

## Written submission from the Youth Offending Service for the Scrutiny Review

All young people at Haringey YOS are screened for substance use/abuse/dependence and receive substance use/abuse education. The screening tool is Adolescent SASSI-2. (Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory). The education consists of cannabis and alcohol awareness, safe use, harm reduction, information on stimulants; depressants; solvents; units and measures. The education also consists of physical effects on the body of alcohol and cannabis; possible physical and mental consequences of abuse/dependence and information on substance misuse and the Law. All other substances relevant to the young person's usage, including curiosity and environment are also covered.

If the young person has abuse or dependence disorder, as indicated by the initial assessment through SASSI, the above education is delivered. However, in some cases immediate harm reduction and substance reduction work would be carried out initially. The Intervention would focus on the reduction of the primary drug to abstinence and this usually includes a multi-agency approach, including education, health, housing, dual diagnosis. If the young person has been charged with the supply of drugs, s/he would receive a more advanced education on the drug and the detrimental impact of the drug on both the individual user and the wider community. This would also include the life style of the dealer and risks of physical violence and legal consequences. Haringey YOS also runs a female-only alcohol group, addressing the emotional and physical effects of substance abuse, 'risky' behaviour and sexual health.

If a young person is with the YOS for more than six months and continues to use substances then a new assessment is carried out along with a review of the previous intervention and the young person's opinions of what works and what does not. A new intervention is then put in place addressing any new areas of concern.

A dip sample of 10% (22) of the young people assessed via SASSI has been taken from Sep '07 to August '08.

**Age:** 2 x 18yrs; 9 x 17yrs; 10 x 16yrs; 1 x 15 yrs; 1x 13 yrs

**Gender:** 15 males / 7 females

**Ethnicity:** 4 x Black UK males, 4 x White UK males, 1 x Dual Heritage (white UK/black Caribbean) male; 1 x white UK/black African male, 1 x Turkish male, 1 x African Caribbean male black male, 2 x Somali Black male, 1 x Iranian male, 1 x Irish white male, 3 x white UK females, 1 x white black Caribbean female, 1 x black Caribbean female.

### **Nature of intervention:**

The nature of the interventions with these young people can be classed as both Tier 2 and Tier 3.

The numbers receiving Tier 2 were **13** and the following tier 2 interventions have been delivered to young people:

- Substance use assessment (SASSI – 2)
- Cannabis and alcohol awareness.
- Stimulants and depressants awareness.

- Harm reduction, safe use, reduction techniques, Physical and mental effects of substance use/abuse and dependence.
- The negative effects of drug supply on both the individual and the wider community.
- Group work (Cannabis and Alcohol)
- Female alcohol group work.

Of the sample, **9** young people can be considered as receiving a Tier 3 service which can be described as intervention that is structured, regular, comprehensively assessed and care planned. In addition to the **13** young people that received a Tier 2 service, the 9 young people were also engaged in the following:

- Substance misuse action plan to involve multi-agency approach such as Resettlement and Aftercare programme
- ISSP
- A referral to In-Volve
- One-to-one support / key-working
- Complementary therapies
- Assessment and access to medical interventions
- Advocacy (help resolving situations with others)
- Access to education and training

**Onward Referral:**

9 of the young people were referred to the organisation In-volve

Written by YOS substance misuse worker and team manager  
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