

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: SOCIAL & HEALTH CARE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

DATE: THURSDAY, 24 JANUARY 2013

REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY SERVICES

SUBJECT: YOUNG PERSONS DRUG & ALCOHOL TEAM

1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.01 To provide an update of the developments within Flintshire “Sorted” - Young People’s Drug and Alcohol Team (YPDAT) and an overview of the changes in regional funding arrangements.

2.00 BACKGROUND

2.01 Children and young people’s misuse of drug and alcohol continues to be a major concern to society as a whole and impacts on all partner agencies. Although research highlights that fewer young people are being treated for class A drugs and that the vast majority receive support for problems with cannabis and alcohol, there has been a significant increase in those using mephedrone (MCAT) and “legal highs”. The figures also show that most young people accessing drug and alcohol services present a complex range of other problems, which demonstrates that ‘substance misuse is seldom an isolated issue’. This is a similar picture seen by YPDAT across Flintshire.

2.02 The Young Persons Drug and Alcohol Team is a multi agency, multi disciplinary team which aims to minimise the impact of alcohol and drugs on children, young people, their families and the community. The YPDAT was commended in the Flintshire Excellence Awards in 2012 and has established a model of working that has been recognised as best practice across Wales.

2.03 The YPDAT provides a comprehensive service to the young people of Flintshire, divided into three main areas of activity:

Universal – generic substance misuse education offered to all young people within schools and the community.

Targeted – programmes of work aimed specifically at those young people either misusing or in danger of misusing substances.

Treatment – referral based service for those young people with an identified drug or alcohol related problem.

3.00 CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.01** The YPDAT has established a Young Person's Steering Group which works in partnership with the team to develop practice and they have recently renamed the service as Flintshire Sorted, the aim being to de-stigmatise services and to establish a 'brand' across Flintshire.
- 3.02** The Flintshire Sorted has this year launched its own innovative Drug Aware Award (DAA) which compliments the Welsh Government's Healthy Schools Initiative and will recognise schools' commitment to tackling drug and alcohol misuse. The aim is for each school to achieve a set of specific criteria to be awarded the Drug Aware Award. Flintshire Sorted have agreed Service Level Agreements with all secondary schools and will play an active role in supporting schools with their policy development, PSE curriculum, community engagement and targeted support for young people. The aim is to support schools, children and young people with the inclusion agenda.
- 3.03** In addition to the DAA, dedicated 'link' workers have been assigned to each of the secondary schools, including Maes Hyfryd and the Pupil Referral Units, offering continuity, a face that is recognisable and specific programmes of work for individual schools. The Sorted link staff are establishing their presence within the schools and are attending a range of professional meetings and supporting and advising teachers.
- 3.04** The YPDAT universal and targeted work continues to be delivered in innovative ways to ensure the engagement of young people. This includes:-
- peer education programmes
 - targeted school work programmes with identified groups of young people
 - lunch time sessions using the outreach vehicle
 - use of 'Decision Street' mobile theatre in conjunction with a local education drama group.
 - mobile sports stadium used in community settings evidencing a reduction in anti social behaviour
 - production of an alcohol education DVD resource pack, written, acted, filmed and edited by the Sorted Young People's Steering Group.

Peer Education & Universal Services 2011-2012

Peer Education Activity	Total	Universal Schools Activity	Total
No. of Peer Educators attending training in Quarter	292	No. of schools visited	13
No. of sessions delivered by Peer Educators	22	No. of sessions undertaken	123
No. of young people receiving education by Peer Educators	1449	No. of young people (yrs.7-13) seen	6511

- 3.05** The referral based service is the only treatment provision for young people under 18 across Flintshire. Referrals continue to be received from a range of agencies including education, health (general practitioners and the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service), Social Services For Children, Police, Youth Justice Service in addition to self referrals. All referrals are on a voluntary basis and are assessed for "Gillick" competency (to ensure that self referrals from young people meet the competency standard). A holistic assessment is undertaken and tailored intervention packages devised in conjunction with the young person and, where appropriate, the family.
- 3.06** The treatment 1-1 referral based element continues to develop innovative ways of engaging young people and supporting them in making appropriate life changes. These include the more traditional motivational interviewing, cognitive behavioural therapy, harm reduction, harm relapse and exit strategies. The staff are continually exploring new methods to increase engagement.
- 3.07** The main developments include:-

Flintshire Sorted Counselling Post

In conjunction with CAIS, the third sector Drug and Alcohol Agency a 12 month pilot has just begun to provide dedicated counselling to young people who misuse substances. This has been identified as a gap in provision and will complement the current work undertaken by the school based counselling service and CAMHS. The post will endeavour to engage this hard to reach group of young people who misuse substances as a coping mechanism to deal with underlying emotional and life events. A robust evaluation framework is in place to capture positive outcomes for young people.

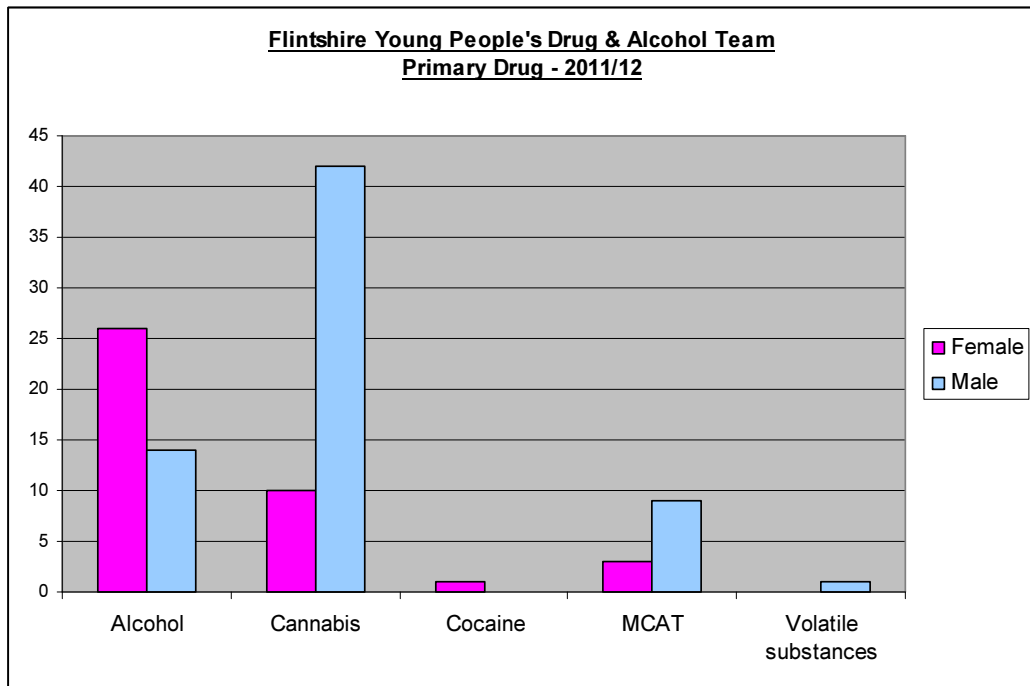
Creative Art and Play Therapy (CAPT)

This innovative method of engaging with young people involved with drug and alcohol services is being used with those who find it difficult to communicate and discuss previous distressing life events. The initial evaluation of this methodology is proving very positive with an increase in self esteem, improved communication skills and a reduction in their substance misuse.

Alternative Therapies including:-

A range of alternative therapies including auricular acupuncture, Reiki, Emotional Freedom Technique, Indian Head Massage and relaxation strategies are being combined in intervention plans to give young people additional skills to reduce their substance misuse but also improve their emotional well being.

YPDAT figures for 1-1 work showing primary substance usage by gender.



* MCAT (Mephedrone) is a stimulant drug which is a synthetic (man-made). It has a similar effects to MDMA (found in Ecstasy) or Amphetamine (more commonly known as Speed). It was classed as a 'Legal High' until 2010 when the UK Government reclassified it as a Class B.

** Volatile Substances include glues, paints, aerosols, gases and nitrates. The effects of volatile substances vary depending on which substance is inhaled. However, all volatile substances are rapidly absorbed and all act to depress the central nervous system.

3.08 The Strategic oversight for substance misuse services resides with the North Wales Regional Area Planning Board which in turn reports to the North Wales Safer Communities Board. Changes in the distribution of funding streams are being implemented from April 2013 with Wrexham County Borough Council being the regional 'banker'. Implications for the new arrangements in relation to commissioning, monitoring and evaluation continue to be discussed with the Welsh Government. However, providers have been assured that there will be no destabilisation of current service provision for 2013-2014 with this being

seen as a transition year. The following financial year it is anticipated that contracts will be transferred to WCBC with the wider implication of governance to be agreed.

- 3.09** The Area Planning Board has recently agreed to a proposal for a dedicated Children and Young People's Subgroup to ensure that their issues are addressed. It has been agreed that Lesley Bayley, Flintshire Sorted Manager will Chair the forum. The aim is to map current substance misuse service provision for children and young people across North Wales, in addition to identifying best practice and standardising the documentation used.

4.00 **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.01** That the report be noted.

5.00 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.01** The YPDAT currently receives £248,000 and is totally funded by Welsh Government Grants and as detailed in the report (3.07) this is going to be administered on a regional basis from 2013-2014. It is an ongoing concern whether the entirety of this funding will continue and for how long. There is a risk that the level of funding may change if regional priorities dictate their use. The current North Wales overall funding is £4,459,450.

6.00 **ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

- 6.01** Not applicable

7.00 **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

- 7.01** None

8.00 **EQUALITIES IMPACT**

- 8.01** None

9.00 **PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.01** None

10.00 **CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

- 10.01** None

11.00 **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

- 11.01** None

12.00 APPENDICES

12.01 None

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

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