

**SURREY
DRUG &
ALCOHOL
ACTION
TEAM**

Executive Summary

**NEEDS ASSESSMENT:
YOUNG PEOPLE'S DRUG /
ALCOHOL TREATMENT NEEDS**

**TACKLING
DRUGS
CHANGING
LIVES**

Jan 2008

What does the Needs Assessment cover?

The purpose of the needs assessment is for the DAAT partnership to gain a more detailed understanding of the extent and nature of the needs of problematic substance users aged 19 and under in Surrey, and to then use this understanding to inform planning.

The Needs Assessment seeks to identify met and unmet need in the following areas:

- The demand for substance misuse services
- The referral process into substance misuse services
- The needs of vulnerable groups (including those leaving Secure Units)
- The needs of young people accessing substance misuse services
- The needs of young people completing substance misuse interventions

Methodology

The Needs Assessment is a large data analysis exercise, which predominantly interrogates drug/alcohol treatment data but also uses data and information from other sources such as the Police, the Primary Care Trust and the County Council. The period covered is 1st April 2006 – 31st March 2007 unless stated.

The development of the Needs Assessment has been supported by an expert group, the membership of which is as follows:

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CAF Implementation Team
Omni-Youth (SADAS)
SYPS (In-volve)
DAYS (Rainer)
Surrey DAAT

Part 1

What is the demand for substance misuse services?

Key findings

- 1 in 242 12 to 19 year olds access accessed substance misuse services in 2006/7 in Surrey. During this time period a total of 411 young people accessed substance misuse services in Surrey.
- Cannabis and Alcohol use are predominant. The majority of clients in contact with substance misuse services were either primary alcohol (45%) or cannabis users (41%).

Priorities

- Further work is needed to identify the prevalence of problematic substance misuse amongst young people and the likely demand on services. Any prevalence studies should seek to identify the key characteristics of these young people and the range of services they are in contact.

Part 2

How effective are referral processes into Substance Misuse Services

Key findings

- The Youth Justice Service and Schools made the highest number of referrals into substance misuse services. The Youth Justice Service accounted for 28% of referrals and Schools for 22%. The next highest referral source was self referrals (9%). Further details are available in Appendix 1.

Priorities

- Key agencies working with young people need to review their mechanisms for identifying and responding to substance misuse. These agencies include:
 - Youth Development Service
 - CAMHS
 - Childrens Teams
 - A&E Units
 - Locality Teams
 - Assessment Teams
 - Asylum Team
- The Drug/Alcohol Screening Tool used by professionals (outside of the Youth Justice Service) should be reviewed to identify how widely it used by professionals to identify and address substance misuse.

Part 3

What are the needs of vulnerable groups?

Key findings

- 4% Children in Care aged 12 – 17 were referred to substance misuse services. According to the OC2 Report 2007, 18 Children in Care were referred to substance misuse services out of a 467 Children in Care aged 12 – 17.
- 13% of young offenders in contact with the Youth Justice Service were referred to substance misuse services. The Youth Justice Service reports that 118 out of 900 young offenders were referred to substance misuse services.
- 30% of young people leaving Young Offender Institutes were referred to substance misuse services. This represents 9 out of a total of 30 young people.
- Housing: Out of those accessing substance misuse services the majority were reported to be living in rented or owned accommodation with their parents. 2 young people were reported as of No Fixed Abode.

Priorities

- The following staff should have received training on identifying and responding to substance misuse in the past two years:
 - Connexions PAs
 - Rainer 16+ Service
 - Foster Carers
 - Childrens Teams
 - 0-19 Locality Teams within the PCT (School Nurses / LAC Nurses)
 - Identified staff within Pupil Referral Units / Special Schools
 - Locality Teams
 - Assessment Teams
 - Residential Units
 - Asylum Team

- Further information is needed on the prevalence of substance misuse, the substance related needs and access to substance misuse services for the following groups of young people:
 - Young people not in school
 - Homeless young people
 - Children of substance misusing parents

Part 4

How accessible and effective are substance misuse services?

Key findings

- 62% of young people received a planned discharge from substance misuse services.
- The ethnic profile of young people accessing substance misuse services is largely reflective of the general population of Surrey.
- The profile of young people accessing substance misuse services is much older than the Surrey profile. This is to be expected and over 70% of the treatment population are aged 16 – 19.
- Injecting amongst those in contact with young people’s substance misuse services is low (2 young people).

Priorities

- Links need to be developed between substance misuse services and key services working with young travellers and their families to ensure there is appropriate support and where needed access to services
- Further needs assessments should seek to identify reasons for planned and unplanned discharges and seek to develop services accordingly.
- Substance misuse service providers should monitor the incidence of secondary and tertiary Crack and Cocaine use and develop appropriate interventions.
- Referral and joint working arrangements should be developed between substance misuse services and Early Intervention in Psychosis.
- Further analysis is needed to identify geographical areas where there is likely to be a higher prevalence of substance misuse amongst young people and whether there is appropriate access to services.
- Further work is needed to identify the needs of young people after completing treatment and whether these needs are being met.

Nick Smith

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Appendix 1

Pictorial Representation of Treatment Data 2006/7

