

APPENDIX 3. Consultation Responses (Service User Questionnaires and Provider Responses)

Respondents to the Polish Link Worker Consultation Questionnaire.

Question 1: What is the name of the organisation you attend and/or receive a service from?

Of the 12 respondents, all recorded attendance/service from HAGA; additional services consisted of Pastor Alex’s Church (1); DASH (1); COSMIC (1); Probation (1); S t Ignacius Church (1); Hearthstone and Family Strengthening (1) and RISE (1)

Respondents to Questions 2: To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?

There were 12 respondents were Strongly Opposed.

2a. To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?	
Strongly Oppose	
Individual	HAGA worker helped me to communicate with social services and she helped me to get a passport for my baby so we could go back home to my parents
Individual	I received support and I could talk to someone who knows how hard it is in this country when you come here and just work with no friends and family around
Individual	My key worker linked me with a solicitor when I needed it. I don't speak English so she helped me to understand letters I got from court. She helped me so I was calmer
Individual	the worker from HAGA speaks Polish so I went there, because I wanted to stop using drugs and I didn't know how to do it, so she helped me and took me to DASH otherwise I wouldn't know
Individual	My son was drinking and was having seizures and his children were on their own. Completely neglected. He could have died and we would not have known that he was so *****. The worker from HAGA told us to go to London and take our grandchildren and son back with us and she told us where to go for help in Poland
Individual	They were very helpful and visited when I was in hospital. My worker understood my situation when I was scared and ashamed
Individual	I was feeling unwell when I went to HAGA and very lonely but the worker talked to me and I got some help and I didn't feel so lonely anymore so I didn't have to drink that much
Individual	If there was no HAGA I would have nowhere to go for my treatment order which would mean that I would breach the conditions of bail
Individual	I was drinking very heavily and HAGA gave me a Detox and aftercare so I haven't been drinking for months now
Individual	HAGA worker came to see me in the hospital and she was trying to help me with housing. I am still homeless but I don't drink anymore
Individual	I trust HAGA They've been very useful
Individual	I don't speak English and having a Polish worker makes things

	much easier for me. The worker is from HAGA but she is helping out at RISE now because I'm Polish too
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Question 3: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?

Of the 12 respondents 3 replied YES, 6 replied No, 3 replied Not Sure. All recorded reasons are listed below.

<u>3a: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?</u>	
YES	
	No comments

<u>3a: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?</u>	
No	
Individual	I had no idea
Individual	I didn't know until me key worker called me
Individual	I didn't know about the funding withdrawal
Individual	I don't know anything about it
Individual	I did not realise that the only alcohol service in Haringey would suffer from it. Its counterproductive in my opinion
Individual	So many people need help, why would they get rid of the service

<u>3a: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?</u>	
Not Sure	
Individual	I heard about cuts, but I don't know the details
Individual	I don't speak English and I didn't know
Individual	I don't know much about it. I only heard rumours

Question 4: Which of the services that are currently provided by this organisation do you value most and why?

All 12 respondents completed question 4

Individual	The worker helped me to keep my baby, she advocated for me every day
Individual	Key working; acupuncture
Individual	I could call my key worker and she would always give me an appointment when I wanted to drink
Individual	The worker helped me to get the support I needed and she translated for me
Individual	The worker was helping us all the way with our son, with his kids, in the hospital, in school, with the police. Everything
Individual	COSMIC for my and my key worker who is always willing to meet with me if I call her
Individual	key-working because the key worker knows my culture and she understands that I feel lonely sometimes and she can explain to me "why" and I know that other foreigners feel lonely and humiliated and angry too
Individual	Groups and key working
Individual	Home Detox and key working
Individual	Key working, because we can have a cup of coffee and talk like human to human. It helps when I feel depressed
Individual	Key-working, Home visits COSMIC
Individual	I am being linked with Polish services in London, like counselling which I need

Question 5: What impact will a reduced level of service or no service at all have on you?

All 12 respondents completed question 5

Individual	I'm in Poland but there are others who need help
Individual	I will have nowhere to go if I ever feel I need some help again
Individual	It will not because I went back to Poland for residential treatment
Individual	I don't know
Individual	We are OK but there may be others like my son here
Individual	I will feel alone
Individual	I will have nowhere to go in case I need to
Individual	I would breach the conditions of bail I would go to prison then
Individual	I don't know where I would go if HAGA wasn't there
Individual	I would have no-one I could trust
Individual	My key worker is Polish so she can explain everything to me well. I think I will be a bit lost in the system when she is gone
Individual	I would be alone again with my problems and sooner or later I would start using again.

Question 6: Please tell us in the box provided below if the proposals will have an impact on you because of:

Individual	Ethnicity, Gender, gave birth
Individual	Ethnicity
Individual	N/A now Ethnicity when I was living in London
Individual	Ethnicity, language and knowledge how to do things
Individual	Ethnicity (none of us speaks any English, the worker was explaining everything so they wouldn't take our grandchildren away)
Individual	Ethnicity , gender
Individual	Ethnicity, religion (I am catholic and my key worker knows what that's about & how it relates to my culture
Individual	Ethnicity Also I would not be be able to work if my key worker wasn't flexible
Individual	Ethnicity
Individual	Ethnicity, gender
Individual	Ethnicity gender
Individual	Ethnicity

Question 7 : How do you think the service you currently receive from this organisation could be provided differently?

Individual	Don't change
Individual	maybe there could be more groups in the evenings for people who work and not in English
Individual	I was told I had no recourse to public funds so I could not go to a residential rehab. Also I wouldn't understand anything. They should open some for other nationalities
Individual	I don't know
Individual	I don't know
Individual	I would not change things
Individual	Its good enough for m
Individual	I did not think about it
Individual	I like what I can get there
Individual	I don't know
Individual	I'm happy with the service
Individual	I have no opinion

Question 8: Use the space below to tell us any other comments you would like to make

Individual	Other services should have more Polish workers. Sometimes people want to say things and nobody understands the others
Individual	I am the mother of someone who need to come to HAGA
Individual	Its good to be able to talk to someone who speaks Polish I speak English but I can say more in Polish
Individual	Neither I nor my wife speaks English Its good to have a Polish key worker
Individual	There should be more provision of services for homeless people

	who can't get benefits. I lost everything because I had an accident
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Question 9: Age groups represented

Age Groups were represented accordingly

25 - 34 (6)

35 - 44 (1)

45 - 54 (3)

55 - 64 (2)

Question 10: Do you consider you have a disability?

11 of the 12 respondents replied No; 1 respondent recorded having a Physical Disability

Question 11: Ethnicity?

10 responded that they were Polish, 1 responded as Russian and 1 Ukrainian.

Question 12 : Gender Reassignment?

None responded as having a Gender reassignment

Question 13: Pregnant?

All responded No to being to being pregnant

Question 14: Religion?

11 of the 12 respondents referred to themselves as Christian. 1 recorded No religion.

Question 15: Sex?

6 were Male; 6 were Female

Question 16: Sexual Orientation

All responded as being heterosexual

Respondents to the Alcohol Hospital Link Worker Consultation Questionnaire.

Question 1: What is the name of the organisation you attend and/or receive a service from?

Of the 23 respondents, 21 recorded attendance/service from HAGA, the remaining two recorded specifically just the Alcohol Hospital Link Worker; in addition to HAGA 4 specifically mentioned the Alcohol Hospital Link Worker service. Many of the forms related to the HAGA organisation.

Respondents to Questions 2: To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?

There were 13 respondents were Strongly Opposed. 12 Expressed their reasons.

2a. To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?	
Strongly Oppose	
Individual	Because it is a necessary service that is needed in the community
Individual	The service provides much needed support and help to people like me who cannot cope with their addiction
Individual	If I never had this service I don't know what I would do I don't think I would be here to tell the story I would be dead now
Individual	The service provided me with the link to access services that supported me to remain abstinent from alcohol
Individual	Without the linkworker's advice and encouragement I would not have remained abstinent and attended the follow up service of HAGA
Individual	Because there are a lot of people that need HAGA services. More cuts could lead to unintentional suicides homelessness and more alcoholics
Individual	If you reduce/cease funding. Those people who need/receiving help, more than likely are going to end up in parks, gutters or dead.
Individual	It's necessary for HAGA to exist. It's the only alcohol service in Haringey which deals with the Polish community too
Individual	Simply outrageous. Your proposed cuts are just insane
Individual	Stop the cruel cuts
Individual	its only poor who suffer
Individual	This is not the best way to save money

There were 7 respondents were Opposed. 6 Expressed their reasons.

2a. To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?	
Oppose	
Individual	I need the service to help my recovery
Individual	You should be improving service not cutting back on essential service
Individual	The only service within the borough
Individual	Stop the bias and cruelty against addicts
Individual	Your cuts will only affect vulnerable residents of the borough
Individual	Unnecessary cuts

There were 1 respondents recorded Neither Support nor Oppose. 1 expressed their reason.

2a. To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?	
Neither Support Nor Oppose	
Individual	I expect you think this through carefully

There were 2 respondents recorded Strongly Support. Both Expressed their reasons.

2a. To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?	
Strongly Support	
Individual	Reduce drug use help build recovery in the community
Individual	Turkish speaking communities that I work with find alcohol addiction services very useful

Question 3: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?

Of the 23 respondents 9 replied YES, 12 replied No, 2 replied Not Sure. All recorded reasons are listed below.

<u>3a: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?</u>	
YES	
Individual	But the timing is so wrong. The cuts are deep and swift

<u>3a: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?</u>	
No	
Individual	Haringey Council have their own priorities which do not necessarily apply to the helping individual groups providing a much needed service in Haringey
Individual	It is a valuable resource in Haringey it provides support to individuals and families with young children
Individual	Because it is a short sighted action that will ruin a lot of peoples lives
Individual	I have heard the council want to reduce it but I don't understand why.
Individual	Reducing funding will let people slip through the net and become seriously ill which has happened to me in the past
Individual	Because the money being spent on this service is in turn saving the NHS money by not having me being readmitted to hospital
Individual	Because I think the available funds goes to decision-makers who are already overpaid
Individual	Save money for future elections as councillors?

Individual	It is very cruel
Individual	Not sure
Individual	These services are needed in Haringey
Individual	its wrong economics

3a: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?

Not Sure

Individual	When there is such a need for such services why council's cutting these kind of services
Individual	Capitalist Greed

Question 4: Which of the services that are currently provided by this organisation do you value most and why?

All 23 respondents completed question 4

Individual	All of the services are required
Individual	All of them
Individual	Hospital Link Worker for her support
Individual	My drinking, self harming, HAGA helps me with all that if I never had HAGA I would be dead
Individual	I value everything that helps me to stop drinking
Individual	Access to detox and rehab
Individual	My contact and follow up service from the link worker
Individual	I value every intervention offered by HAGA
Individual	Help with my addiction problem which is alcohol. HAGA has helped me to improve my quality of life
Individual	Relapse prevention, counselling, acupuncture also taught about damage you are doing to yourself
Individual	groups
Individual	Help with my addiction to alcohol
Individual	A referral service for my clients who want help to deal with alcohol problems
Individual	I receive support and advise regarding any issues with alcohol
Individual	Structured programme
Individual	I refer some of my clients to HAGA
Individual	weekend support because I work Mon - Fri
Individual	Information, advice and support on a ???basis
Individual	After rehab support/weekends
Individual	Counselling sessions, 1:1 and day centre activities. I have not had a drink for 3 months now
Individual	Help with stopping alcohol which is killing me
Individual	Help with alcohol
Individual	All of then

Question 5: What impact will a reduced level of service or no service at all have on you?

22 respondents completed question 5

Individual	In the long term a return to drinking if I do not get on going support
Individual	Without the support from the link worker I would not have engaged and possibly would be drinking again
Individual	A lot of people could become ill and need to be readmitted to hospital
Individual	The risk of drinking and self harming depression would all start again
Individual	Devastating for me and a lot of other people in the same situation that I have been in
Individual	If I relapse again, I hope I don't, who will offer me the right support that I will need?
Individual	For myself and other people in the same situation we would be either very ill or dead

Individual	Unimaginable impact
Individual	I'd end up in hospital
Individual	Horrible to even think about what you are proposing to do to the residents of this borough
Individual	Nowhere to refer alcohol-dependent clients to - no training in alcohol awareness/treatment of addiction - no clinics/nurses/advisers to see alcohol-dependent clients to offer rehab/detox
Individual	I don't know I have just engaged with HAGA
Individual	More drug users
Individual	My clients who need specialist service will have nowhere to go
Individual	Sickening Impact
Individual	massive impact
Individual	it will impact on me severely
Individual	I may relapse again and start to drink again
Individual	It will be devastating
Individual	Terrible
Individual	The devastation it will cause

Question 6: Please tell us in the box provided below if the proposals will have an impact on you because of:

6 of the 23 respondents listed or ticked the following.

Individual	Age; Disability; gender; sex; sexual orientation
Individual	Age
Individual	N/A
Individual	Age; Religion; Ethnicity
Individual	Sexual Orientation
Individual	Me age, my religion, me ethnicity
Individual	Age; disability; gender
Individual	Gender; sex

Question 7: How do you think the service you currently receive from this organisation could be provided differently?

All 23 respondents responded to question 7

Individual	It is providing an excellent service that is meeting people's needs
Individual	If it had more funding it would reach more people
Individual	More funding
Individual	There is no way it can be different. It helps me just the way it is
Individual	It is working as it is at present
Individual	You cant tinker with this sort of essential service
Individual	For the present service to continue
Individual	Not at all
Individual	Not at all
Individual	With more funding for us who are ill. PS I understand it cost less to treat us at HAGA than anywhere else
Individual	I don't know
Individual	It can't. So leave it alone thanks
Individual	greater publicity of service. Joint working at events/hospitals/schools. Cross referrals from my service to theirs and vice-versa
Individual	I don't think it can be provided differently
Individual	More health and wellbeing activities
Individual	Stop wasting money with white elephant alternatives they never work
Individual	Badly
Individual	Not at all
Individual	Don't start to mess around with this service
Individual	There is no alternative

Individual	You can not, so stop trying
Individual	it can't be provided any differently

Question 8: Use the space below to tell us any other comments you would like to make

13 of the 23 respondents responded to Question 8

Individual	Funding needs to be provided to keep this vital service for the people who require it
Individual	If we never had HAGA a lot of us would be really sick and there would be more problems for you if you take HAGA from us. It's a safe place
Individual	Stop hurting vulnerable people
Individual	This service has saved my life I am very grateful for it being there for me
Individual	having been party to HAGA's service I found them invaluable and without sounding extreme I could have lost my life without the guidance, information and extreme support of their staff
Individual	Use your heads and see the damage alcohol does. This (HAGA) is an organisation which in my and other eyes should be kept running at all costs
Individual	Surely alcohol detoxification cannot be done buy a GP or nurse alone? Specialists are required to stop clients being bounced around from A&E wards to GP back to A&E ward. Haringey is a deprived borough in need of all the support it can get.
Individual	You seem happy to cut services other than improving existing ones
Individual	I have nothing to say to you lot
Individual	Nothing to say. Stop messing with peoples lives
Individual	Stop this nonsense
Individual	Not necessary
Individual	None

Question 9: Age groups represented

Age Groups were represented accordingly

- 18 - 24 (2)
- 25 - 34 (3)
- 35 - 44 (9)
- 45 - 54 (5)
- 55 - 64 (4)

Question 10: Do you consider you have a disability?

13 of the 23 respondents replied No; 1 respondent recorded having a Physical Disability

Question 11: Ethnicity?

Ethnicity	Total
Asian or Asian British - East Asian	1
African	1
Asian or Asian British - Indian	1
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	1
Black or Black British - Caribbean	2
Mixed - White and Black Caribbean	1
White - British	10
White - British; Irish	1
White - English/Irish	1
White - Irish	3
White - Scottish	1
White - Turkish	1
Grand Total	23

Question 12 : Gender Reassignment?

None responded as having a Gender reassignment

Question 13: Pregnant?

All responded No to being to being pregnant

Question 14: Religion?

Religion	Total
Buddhist	2
Christian	6
Hindu	1
Muslim	1
No Religion	7
Other - R.C.	1
Rastafarian (blank)	1
Grand Total	19

Question 15: Sex?

11 were Male; 6 were Female; 6 did not respond

Question 16: Sexual Orientation

14l responded as being heterosexual, 2 bisexual and 7 did not complete.

Respondents to the COSMIC Questionnaire.

Question 1: What is the name of the organisation you and/or your child(ren) attends/receives a service from?

Of the 22 respondents, 17 recorded attendance/service from COSMIC; 4 responded attendance/service from both COSMIC and HAGA; 1 attendance/service from HAGA.

Respondents to Questions 2: To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?

There were 22 respondents of which 20 Strongly Opposed. 1 Opposed and 1 Strongly Support. All recorded reasons are listed below.

2a. To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?	
Strongly Oppose	
Individual	My daughter and I receive positive support from the service and finds it very rewarding
Individual	Cosmic has helped me a lot. I have heard a lot and I know of a lot of other people that will need them
Individual	I find their service supportive
Individual	I am not happy with the cuts regarding Cosmic, as they have helped me and my eleven year old understand his brother's drug problem. Do not know what we would of done without them
Individual	Because I have had immense support from Cosmic without them I wouldn't be getting my kids back from care
Individual	Depend on Cosmic, for support. Kids get support to understand alcohol use and Parent like myself get support with family court
Individual	Because Cosmic provides an invaluable service esp for my children - without the facilities and support given (now) my children would be affected more to life changing proportions by the impact of an adult with addictions
Individual	I think funding should not be cut these services are very helpful to people who need help around alcohol and stuff
Individual	One I had alcohol problem and didn't realise it and also how to cope with it. Also didn't realise the impact it had on those around me. We (keyworker and I) came up with was to identify the problem (mostly me) and looked into the in detail. Came up with a programme to monitor the problem (R.T)
Individual	I don't think its fair because we need this place
Individual	Because this is the only organisation which me any my children can access support
Individual	Because we have no where to go

2a. To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?	
Oppose	
Individual	I oppose the massive cuts to funding of this valuable, life-changing organisation

2a. To what extent do you support our proposal to change the funding arrangements for this organisation?	
Strongly Support	
Individual	I have chosen this reason because he has helped with his drinking problem

Question 3: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?

Of the 22 respondents 16 replied YES, 5 replied No, 1 replied Not Sure. All recorded reasons are listed below.

<u>3a: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?</u>	
YES	
Individual	The central Govt is as skint as the common man
Individual	I really can't understand why they are cutting Cosmic. This is for children that really need HELP
Individual	but it doesn't make it right
Individual	I think there is not enough money or staff not quite sure

<u>3a: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?</u>	
No	
Individual	I don't understand why they have to cut funding to the only services the offer support to children and family with substance and alcohol mis-use
Individual	This is a service necessary for those already in this kind of predicament. Families especially need help to deal with the problem and the individuals a place where they can face the problem in a controlled environment and not to feel left out.
Individual	Because it's the only place in Haringey that support us
Individual	Because it is the only organisation in Haringey and people like me and my children are likely to suffer
Individual	No sure

<u>3a: Do you understand why Haringey Council is proposing to reduce or cease funding to Voluntary and Community Sector organisations in some instances?</u>	
Not Sure	
Individual	I don't understand why the poorest have to suffer most

Question 4: Which of the services that are currently provided by this organisation do you and/or your child(ren) value most and why?

Of the 22 respondents there were 21 replies to question 4

Individual	Which of the services that are currently provided by this organisation do you and/or your child(ren) value most and why?
Individual	One to one keyworking; Support with social services
Individual	Group work; one to one
Individual	Because they are helping me get back my child and helping me to see my child they have supported me a lot and helping me to stay off drugs and keep my kids and not lose them again
Individual	Cosmic has really showed me how to deal with my kids and myself because I used to have an alcohol problem
Individual	They have supported me in getting regular contact with my two children as I have issues with alcohol
Individual	Support around engage with children and a plan of how I interact with them.
Individual	Home visits
Individual	Parent support
Individual	Drop-in play sessions - children can socialise in a safe environment with others who've been through similar experiences. One to one sessions for both parent and child; helping to re-establish communication and access feelings about 'dangerous' topics/issues in a safe manner - strengthening the parent-child relationship (instead of it worsening due to lack of personal support).
Individual	I have been getting support with Social services enabling me to gain access to my child
Individual	I value the alcohol mis-use the most because my child has a drinking problem and this organisation helps
Individual	Counselling for my son son around drug's and alcohol to help him stop using in his future counselling and parenting around Family's drug and alcohol use
Individual	Cosmic. They work not only with us the parents but also do direct work with children
Individual	Learning how to have a relationship with my child through Parenting Group and key work. Support with Family court to gain contact and social service support.
Individual	Parenting skills, counselling for child. Support for parents. Trips for the family. Sign posting to support. Saturday service for children - with trips
Individual	Advice and support provided by keyworker around family issues and social service improvement
Individual	Cosmic to support the individual and in particular the family to cope with the problem. Counselling to help the individual to feel empowered and deal with the mental impact caused by alcohol dependence
Individual	HAGA, Cosmic and counselling. For the individuals well being and support. Also to monitor the extent of the problem
Individual	HAGA
Individual	Cosmic and HAGA because Cosmic work with my children around alcohol and drug awareness and HAGA has helped me to build my self esteem and remain abstinent
Individual	Cosmic have help me emotionally especially my children and they

	have managed to take us from social services
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Question 5: What will the impact of these proposals be on you and/or your child(ren)?

Of the 22 respondents there were 21 replies to question 5

Individual	I would not have any representative to help me with my child protection issues
Individual	No where to go, no support to me and my family. Might go back to drugs
Individual	My children is giving me the support to stay off drugs and so is Cosmic so if they take away the funding I would just go back on drugs and they would take away my child.
Individual	I will not have anywhere else to go to for help and advice on how to be a good mum to all my kids
Individual	The impact from these proposals will help myself and my child because get help with my 15 year old teenagers drinking addiction
Individual	My children are the reason why I seek support with my alcohol problem. Losing regular contact with my kids may force me back on the alcohol but my children need my support at this very important time
Individual	Support won't be there.
Individual	I don't know. I think we will lose the home visits
Individual	No support
Individual	We will no longer have a safe place to come and play/discuss our difficulties. My child is upset about the play sessions being cancelled. I will find parently her much harder without help on how to deal with certain aspects of adolescence.
Individual	Without the support from Cosmic I will not have any parental support - preventing me from having access as I utilise the Saturday service to engage with my child in a controlled and safe environment.
Individual	There will be no other place in Haringey to offer this service
Individual	We will be left to deal with these problems alone and my son my use drug's and alcohol
Individual	They will have no where to go. What about if I have a relapse and HAGA can't support me anymore.
Individual	I will lose out on support with dealing with social worker and court's. and coming to a place where they understand that you can be a good father even if you had a drug problem in the past
Individual	Immense - we won't have any support - more importantly my 14 year old daughter won't have any support and this was somewhere she could go to discuss the impact of drugs in a safe environment
Individual	No service to support with CYPS and family mediation
Individual	People who will need this service they won't have a chance to be heard and helped. Families will not be able to cope as now and there will be a vacuum which will reflect into the society.
Individual	I will feel helpless with no where to turn to
Individual	We will be devastated and our future will be gloomy
Individual	I will affect us really badly especially my children because the help up with whatever issues we come with

Question 6: How do you think the current services provided by this organisation could be provided differently?

Individual	There is not any other organisation in Haringey offering these services
Individual	They don't need to do anything to the organisation
Individual	I don't think they can change the organisation
Individual	I like the way things are but Cosmic could do with more funding and workers
Individual	The current services provided by this organisation could be provided differently by being able to keep it the same but just advertise the services more
Individual	Can invite family with children have some activities which need funding
Individual	I'm not sure
Individual	By support the organisation
Individual	They are very good and effective they way they already are.
Individual	There is no-where in Haringey like this providing support, assistant and relevant information, understanding staff who deal with me as an individual. They have made a difference in my life
Individual	There is nuffink 2 change because their meeting all my needs
Individual	I can't see how Cosmic can run differently as we were very happy with the way it was
Individual	Nothing must change. I think HAGA and Cosmic needs more funding and support
Individual	The current services should stay - as the saying goes - "if it ain't broke don't fix it". Losing this service is catastrophic
Individual	I don't think it can be
Individual	They are being conducted okay but there is always room for improvement. Ie. reaching out to more people before, during and after consultation
Individual	I want things to be kept as they are
Individual	Please keep everything as it is and please don't cut funding
Individual	Kindly don't change and don't cut funding because we won't have anywhere to go

Question 7: Use the space below to tell us any other comments you and/or your child(ren) would like to make?

Individual	Cosmic has made me see how drinking can affect your kids and everyone around you so we do need Cosmic
Individual	Need more lively activities for teenagers at Cosmic
Individual	Cosmic has helped me understand my daughter better, and be a better mum to her. Cosmic has helped my daughter to come to terms with certain issues in her life, and reconnected her to me - she communicates with me much more freely than before.
Individual	Cosmic has aided me in being aware of my personal issues which prevented me from having access to my child in the past. They have provided me with a safe environment where I can talk freely and confidentially. They are amazing!
Individual	I found the Cosmic session very useful
Individual	My son would be very unhappy to lose Cosmic as it was someone to talk about his problem's to someone that understood. And the outing's and party's were an escape from his world.
Individual	Please don't cut funding for any of these organisations in HAGA. Their services are very very useful
Individual	Cosmic has supported me through the court process. It is a place that I can get support with Parenting skills as I have just been granted access home contact with daughter. This has only happened due to my keywork's support advice and signposting
Individual	My daughters will be devastated and it will by default affect their education as COSMIC helped them manage the impact they still have to go through by a parent.
Individual	Cosmic has support me with CYPS and as a result I have got back my youngest child. Without their support and that of HAGA, I would still be using and child will of be put up for adoption
Individual	The society today needs this kind of support especially with diversity it has. People with different mentalities/backgrounds need to understand the impact of their habits on others and themselves. Most importantly for a smooth turn round to better was of living and dealing with the today's pressure's of life. Other cuts will lead to drinking problems so at least let's have a sanctuary for those who need the help and acknowledge that they do.
Individual	Many people will be affected so please reconsider your cuts and decision
Individual	Please support the work of Cosmic and HAGA because without their support, we will have no where to go
Individual	These services are very valuable to community so please help to keep it running

Question 8: How many children do you have using this service

Of the 22 responses:

- 9 had 1 child using the service,
- 6 had 2 children using the service;
- 2 had 3 children using the service;
- 4 had 4 children using the service;
- 1 response did not record

Of these children: the children are within the following age ranges

				19-25 (SEN/Disability)
0-5	6-10	11-15	16-18	
15	10	13	2	1

Question 9: Do you consider your child(ren) to have a disability?

20 recorded No disability
2 did not record a response.

Question 10: Ethnicity

	Total
Asian Other: Mauritian	1
Black African	2
Black Caribbean	4
Mixed White and Black Caribbean	2
White British	7
White Irish	3
White Other: Human	1
White Other: Polish	1
White Turkish/Cypriot	1
Grand Total	22

Question 11: What is the gender of your child(ren)?

Male = 14
Female = 15
1 no response

Question 12: Does your child(ren) have a religion or belief that you would like to mention on their behalf?

Count of 12	
	Total
12	1
Blank	2
Buddhist	1
Christian	10
Hindu	1
No religion	7
Rastafarian and Christian	1
Grand Total	22

Response to the Proposed Withdrawal of Funding for the Polish-Speaking Alcohol Worker Role

The Polish-Speaking Alcohol Health Worker is funded through the Area-Based Grant (ABG). This funding is to be withdrawn from the 31st of March 2011.

The Polish-Speaking Alcohol Health Worker post was created to deal with an excluded group within the borough of Haringey. This group was difficult to engage, often for language reasons, but also in cases where English was spoken, there appeared to be barriers to accessing services for alcohol problems and associated issues (housing, employment, general health and mental health problems). The post was started in June 2010 and had a broad remit to work to assess and engage the population, including the specific socio-economic and health characteristics or problems they had. Alongside this, there were targets set around delivering Brief Interventions (BI), referrals on to appropriate services, and providing on-going keyworking support in Polish where needed.

In June 2010, the worker started in post and she collected essential information about Haringey's local Polish-speaking population who use alcohol. An audit was undertaken on their background in Poland and their time in the United Kingdom including:

- Level of education
- Work experience and skills
- Whether they had paid or did pay tax and National insurance
- Alcohol consumption
- English language competence (both written and oral)
- Accommodation
- Time living in the UK
- GP registered
- Registered with home office
- Children

The worker participated in work alongside the UK Border Agency, police and hospital staff along with HAGA's nursing and other staff in order to act as an interpreter and, wherever possible, to deliver harm minimisation interventions. Over this time, the following outcomes were achieved:

- Reduction in repeat attendances at hospital for selected patients worked with
- Created a clear pathway for homeless Polish-speaking individuals directing them to accommodation, health and treatment services available in Poland.

Repatriation advice and facilitation

Intervention in the case of a three-month old child being kept in a Tottenham homeless shelter by a Polish-speaking woman

This intervention included:

- Facilitating safe housing, passport acquisition, family reconnection and eventually repatriation for the mother and the child.
- Support to partner agencies where Polish-speaking patients were presenting.
- Supporting social services in cases where Polish-speaking individuals with children also had substance misuse issues.
- 32 individuals have received assessment and subsequent keyworking
- 8 individuals have re-entered employment or training as part of their recovery planning with the worker
- Polish-speaking clinic established for alcohol misusing patients attending
- A&E - run weekly.

Impact of Proposed Cuts to Funding

The consequences of withdrawing the funding for this post are:

- Poorer engagement for an already marginalised population.
- Street drinking and associated police activity will increase, as a result of which the costs of policing will increase.
- Crime will likely increase - 25% of murders reported in Haringey in 2009 were committed within the Polish-speaking rough-sleeping community. That is to say, that the perpetrator and the victim were Polish.
- The spirit of the Equality Act 2010 is to increase access to public services for diverse ethnic groups and cultures. Withdrawing this funding will be contrary and in breach to the spirit of this act.
- Deaths could result such as that of Mr U in early 2010 - where he was unable to communicate his health problems to A&E staff and subsequently was excluded was accessing emergency care, which all EU citizens are entitled to. He attempted access on several occasions within 3 days at 2 different hospitals (NMUH and Homerton) before dying of an alcohol withdrawal complication.
- Services will now have to pay for an interpreter in order to assess.
- Polish-speaking individuals including the NMUH acute trust raising costs.

We believe that this role is a vital post to identify and support a hard-to-reach group who are subject to Health Inequalities and other enduring barriers to their recovery from alcohol-related problems.

Consultation Response to the Proposed Withdrawal of Funding for the Half-time Hospital Link Worker Post.

Hospital Link Worker

The Hospital Link Worker role was created as a half-time post in order to support patients identified in North Middlesex University Hospital (NMUH) as needed on-going support who weren't part of the "repeat attenders" group covered by the Outreach Worker. This Hospital Link Worker engages and assesses in hospital and provide prompt appointments in order to capitalise on a hospital detoxification.

Rationale for Post

Historically, there had been poor engagement when patients were directed to engage with Haringey alcohol services, or referred using formal referral pathways. The rationale for the work, therefore, was that personal intervention and a prompt appointment with an experienced alcohol worker, who had built a rapport before discharge, would improve attendance and on-going engagement in the crucial recovery programme provided by HAGA for detoxification patients.

Achievements so far

The Hospital Link Worker has established strong links with the ward staff at NMUH, allowing for access to patient information to address assessment. During the life of the project, more than 40 individual patients were assertively engaged and assessed at the hospital, following detoxification treatments as an inpatient. Of those patients, 25 have moved on through the Day Centre programme and into employment, training or education. The patient group reported broad physical and mental health benefits following treatment, alongside improvement in accommodation and social functioning. There has been significant reductions in A&E attendances and admissions to hospital amongst the group who received hospital link worker input.

Since HAGA commenced a Hospital Link work and Assertive Outreach model, there has been a 30% reduction in individual attendees to NMUH.

Annual figures for cost of "frequent attenders" to NMUH

cost year	Haringey	No of individual "frequent attenders"
2007	213135	30
2008	249775	32
2009	141580	23
2010	82720	21
Total cost (£s)	687210	

Impact of Loss of Hospital Link Worker

The impact from not having this will be that hospital patients with alcohol dependence will not have prompt assessment and engagement with a keyworker. The patient will need to take responsibility for identifying and accessing services for themselves and this will mean a significant delay, during which time, relapse is a distinct possibility. Often with hospital detoxifications, there is ambivalence about undertaking treatment (as it might have been a detoxification initiating in hospital without the patient explicitly seeking it) and this means that the face-to-face input from an assertive

worker can tip the balance into accepting support and follow-up. Without this assertive approach and the human side of a worker offering input, the patients will likely side with inertia and be less likely to seek support. Before this role was in place the conversion rate for hospital referrals (where the patient engaged at HAGA day centre) was 30%. Following the introduction of the Hospital Link Worker post, the conversion rate has increased significantly to 85%. It is, of course, of note that the threatened reduction in treatment services at HAGA will further exacerbate the problems this SU group will experience.

We urge you to reconsider funding a post which is integral to the excellent outcomes for service-users and cost savings achieved in our hugely-successful hospital liaison work.

COSMIC Representation to LBH

1. Link to Strategic Priorities

- **National Treatment Agency (NTA) Outcome D – Improve the health and well being of children and young people including emotional health**

Key Background Facts:

Prevalence:

Alcohol - We know from the Department of Health's Alcohol Ready Reckoner that over 6,000 people are physically and/or psychologically dependent on alcohol within Haringey, almost 27,000 are binge drinking and that just under 50,000 are drinking at Increasing and Higher risk levels.

Drugs – 2,666 crack and opiate users, mostly living in the more deprived areas of the borough (based on University of Glasgow prevalence estimates).

The majority of Haringey's drug and/or alcohol misusers are known to be parents/carers.

Parental Substance Misuse in Haringey:

Over the past decade national estimates indicated that there were 250,000 - 350,000 children of problem drug users in the UK (ACMD, 2003) and 780,000 - 1.3 million children of adults with an alcohol problem (AHRSE, 2004).

A more recent study by Manning, Best, Faulkner & Titherington 2009 "New estimates of the number of children living with substance misusing parents" strongly suggests that these figures are higher. 'Consistent rates emerged indicating that around 34% of binge drinkers had at least one child in the house hold'. Figures from the surveys employed in the study estimated that 27.8-29.7% of children in the UK under 16 lived with and adult binge drinker.

A report commissioned by COSMIC, *Empowering Children, Young People and Families: Widening Access to Substance Misuse Services* (Sinead Brophy Consulting 2009) estimated the scale of parental substance misuse in Haringey:

- 3,850 children aged under 16 have a parent or parents with an alcohol problem.
- 700 children aged under 16s have a parent or parents with a drug problem.
- Of 958 children already known to be at risk, some 300 plus are likely to have been affected by parental substance misuse.
- 4450 children aged under 16 have a parent with a drug or alcohol problem.
- 900 children aged under 16 may be facing profound and multiple risks through parental drug and/or alcohol misuse.

National statistics tells us that approx a third of all people in drug treatment will have parenting or childcare responsibility. The Drug Strategy 2010 points to a third of the treatment population having child care responsibilities.

Haringey figures for problem drug users in treatment 2009-10 was 959 with 115 being new engagements this would indicate approximately 300 children living with a problem drug using parent in treatment in Haringey.

Haringey has approximately 27,000 binge drinkers we can estimate from the study above that approximately 8,000 children in Haringey are in the care of a binge drinker.

COSMIC's Link to Strategic Priorities

COSMIC's work supports improvements in the health and well-being of children and young people. COSMIC is a project that is part of Haringey Advisory Group on Alcohol (HAGA) which is the only agency in the London Borough of Haringey actively working with people who have severe and enduring alcohol problems. Over one thousand people were supported by HAGA last year.

COSMIC itself has been in operation for the past ten years. COSMIC works with children, young people and their parents/carers where there is a substance misuse problem (alcohol and/or drugs) to promote better life opportunities, early intervention and safeguarding of children in those families. We offer a range of services to our service-users (children and adults), including comprehensive assessment, activities, family learning sessions, 1:1 keywork, a parenting support group, and advocacy. Our Big Lotteries-funded Family Learning Project Worker post—which relies on core COSMIC services to deliver holistic care to children and families—offers “whole family” support around learning and education which enables improvement in the health, well-being and confidence of children and families. Each year, COSMIC works with 250 children per year and with 180 parents/carers of those children.

COSMIC supports the Local Authority (LA) in its duty to safeguard children within its area under the Children Act 1989 and 2004. COSMIC works in partnership with the LA as a voluntary body under the Children Act 2004.

Under its vision of *One Borough, One Future: Reducing inequalities-working for a better society*, Haringey set its budget pledging to tackle ‘some of the big issues facing Haringey’ one of which was ‘Increased investment to match the increase in demand in children’s safeguarding and early intervention.’

COSMIC directly supports the LA in meeting this increasing demand as it offers families a place to receive treatment and address issues of Child Protection (CP), parenting capacity and treatment for addiction. It offers a “whole family” approach and is able to work holistically with families over a sustained period (250 children and 180 adults (parents/carers) annually).

The current proposed funding reduction to HAGA and COSMIC of approximately 50% would seriously hinder Haringey’s ability to deliver on key strategies, particularly the focus on involving local voluntary and community services in service delivery outlined in the government’s *Drug Strategy 2010*. HAGA has been responsive to local need in Haringey and developed services, like COSMIC, to respond to those needs. COSMIC was developed as a direct response to the needs of local parents and carers that have problematic substance misuse issues affecting their parenting capacity.

COSMIC vitally supports the LA in delivery of its own priorities set in February 2011 and the NTA Outcome D.

- **NTA Outcome A Reducing alcohol related admissions**
- **NTA Outcome C Reducing substance misuse in young people**

COSMIC hosts a Young Persons Alcohol Worker, funded by Comic Relief and reliant on COSMIC's core services to support the post. This work fulfils National Institute of Clinical Excellence (NICE) recommendations that identification and intervention with 16- and 17-year-olds should be undertaken by "health and social care, criminal justice and community voluntary professionals in both NHS and non-NHS settings who regularly come into contact with this group" (*Alcohol-use disorders: preventing the development of hazardous and harmful drinking* 2010). This charity-funded post will be deeply destabilised if the core COSMIC services are cut as proposed.

The Young Person's Alcohol Worker has worked to deliver the results of a Scrutiny Review LBH 2009/10 to develop a pilot project into the secondary schools of the borough promoting education on substance and alcohol misuse. This pilot operates across the schools in the borough to promote the health and awareness, so as to reduce the numbers of young people substance misusing. This work is also undertaken at the College of North East London (CONEL) to promote awareness of risk factors and better health outcomes for young people.

The Young Person's Alcohol Worker also provides outreach services for young people into the North Middlesex Hospital to ensure that the young people who are present at A&E with alcohol-related problems receive good advice and follow up treatment into specific service.

The Young Person's Alcohol Worker offers one-to-one sessions and runs specific groups for young people both at the HAGA Day Centre and in the community.

The provision of COSMIC services to children and their families reduces the risk of children and young people in those families becoming substance misusers into their adult lives. Children and Young People receive structured interventions to help them understand substance misuse and the need to mitigate against the damage it causes.

COSMIC also has a direct input to the delivery of strategic and development work in the borough as COSMIC sits on the Young Peoples Substance Misuse Task Group and the Parental Substance Misuse Task Group.

COSMIC contributes to, supports and often leads in strategic partnership work across all drug and alcohol agencies in the borough, thereby supporting the Local Authority in planning, development and delivery of its services.

2. Links to Statutory Obligations

- **Local Authority Statutory duties in relation to Child Safeguarding**

Alcohol misuse has been identified as a factor in 50% of all Child Protection Cases.

Nearly 75% of Serious Case Reviews (2007) found that parental mental ill health, parental substance misuse and or domestic violence, often in combination were a factor.

(Hidden Harm Strategy 2009)

COSMIC accepts referrals from the Children and Young People's Service (CYPS), a wide range of agencies in Haringey and individual self-referrals. We have worked with an average of 253 children and 181 adults per year over the past ten years. Most of those children are known to CYPS – they are either subject to a Child Protection Plan or a Child in Need under the Children Act 1989.

COSMIC also works with children who are accommodated under Section 20 of the Children Act 1989 to support either rehabilitation or long-term care outside their birth family.

COSMIC assists the LA accepting referrals from CYPS and works with children and their families offering structured interventions over 12 weeks. Each child and parent has a support plan to address Child Protection concerns and improve the families' protective factors. We know that CYPS Social Workers are unable to offer extended support and intervention to families where there is an alcohol or substance misuse issues due to capacity and workloads.

COSMIC is currently (March 2011) working with 32 families of which 23 are active with CYPS and 3 have recently discussed at the Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC). These families are receiving a weekly intervention either in direct one-to-one sessions, family sessions or parenting programme. There are a further 18 allocated cases whom the Domestic Violence & Substance Misuse Worker supports working with child protection and adult safeguarding cases.

If Haringey reduces the funding to COSMIC, the children and young people of parents/carers with substance misuse that we work with will be subject to even greater inequality as the services that they specifically need will either disappear or be reduced significantly.

- **The duties of the Safer Communities Executive Boards to prevent and reduce substance misuse and anti social behaviour under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 (reduce re-offending 2010)**

COSMIC works with young people who are substance misusing or are at risk of becoming substance misusers through the Young Person's Alcohol Worker post. This work serves to reduce anti-social and offending behaviour through education, direct services and training to professionals in health and education services.

The work of the Domestic Violence & Substance Misuse Worker also contributes to Haringey's Safer Communities Executive Board duties. COSMIC is a member of Haringey MARAC. Home Office Research (2009) indicates that there is a high correlation between domestic violence and alcohol abuse (63%) and in a study of four London Boroughs, 83% of families on social work caseloads were found to be affected by parental substance misuse where alcohol is the predominant substance (Forrester, D. & Harwin, J. (2006)). The Domestic Violence and Substance Misuse post serves to prevent domestic violence, crime against vulnerable adults and children. In 2008, our Domestic Violence project was cited as an example of best practice in *Innovative Responses: New Pathways to Address Domestic Violence and Substance Misuse Across London* (2008) by the Stella Project—a collaborative project between the Greater London Domestic Violence Project (GLDVP) and the Greater London Alcohol and Drug Alliance (GLADA). Our DV Worker operates across the LA's Adults and Children's services in accordance with Safeguarding of Vulnerable Adults and Child Protection Procedures.

3. Maximise outcomes: links to performance measures

COSMIC interventions focus on three key priority groups: vulnerable children, young people and adults. Our entire service delivery is focused on families where there is problematic alcohol or substance misuse. These families are affected by the chaotic lives of their parent or carer; consequent poverty; contact with violent people, groups

or activities; and witnessing or being subject to violence. Prior to the governments funding cuts, these children and young people in the local community were already in a high-risk group subject to significant inequalities. The current cuts will no doubt increase the risk and threat poised to children and young people in these families.

COSMIC is the only service in the borough that works with children and families with a specialism in tackling parental substance misuse and offering work with all family members to reduce risk factors and improve child protection. COSMIC is a multidisciplinary service which functions as a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) through which families can work on their parenting and get their treatment needs met.

Parents and Carers are often motivated to engage in treatment by the need to become effective parents. They often feel unable to trust statutory services due to Child Protection and legal stipulations regarding CP disclosures. COSMIC has a proven track record of working with these high-risk families to support them in continuing to engage with statutory services, while at the same time addressing their need to change and develop their parenting capacity. This is an effective way of working in a “whole family” model to reduce Child Protection concerns.

COSMIC provides:

- Children, young people and parents /carers with general support services, awareness-raising and education in relation to alcohol misuse in schools, communities and family homes
- Children have a voice and access to services when their parents and carers have an alcohol or substance issue through a dedicated phone helpline, direct work and group work
- Children and young people can gain age appropriate knowledge and understanding about their parental alcohol or substance misuse
- Children, parents and carers have improved access to education and support services to maximize their educational achievements/experience/employability
- Children and young people experience an increase in the protective factors within their family, extended family and community through structured support and intervention and assessment work
- Children and young people have the opportunity to be protected from the deterioration in their parents/carers alcohol substance misuse
- Parents receive a service that deals with their alcohol or substance misuse in conjunction with focusing on improving their parenting capacity
- Victims of Domestic Violence (adults and children) receive support to separate from violent partners, move to safer environments and reduce the risk of further violence
- Young people receive one-to-one support in dealing with risk of, or actual, alcohol and substance misuse issues their own and/or their parents/carers
- Young people receive support with improving their education and health
- Young people have group activities to attend to improve their awareness of the risks to their health, social lives, education and family lives
- Parents & Carers can be assessed in their own homes, the community in which they live and at their local service

The above services provided by COSMIC support Haringey in meeting and maximising the outcomes across its performance indicators Outcomes A, B, C & D.

If these services are significantly reduced or close, then each service user group will be exposed to increased risk and on-going and/or escalating substance misuse related issues; this will mean substantially less positive outcomes for children, young people and parents/carers affected by substance misuse.

4. Impact/effect/improvements of service delivery to local community

COSMIC delivers its service to a section of the local community that already suffer from inequality and stigmatization because of their parents or a member of their family's substance misuse.

Our work with these families over the past ten years has been effective as we can offer one point of service for treatment and family work.

COSMIC has developed an excellent working partnership with other drug agencies and mental health services in the borough and accepts referrals directly from them. COSMIC is in a position to identify families at an early stage in their difficulties and provide services to meet that level of need.

COSMIC has traditionally worked with families referred from drug and alcohol agencies; 60% of which were known to CYPS. In the past year, COSMIC has worked to promote its working relationship with CYPS and as a result it now receives over 50% of its referrals directly from CYPS. This is a vital area of work as these families represent some of the most vulnerable in the borough.

COSMIC has provided different levels of service, including education and health promotion in the local community focused on prevention of substance misuse, so that peoples parenting capacity does not deteriorate to a point where statutory intervention is required.

Where there is statutory intervention, COSMIC is able to provide services that are an integral part of the Child Protection Plan or Child in Need plan as detailed above.

As an safe and effective service provider, COSMIC is able to support and work with a wide range of problems experienced by children and young people in Haringey's community. These problems are often inherently linked—substance misuse, Domestic Violence, Child Protection, vulnerable adult's issues—and a holistic approach is vital to address all these aspects.

COSMIC is fully compliant with the DAAT monitoring requirements and reports quarterly to evidence the services that it provides to service-users.

Providing services to children and their families, COSMIC is a community local resource which saves the costs of out-of-borough services for both statutory services and affected families (i.e. a local service means reduced travel costs for families and minimal disruption and additional pressure in their lives).

5. Maximise value for money

- The voluntary sector is more flexible and it is easier for voluntary sector organisations, like COSMIC, to adapt to changing and growing demands
- Cheaper: the cost of providing services in the voluntary sector are significantly lower than when the providing service is LA

- COSMIC will continue to monitor value for money—we are already providing statistical data for monitoring and performance management with set targets to the LA and will continue to do so on any future funding
- COSMIC has recently launched its Family Assessment Service, which we hope will be a sustainable business element of our service, offering family assessments to the courts and other local authorities. For local Haringey families undergoing or needing assessment, this will be a service to support Haringey in the reduction of Looked After Children (LAC) and will significantly contribute to a reduction in the CYPS placement budget (i.e. expensive residential assessment costs).
- Since COSMIC as an established service has good networking and partnerships already established within the borough, there is no need for future investment in this aspect.
- COSMIC has provided specialist training and awareness-raising about substance misuse and its impact on parenting across universal services to promote early intervention with families: for example, to staff in the NHS midwives and other, Children’s Centres Staff and Education staff. For the last five years, COSMIC has provided the London Safeguarding Children’s Board substance misuse and safeguarding training for practitioners from across London.
- COSMIC works to reduce duplication of services and provides a “whole family” approach
- COSMIC is currently able to offer extended interventions to prevent relapse and repetition of parental substance misuse. This reduces the need for CYPS to spend additional monies on accommodation of children, costly residential assessments and court proceedings.
- COSMIC as a local resource in the Haringey community reduces costs and disruption to families who will have to attend services outside the borough should COSMIC cease to exist.

6. Local connection/presence in Haringey

The current UK government’s *Drug Strategy 2010* has highlighted the importance of voluntary and community groups such as HAGA/COSMIC in the delivery of its strategy:

This Government is shifting power and accountability to the local level the power to direct action will move to the local level. The voluntary and community groups, charities and social enterprises sector will be encouraged and supported to get involved.

HAGA has been responsive to local need in Haringey and developed services to respond to those needs. COSMIC was developed as a response to the needs of local parents and carers that have problematic substance misuse issues affecting their parenting capacity.

Last year, COSMIC organised the highly successful Speakeasy: A One-Day Youth Forum on Alcohol and Drugs (May 2010), with key partner agencies, and eight local schools, and was attended by 100 local young people and a evaluation report on how to best reach local young people affected by substance misuse was produced by COSMIC to inform local strategies. By working together with key stakeholders in this way, COSMIC seeks to continually improve how we work to reduce the harm caused to local children, young people and families by substance misuse. Such work, as well as our pilot projects in schools; organisation of Alcohol Awareness Week;

involvement in community events, such as Kurdish/Turkish youth events and teenage pregnancy roadshows etc; production of tools, leaflets and materials aimed at local audiences; and our project work, which links a large variety of local services into a network of support for our service-users, evidences our commitment to locally relevant, locally driven services which are responsive to need and empower the local community, across the whole range of community groups.

We believe COSMIC is an invaluable local resource which complements and adds a great deal of value to Haringey's statutory services, bridging a gap into which many high-risk children, young people families would otherwise fall.