



Haringey Council

Agenda item:


Cabinet Meeting

On 13.10.2009

Report Title. Overview and Scrutiny Review – Support to Young People at Risk of Substance Abuse

Report of : The Director, Children and Young People's Service

Peter Lewis.

Signed : 

Contact Officer :

Jan Doust, Head of Children's Network

Jane Painter, Young People's Substance Misuse Commissioner

Wards(s) affected:

All

Report for:

Non Key Decision

1. Purpose of the report

1.1. To respond to the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Review Report on Support to Young People at Risk of Substance Misuse and provide an Action plan.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Members

2.1 Councillor Canver and myself are extremely grateful to the members of the Overview and Scrutiny panel who undertook this review and would like to express our thanks for a thorough and helpful piece of work.

2.2 Our responses to the recommendations are set out in the attached Action Plan. We are happy to agree almost all the recommendations in full. Where this is not possible we have explained why this is not possible.

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

The Council wants to lessen the devastating impact of drugs and alcohol abuse on individuals, families and communities in order to meet their Community Plan objectives of making Haringey safer for all and ensuring local people are healthier with a better quality of life. One way of doing this is to identify at an early a stage as possible when young people are at risk of and when they first start to experiment and/or have problems with drugs and alcohol and to support them.

4. Recommendations

4.1. That the Cabinet agree the response to the recommendations and agree the attached Action Plan

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

5.1. The Action Plan sets out the process and actions required to implement those recommendations agreed from the Scrutiny Review Report.

6. Other options considered

N/A

7. Summary

7.1. See the response to the recommendations and actions required in the Action Plan:

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

The Director of Finance has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

The Council owes duties to children in need in the area under the Children Act 1989 and its related statutory instruments and guidance. The action plan makes recommendations about the provision of services to children in need in the area. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is empowered to do this by s21 of the Local Government Act 2000.

10. Head of Procurement Comments –[Required for Procurement Committee]

11. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

11.1 With the absence of an Equality Impact Assessment of the process set out in the “Scrutiny Review of Support to young people at risk of substance abuse” dated 30th June 09, it is not possible to comment in detail on the impact or equality implications of the implementation of the proposals in the action plan. Based on the Young People’s Substance Misuse Needs Assessment 2009, an understanding of the diversity issues will enable the pilot scheme to be most effective in the areas of greatest need.

11.2 The implementation of the action plan needs to ensure that all diversity issues are taken into account consideration is given to; demographics (wards with the largest target group); age (appropriate age of early intervention); sexual orientation (sexual identity amongst teenagers and related issues); disability (adjustments for any issues that relate to disabilities); deprivation (multiple issues that overlap and implications with other strategies e.g. crime, homelessness, teenage pregnancy); culture & religion (understanding of the client

group that are disproportionately affected); gender (the different levels and type of intervention for boys and girls).

Other factors that need to be considered within the 'pilot scheme' and included in the action plan are; bullying and harassment; exclusions; behaviour problems; performance of pupils who are affected; care leavers and looked after children.

11.3 The pilot scheme needs to make certain that all diversity issues are addressed to target appropriate interventions, by all of the joint service providers. In the design of the 'pilot scheme' and the solutions, consideration should be given to ensure that any future consultation with the young people involved, are representative in numbers by; age, disability, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and religion and belief.

12. Consultation

12.1. Throughout the scrutiny review process views and evidence were considered from relevant Council Departments and service providers. Additionally a representative from the Youth Council was co-opted onto the review to represent young people and provide feedback to the Youth Council. Representation from both secondary schools and NHS Haringey was also secured through co-option. 12.2 The Scrutiny Report was circulated to all those involved in the review for consideration of the technical accuracy and feasibility of the recommendations.

13. Service Financial Comments

13.1. No additional funding implications. All recommendations and actions can be achieved within existing resources.

14. Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

14.1. Appendix 1 - Action Plan

15. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The background papers relating to this report are:

- 15.1. Haringey Children and Young People's Plan
- 15.2. Haringey Young People's Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Plan
- 15.3. Haringey Joint Strategic Needs Assessment
- 15.4. Report to O and S on 17.March 2008 – support to pupils with drugs and/or alcohol problems.
- 15.5. Every Child Matters: Change for children and young people and drugs
- 15.6. Youth Alcohol Action Plan – Joint Department for Children, Schools and Families, Home Office and Dept of Health
- 15.7. HM Government – 2008 Drugs Strategy.

These can be obtained from Carolyn Banks – Principal Scrutiny Support Officer on 0208 489 2965, 7th Floor, River Park House
Email: carolyn.banks@haringey.gov.uk

ACTION PLAN 2009/10 TO IMPLEMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS TO GIVE SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE.

Recommendation	Response:	Date to be completed	Action	Lead	Commentary
i. That training sessions on the Common Assessment Framework (CAF) and around the Joint Area Review/ Action Plan be strengthened to include the early identification of substance misuse by children and young people, and the correct assessment processes such as training to include school governors.	Agreed. It reflects actions 1.2.3 1.3.2 in Young People's Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Plan and supports partnership work and embedding of substance misuse agenda in Children's Services.	Ongoing	CAF training sessions to include early identification of substance misuse training, awareness and knowledge of substance misuse assessment tools and referral procedures to appropriate services; CAF training to include voluntary, statutory and private sector.	North MIDT Co-ordinator and Integrated Working & Workforce Dev Manager/Head of Children's Network /Young People's Substance Misuse Commissioner	This action is already progressing. A revised CAF recording form and guidance was issued by the DCSF in July 2009 and we are preparing to adopt this locally. Governors were briefed on CAF processes in September 2009 and there is a training and awareness programme being rolled out to schools.
ii. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further report in Autumn 2009 on the delivery of the JAR plan, detailing the specific impact on young people for whom substance abuse may be an issue.	Safer Stronger Communities and Children's Services suggest that the timescale in this recommendation be changed from Autumn 2009 to Spring 2010 to fit	Spring 2010		Head of Children's Network	The other actions highlighted in this plan are being delivered through the JAR Safeguarding Plan. The report in the Spring will focus on the impact of these actions in relation to outcomes for young people.

	in with JAR Safeguarding Plan.					
iii.	That the Panel strongly recommends the introduction of a pilot scheme in a number of secondary schools to improve early identification of pupils at risk of substance abuse with the Director of Children and Young People Services reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committee the results.	Safer Stronger Communities, and Children's Services support this recommendation as this is an area of work that has been identified as needing improvement, (re the low numbers of young people in treatment) and will support children's well-being, health and life chances (ECM) by enabling earlier interventions.	Oct 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Up to 3 schools to be identified in Sept 09 Pilot scheme to be developed Oct 09 Pilot scheme to start Nov 09 Pilot scheme to be monitored and reviewed termly. Director of CYPs to report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee Sept 2010 	Director of CYPs, Schools, Young People's Substance Misuse Commissioner	Two schools expressed initial interest in this pilot and The Young People's Substance Misuse Commissioner (Jane Painter) is working with these schools to finalise proposals – these will have to be agreed by the school governing body. The Director of CYPs will raise the issues with secondary headteachers at their meeting on 22 nd September 2009.
iv.	That following the transfer of responsibility for drugs and alcohol services to the Children and Young People's services, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee gives consideration to a further review into the commissioning of treatment services examining the cost	Examining the cost effectiveness of early intervention versus high cost of specialist intervention presents	Sept 2010	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young People's Substance Misuse Needs Assessment re effectiveness of Harringey's young people's treatment services and Young People's Specialist 	Young People's Substance Misuse Commissioner and Commissioning Group.	Young People's Substance Misuse Needs Assessment currently being conducted. Completion date end of October 2009. National Treatment

<p>effectiveness of early intervention against the high cost of specialist intervention at a later date.</p>	<p>difficulties. Accurately measuring the effectiveness of an early intervention in contributing to a young person's future drug/alcohol free state is problematic as this is likely to be due to a combination of interventions and protective factors and so the conclusions will only be speculative. Monitoring cost effectiveness of treatment services (1.5.3 YP Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Plan) responsibility of YP Commissioner and</p>		<p>Substance Misuse Treatment Plan 2009/2010 to be written and signed off by Dec 2009.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Examining the cost effectiveness of early intervention versus high cost of specialist intervention presents difficulties. Accurately measuring the effectiveness of an early intervention in contributing to a young person's future drug/alcohol free state is problematic as this is likely to be due to a combination of interventions and protective factors and so the conclusions could only be speculative. 		<p>Agency (NTA) funding allocation is for specialist substance misuse treatment only.</p>
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	Commissioning Group.					
v.	That the Director of Children and Young People's Service (CYPS) be asked to consider the merits of introducing the good working model for the Common Assessment Framework adopted by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the integrated targeted youth support teams used by the London Borough of Hackney and Leeds City Council.	See comment	31/03/2010		Director of CYPS Director Youth Service North MDT Co-ordinator and Integrated Working & Workforce Dev Manager	The model operating in Haringey is very similar to the model identified by the GOL advisor as good practice (Tower Hamlets') in that it is intended to deliver a 'team around the child' approach. Further work is taking place to ensure that this is joined up with our IVSS.
vi.	That the Director of Children and Young People's Service consider how best to engage primary and secondary schools, GP practices, the Police and Youth Offending Service and local hospitals and integrate feedback.	Safer, Stronger Communities, DAAT and Children's Services support this recommendation. It is key to raising awareness and will improve appropriate substance misuse service referral from universal and targeted provision	Ongoing	Engagement actions to be put forward in Young People's Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Plan 2009/10	Director of CYPS. Young People's Substance Misuse (YPSM) Commissioning Group and YPSM Task Group.	This will be facilitated through the recently established Children's Trust Area Partnerships in each Children's Network. These will each have representation from Council, schools, Police, NHS Haringey and other statutory, voluntary and community providers

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