients returning to offending, which would have implications for the criminal justice system, in particular. It was noted that Methadone was a low cost treatment and was effective in helping clients and their families.
- Any changes to drugs' services in general would need to be assessed against potential impacts on other services.

- Drugs services were accessed by less than 1% of the Borough's population but accounted for 25% of the entire public health budget of £13 million. There was a brief discussion on funding in terms of its current level and, who should provide it, given the implications drugs misuse had for a range of services.
- There needed to be a comprehensive approach to changing the lifestyles of clients, not just dealing with behaviour. Social prescribing could help with drugs misuse including successful treatment exits/reducing re-presentation.

Following a lengthy debate it was agreed that this matter be considered at half day Partnership event, involving service users and prescribers

RESOLVED that a half day event be arranged to discuss issues surrounding Adult Drugs Misuse.

6 Forward Plan

The Partnership considered and agreed a Forward Plan.

It was noted that cross cutting themes associated with the Partners' Overviews/contributions.