

REPORT TO: SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: 22JANUARY 2014

TITLE: REVIEW OF DRUG USE IN HARLOW (PART 2 OF 2)

LEAD OFFICER: LYNN SEWARD, HEAD OF COMMUNITY WELLBEING (01279) 446119

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RECOMMENDED that the Committee notes the report.

BACKGROUND

1. This report is the second of two reports to Scrutiny Committee to review current drug use in Harlow. The first report provided an overview of organisations providing an enforcement function against illegal drug use in Harlow and the enforcement methods used by Harlow Council and partner agencies to control drug related antisocial behaviour and crime.
2. This report provides an overview of agencies providing education, rehabilitation, support and recovery in Harlow.

ORGANISATIONS AND GROUPS DEALING WITH DRUG REHABILITATION AND RECOVERY

ESSEX DRUG AND ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIP (EDAP)

3. Essex Drug and Alcohol Partnership (EDAP) is a partnership which includes Essex Police, Probation, HM Prison Service, other statutory agencies including Housing and Education, National Health Service-based providers, twelve local Councils, Essex County Council, Essex Fire Service, service users and the voluntary sector. Each partner has the responsibility of owning “substance misuse” within their organisations. EDAP works to help to prevent usage of illegal drugs and alcohol, minimise their harm, treat and rehabilitate users and reduce related offending and crime.

ESSEX DRUG AND ALCOHOL ACTION TEAM (EDAAT)

4. The Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team (EDAAT) is responsible for co-

ordinating all County-wide drug and alcohol governmental requirements on behalf of the Essex Drug and Alcohol Partnership. The Essex Drug and Alcohol Team is hosted by Essex County Council and has a team of officers who are responsible for turning the Essex Drug and Alcohol Partnership's visions and strategies into reality. The Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team's core responsibilities are commissioning and criminal justice project management. The Team provides induction courses for professionals to educate them about substance misuse.

5. In response to service users', carers' and families' feedback, the Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team is currently piloting a provision of Community Based Rehabilitation services in Essex, based in Braintree. Action On Addiction is the delivery partner delivering the pilot called Self Help Addiction Recovery Programme (SHARP). SHARP delivers a highly structured eight week community rehabilitation service to male and female clients with drug and/or alcohol issues who have either been through a recent detox programme or have been assessed as ready for community rehabilitation.
6. The programme is delivered by a small multi-disciplined team of qualified counsellors and other professionals with expertise in addictions. The programme is run with a group of clients who are geographically close to each other. Rehabilitation in a community setting allows for the sharing of recovery skills with a group of peers who spend each day together whilst in treatment. This pilot started in August 2013 and will be evaluated. If results are positive it is the intention to commission the on-going provision for community based rehabilitation.
7. During April 2013 the Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team completed the procurement process for a contract with Foundation 66, which provides an advice and mentoring service and works with individuals, communities and policy-makers in Harlow to reduce harm caused by problem alcohol and drug use.

COMMUNITY DRUG AND ALCOHOL TEAM (CDAT) WEST ESSEX

8. The Community Drug and Alcohol Team is based in Harlow and provides support to those in Harlow physically dependent on drug and/or alcohol. The team provides detoxification, residential rehab referrals, day programmes, information, advice, counselling, care planning and an assessment of the drug or alcohol user. The service is for both young people and adults and provides a multi-disciplinary team of professionals including doctors and medical clinicians. The team has the ability to prescribe a substitute or alternative drug to assist the drug or alcohol users with their addiction.

9. The Community Drug and Alcohol Team accept referrals from individuals directly, or from General Practitioners or other healthcare professionals.

WESTMINSTER DRUG PROJECT

10. The Westminster Drug Project is a charity helping those affected by drug and alcohol use. It is commissioned by Essex Drug and Alcohol Action Team. The Westminster Drug Project team, currently based in Harlow Police Station, deals with clients who are using drugs and have come into contact with the Criminal Justice System.
11. The Westminster Drug Project provides a service at HMP Chelmsford, to provide comprehensive assessment and care planning for prisoners with class A substance use issues. The prison link officers coordinate the release from prison for Harlow clients to ensure continuity of treatment and care. The Westminster Drug Project also works in Harlow Police Custody Suite to target clients who are involved in the Criminal Justice System. It also provides advice and information to those drug users.
12. Westminster Drug Project officers also assess suitability for Drug Rehabilitation. Assessment follows a referral from Probation or earlier identification in Police custody or attendance at court. Should the court make a Drug Rehabilitation Requirement Order the Westminster Drug Project would test the person under the order to establish if they have breached their order by using drugs. The Westminster Drug Project also co-ordinates the drug user's treatment until the court order is complete.
13. Westminster Drug Project Officers also refer clients to partner agencies for relevant treatment, including rehabilitation.

PASSMORES HOUSE

14. Passmores House is situated on Third Avenue in Harlow and has been managed by The Westminster Drug Project since April 2011. Passmores House offers residential detoxification and stabilisation services as well as a full rehabilitation programme built around the individual. Passmores House offers a holistic residential treatment programme that combines social, physical and psychological therapies. It is aimed at adults aged eighteen and over. Access to this service can be by self-referral or by referral by friends or relatives. Professionals are also able to make the initial contact where an appointment can be made for an assessment. Essex County Council may fund a drug user through this service, however Passmores House also accept private clients.

INTEGRATED OFFENDER MANAGEMENT

15. The Integrated Offender Management Team is based in the Probation Offices in Mitre Buildings in Harlow Town Centre. The team is made up of Probation Officers and Police Officers who work intensively with identified prolific offenders to address and overcome their substance misuse.

OPEN ROAD

16. Open Road is a charity that supports people who misuse drugs and alcohol. It operates in Essex and Suffolk and has a dedicated centre located at Wych Elm, Harlow. Open Road provides needle exchange, structured recovery programmes, family and carers support, harm reduction programmes, HIV, Hepatitis testing, pre-testing and post testing counselling. Open Road accepts self- referrals and referrals from health care professionals.
17. Open Road works together with Essex Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Service to provide the CHOICES service, which provides an integrated recovery management system a single gateway into recovery for clients of all ages. The client would receive a consistent, single relationship to support them through recovery. If the Essex Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Service is working with a young person prior to their eighteenth birthday, they would remain with their allocated recovery worker. Under integrated recovery management a client is allocated a nominated assessor, allocator and coordinator of care. Young people are seen where they feel comfortable for example school, home or in a community setting.

FAMILIES FOR RECOVERY

18. Families for Recovery is a self-help group for anyone who is affected by someone else's alcohol or drug use. The group's aim is to provide mutual support and information to families, friends and carers of people with alcohol and drug addiction. Families for Recovery meets at least once a month at The Stow, Harlow.

HARLOW COMMUNITY WELLBEING STRATEGY ACTION PLAN

19. The Harlow Wellbeing Strategy Development Group has identified the reduction in the levels of drug and alcohol abuse in Harlow as a key objective. A sub group has been formed under the Safer Harlow Partnership and has been tasked with drafting an action plan to achieve this key objective.

THE SAFER HARLOW PARTNERSHIP

20. The Safer Harlow Partnership Sub Group has identified three objectives:

1. Reducing drug and alcohol abuse in Harlow.
 2. Raise awareness of drug and alcohol abuse in Harlow.
 3. Support those who abuse drugs and alcohol in Harlow.
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21. The Safer Harlow Partnership has agreed that Drugs and Substance misuse will be a priority for Harlow during 2014/15 and this has been reflected in Harlow's Strategic Assessment. The Safer Harlow Partnership has drafted an action plan (Appendix 1).
 22. The attached action plan provides details relating to actions for both drug and alcohol misuse. Appendix 1, page 1 task 4 provides information regarding Operation Napalm (drugs dogs), it has been agreed that a further three evenings be arranged between January 2014 and March 2014.
 23. The attached action plan also provides details regarding the need to raise awareness around Legal Highs (appendix 1, page 3 task 10). There are currently three retail premises in Harlow which sell legal highs. Those retail premises have been provided with education about legal highs that have now become illegal. Essex County Council has not identified any premises in Harlow which have sold legal highs that are now illegal. It is recognised that Legal Highs are a national problem and the Home Office has recently announced a review into legislative options to tackle new psychoactive substances. It is difficult to ascertain the use of Legal Highs in Harlow as Legal Highs are often purchased on the internet.
 24. The attached action plan provides information regarding Harlow Council reviewing its own employee Drug and Alcohol Policy (appendix 1, page 4, task 15) with a view to encouraging other organisations to review their own internal policies.
 25. The Westminster Drug Project is currently based in Harlow Police Station. The attached action plan (appendix 1, page 4, task 16) identifies that the Westminster Drug Project require premises based in Harlow, preferably in Harlow Town Centre, where users can attend the premises on a drop-in basis. It is intended that recovering users assist in the premises with work such as reception work and taking responsibility for tasks within the premises, and this will allow the Westminster Drugs Project to look at the possibility of a Social Enterprise, provide post treatment education and employment opportunities and look at the introduction of voluntary counselling for drug and alcohol abuse in Harlow.

CLIENTS IN TREATMENT IN HARLOW

26. The Essex County Council Commissioning Intelligence Officer has provided information with regard to the number of clients currently in treatment. 2

Information regarding the number of people in effective treatment is provided below (the last period that can be fully reported is 1 July 2012 to 30 June 2013). It should be noted that this data may not mean that all clients in that agency are from Harlow, and that "Effective Treatment" means a client enters treatment and stays for twelve or more weeks or is successfully discharged prior to twelve weeks commencing. Essex County Council has not been able to provide information relating to the cost of the above service specific to Harlow as Essex County Council commissions services on a County-wide basis.

HTLA/LA LEVEL DATA

No in Effective Treatment (latest 12 month period that can be fully reported: 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013)		
	All HARLOW CLIENTS	All ESSEX CLIENTS
OCU (Opiate and/or Crack Users)	252	2049
All Adults (18+)	358	2820

AGENCY LEVEL DATA

No in Effective Treatment (latest 12 month period that can be fully reported: 1st July 2012 to 30th June 2013)			
	ADAS HARLOW	CDAT HARLOW	CHOICES HARLOW
OCU (Opiate and/or Crack Users)	-	254	263
All Adults (18+)	-	262	447

Number of clients in treatment year to date (YTD - Apr13- Sept13) - alcohol is the primary drug				
	ADAS HARLOW	CDAT HARLOW	CHOICES HARLOW	ALL ESSEX
Alcohol	346	126	-	1393

IMPLICATIONS

Regeneration (includes Sustainability)

None specific.

Author: **Graeme Bloomer, Head of Regeneration**

Finance (Includes ICT)

None specific.

Author: **Simon Freeman, Head of Finance**

Housing

Early intervention and identification of an individual's support needs are essential for tackling drug use in Harlow. The provision and awareness of support available for education, rehabilitation techniques gives confidence to drug users helping with this early intervention strategy.

Author: **Andrew Murray, Head of Housing**

Community Wellbeing (includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

Community Wellbeing (includes Equalities and Social Inclusion)

Abuse of drugs and alcohol can have a devastating effect – not only on the lives of those who abuse, but also on their families and the wider community. Effective joint working to tackle abuse of drugs and alcohol will enhance community safety and enhance social cohesion.

Author: **Lynn Seward, Head of Community Wellbeing**

Governance (includes HR)

None specific.

Author: **Brian Keane, Interim Head of Governance**