

TO: EXECUTIVE
16 APRIL 2013

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY REPORT ON “A REVIEW OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE”
Director of Adult Social Care, Health and Housing**

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To determine the Executive’s response to the recommendations in the report by the Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Panel’s Working Group “A Review of Substance Misuse”. This is attached as Annex A to this report.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

That the following recommendations of the Working Group on “A Review of Substance Misuse” be accepted:

- 2.1 **With a view to strengthening joint working between the different organisations involved in treating and tackling substance misuse, all relevant voluntary sector organisations be made aware/reminded of the procedures for making referrals to New Hope.**
- 2.2 **The Council works closely with the NHS as it establishes the Alcohol Liaison Service at Frimley Park Hospital to facilitate alcohol misuse treatment referrals within the legal restrictions applying to confidentiality.**
- 2.3 **The DAAT makes a case to the Police and Crime Commissioner that the funding of £32k for adult criminal justice services provided by the Ministry of justice to date be continued as it is necessary to tackle drug misuse and reduce re/offending.**
- Note that this has been achieved, and funding of £32k for 2013/14 has been confirmed by the Police and Crime Commissioner on the 19th March 2013.**
- 2.4 **To enhance existing drug and alcohol education arrangements, opportunities to pursue a substance misuse awareness training campaign, possible including events, information and advice leaflets, work with schools and links to related matters such as domestic violence, be taken. Work with schools should involve the DAAT where possible, seek to clarify the legality of drugs and provide contact details and reporting routes for drug users.**

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Working Group has spent considerable time on the review and the Executive is happy to support the recommendations outlined above.

4 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 4.1 Not applicable

5 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The recommendations and early actions in support of these are set below:-

- 5.1 With a view to strengthening joint working between the different organisations involved in treating and tackling substance misuse, all relevant voluntary sector organisations be made aware/reminded of the procedures for making referrals to New Hope.

Agreed.

As part of the re-commissioning process a single Prime Provider from the voluntary sector was appointed to deliver drug and alcohol services which has led to a more streamlined approach to service delivery.

With members of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team taking on the responsibility for being the single point of contact and completing all assessments there is now a much clearer referral pathway which has been widely communicated. Both DAAT and Provider staff are invited to and attend a number of local meetings such as an Integrated Offender Management Group, Child Protection Conferences, Risk Management Conferences the LSCB and CSP. These meetings are seen as an opportunity to raise awareness about the services and how to refer in to them.

The co-location of the DAAT and the Prime Provider means there are no barriers to joint working.

A service directory is under development which will be completed by the beginning of April 2013 and will be made available across the borough. This directory will contain contact details, how to refer in and an overview of the services available. The DAAT also provides regular updates to the local media around specific projects in order to raise the profile of the service.

The DAAT and the Prime Provider (SMART) work together to engage with other voluntary sector providers. SMART are currently in discussions with The Ark in respect of utilising some of their facilities once they relocate to their new building in Market Street.

Work is also ongoing to deliver outreach services in association with local Residential Social Landlords such as Look Ahead Housing and London and Quadrent aimed at raising the profile of the services and encouraging people to engage.

- 5.2 The Council works closely with the NHS as it establishes the Alcohol Liaison Service at Frimley Park Hospital to facilitate alcohol misuse treatment referrals within the legal restrictions applying to confidentiality.

Agreed.

The DAAT worked closely with Berkshire East Public Health staff to develop the proposal for additional funding to be made available for an alcohol liaison post to be based at Wexham Park. This work has led to links being developed with Frimley Park Hospital around their alcohol liaison services. As a result details of the referral routes into drug and alcohol services have been provided to Frimley Park Hospital. The Alcohol Referral Services has been operational since April 2012 and the referral details for New Hope are included in the specification. The Head of Drug and

Alcohol Service will be attending the next FPH Alcohol Pathways meeting in April 2013.

Two members of the DAAT staff have delivered an awareness raising session for nursing staff at the Royal Berkshire Hospital (RBH). The alcohol liaison post is well established at the RBH and referrals have been made into Bracknell services. There are good levels of communication with RBH and staff regularly liaise with the duty mental health team in respect of Bracknell patients.

- 5.3 The DAAT makes a case to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) that the funding of £32k for adult criminal justice services provided by the Ministry of justice to date be continued as it is necessary to tackle drug misuse and reduce re/offending.

Agreed.

A detailed report on the benefits of continuing to provide this funding was made available to the candidates prior to the election of the PCC. The draft PCC plan highlights drugs and alcohol as a major factor in criminal behaviour and the PCC has now indicated that funding of £32k is to be made available to the DAAT for his first year in office.

The DAAT will be guided by the Community Safety Partnership in terms of ensuring that the funding is made available in future years. Being a Payment by Results area may strengthen our position in terms of this funding as one of the nationally agreed targets is the reduction in the offending levels of drug users. A case will therefore be able to be put forward for continuation of this funding in order to ensure that every effort to support people to achieve the outcome of reduced offending levels.

- 5.4 To enhance existing drug and alcohol education arrangements, opportunities to pursue a substance misuse awareness training campaign, possible including events, information and advice leaflets, work with schools and links to related matters such as domestic violence, be taken. Work with schools should involve the DAAT where possible, seek to clarify the legality of drugs and provide contact details and reporting routes for drug users.

Agreed.

Funding for specific drug and alcohol education in schools was devolved to individual schools in approximately 2004. It is therefore the responsibility of each educational establishment to make decisions on how this will be delivered.

The DAAT will continue to liaise with schools where required and provide specialist session when they are requested. The Young Peoples Substance Misuse Worker has established good working relationships with the schools and in particular the Family Support Advisors which leads to referrals into services.

The DAAT commissions an annual training programme which is open to all staff, including schools in Bracknell. The programme includes basic and advanced drug and alcohol awareness, young people and substance misuse and mephedrone awareness and identification.

The Head of Drug and Alcohol Services and relevant agencies have recently undertaken a review of the current paperwork in terms of referral into services. The revised documentation will be presented to both Adult Social Care Health and

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Housing and Children Young People and Learning Departmental Management Team for approval in April 2013 and will then be circulated to all relevant agencies.

- 5.5 The Executive thanks the members of the Working Group for their contribution to this important area of work. It is important to note the strong support for the work being undertaken by the DAAT Service on our residents' behalf and the Working Group's endorsement of this following the review is welcomed.

6 **ADVICE RECEIVED FROM STATUTORY AND OTHER OFFICERS**

Borough Solicitor

- 6.1 The relevant legal provisions are addressed within the main body of the report.

Borough Treasurer

- 6.2 There are no direct financial implications within this report for the Council, as the cost of the activities will be met from the PCC grant.

Equalities Impact Assessment

- 6.3 N/A

Strategic Risk Management Issues

- 6.4 N/A

7 **CONSULTATION**

Principal Groups Consulted

- 7.1 None

Method of Consultation

- 7.2 None

Representations Received

- 7.3 None

Background Papers

A Review of Substance Misuse by a Working Group of the Adult Social Care and Housing Overview and Scrutiny Panel

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