

**Communities and Environment Policy & Scrutiny    17 November 2015**  
**Committee**

Report of the Interim Director of Public Health

**Overview of Public Health Substance Misuse Services**

**Summary**

1. The purpose of the report is to provide an overview of the role of the Public Health Team in relation to substance misuse, together with information about the public health commissioned substance misuse services. Annex A sets out current performance and outcomes data.

**Background**

2. Public Health transferred to City of York Council in April 2013 following the implementation of the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Under the Act, local authorities became responsible for substance misuse treatment services and the funding arrangements also changed so that funding became part of the local authority Public Health Grant Allocation from the Department of Health. The Drug and Action Alcohol Team (DAAT) was dissolved and the staff and functions absorbed into the City of York Council Public Health Team, reporting to the Director of Public Health.
3. The National Treatment Agency was also dissolved around this time and absorbed into Public Health England. The focus for substance misuse services also changed becoming more focused on supporting people to complete treatment and become abstinent from drugs and alcohol, as opposed to harm reduction.

**Drug and Alcohol Misuse Explained**

4. Drug and alcohol dependency is a complex health disorder with social causes and consequences. Risk of addiction is influenced by a person's personality, social environment, biology and age or stage of development. The more risk factors an individual has, the greater the chance that taking drugs or heavy drinking can lead to addiction.

5. The health implications of substance misuse are significant. Drug use is linked to everything from circulatory disease and respiratory problems to mental health and neurological problems such as psychosis and seizures. Heavy drinking is known as a causal factor in more than 60 medical conditions and is also linked to the increased likelihood of antisocial behaviour, violence including domestic violence and an increase in unprotected sex, due to the lowering of inhibitions, thereby increasing the risk of unwanted pregnancies and the spread of sexually transmitted infections.

### **Substance Misuse Services Provision**

6. The Public Health Team hold contracts with two service providers to deliver specialist treatment services within the City of York, in addition some service provision is commissioned from GPs and Community Pharmacists.
7. A number of other partners across the City of York contribute to the substance misuse agenda including North Yorkshire Police, the Vale of York Clinical Commissioning Group, trading standards, youth justice services etc.
8. Each individual school is responsible for drug and alcohol education provision and can commission external service providers to deliver this. Drug education is covered within Personal Social and Health Education which is a non-statutory provision.
9. The Safer York Partnership has an important role in providing leadership across the sectors for substance misuse; the Health and Wellbeing Board has a role in overseeing delivery of public health outcomes.

### **Specialist Substance Misuse Provision**

10. Public Health holds one contract with Lifeline who is commissioned to provide a range of drug and alcohol treatment interventions in an integrated clinic setting. These include:
  - Needle exchange
  - Physical health care including vaccinations
  - Substitute medication prescribing e.g. methadone
  - Talking therapies
  - Access to community detoxification
  - Assessment for inpatient (hospital) detoxification

- Access to community rehabilitation programme
  - Assessment for residential rehabilitation programme
  - Criminal justice work in the courts, police stations, Youth Offending Team and probation e.g. Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Orders.
  - Young people's service including a transitional worker for 16-24 year olds
  - Individual targeted work with school age referrals in school settings
11. Public Health holds a second contract with Changing Lives for the provision of an intensive abstinence programme and wrap around recovery services such as post treatment support and support for back to work / volunteering.

### **Consultation**

12. A number of consultations have taken place which informed the initial design and content of the current contract provisions and changes within the life of the contracts. Further consultations are planned in advance of the re commissioning of contracts in 2017
- A full service audit took place in 2010 to review the clinical provision
  - Consultation took place in 2011 to gain an objective view of the clients experience in treatment. This was undertaken using peer interviewers and ex service users.
  - Through 2013-14 a series of conversation cafes took place across the city which gave customers and partners the opportunity to develop and understand recovery and to inform the direction of service development.
  - York University, in 2014, completed an evaluation of the abstinence programme (day rehab) which included qualitative interviews with course participants.
  - York University have been commissioned in 2015 to report on the experiences of clients who have been in long term treatment to help inform a new approach to working with this client group in York. This report is due in late 2016.

### **Performance**

13. Details of performance outcomes are detailed in Annex A to this report. Key points to note:

- The trend in York for the number of adults in treatment for substance misuse is downward in line with the national trend
- A third of adults in treatment are alcohol users
- Performance against the Public Health Outcomes Framework target shows that York is significantly worse than the national average for treatment completions for opiates. However the percentage of people re-presenting following treatment is better than the national average
- For alcohol treatment the rate of successful completions is increasing but York remains below the national average
- In terms of young people, the picture in York is similar to the national one but comparatively more young people in York use alcohol, cannabis and amphetamines. The numbers are small and so subject to fluctuation
- York has higher numbers of people in the criminal justice system in treatment

### Options

14. There are no options to consider. The report is for information only.

### Council Plan

15. The substance misuse work helps to support the Council Plan priorities:

A prosperous city for all

A focus on frontline services

A council that listens to residents

### Implications

16. Consideration has been given to the following:
  - **Financial** – the report has no financial implications
  - **Human Resources (HR)** – the report has no HR implications
  - **Equalities** – the report has no equalities implications.
  - **Legal** – there are no legal implications
  - **Crime and Disorder** – there are no crime and disorder implications in the report

- **Information Technology (IT)** – there are no IT implications
- **Property** – there are no property implications

**Risk Management**

17. There are no risks identified in the report.

**Recommendations**

18. There are no recommendations. The report is for information only to provide the Communities and Environment Policy and Scrutiny Committee with an overview of substance misuse treatment services.

**Contact Details**

**Report Author:**

Leigh Bell  
 Health Improvement  
 Manager  
 Public Health

**Chief Officer Responsible for the report:**

Sharon Stoltz  
 Interim Director of Public Health

**Report Approved**

**Date**

08/11/15

**Specialist Implications Officer(s)** - None

**Wards Affected:** List wards or tick box to indicate all

**All**

**For further information please contact the author of the report**

**Annexes**

**Annex A** - Substance Misuse Treatment Performance Template 2014-15