

COMMUNITY AND SAFER CITY SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7th DECEMBER 2010

COMMISSIONING ALCOHOL INTERVENTIONS IN SUNDERLAND

REPORT OF NHS SOUTH OF TYNE AND WEAR

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES: SP3 SAFE CITY

CORPORATE IMPROVEMENT OBJECTIVES: CI01: Delivering Customer Focussed Services, CI04: Improving partnership working to deliver 'One City'

1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1 This report provides the Community and Safer City Scrutiny Committee with a context of the investment made by NHS South of Tyne and Wear and an overview of the current services which are provided across the City and detail next steps in alcohol treatment across Sunderland.

2. Background

- 2.1 Alcohol is estimated to cost the NHS in England and Wales as much as £2.7 billion annually due to a quarter of the population drinking at hazardous levels. Data received from Sunderland City Hospitals for 2009/10 has shown that there has been 6089 alcohol related admissions which is an estimated cost to the NHS of £529,743. Additionally, the British Crime Survey for England 2009/10 indicted victims believed the offender to be under the influence of alcohol in half (50%) of all violent incidents. There were 986,000 violent incidents where the victim believed the offender to be under the influence of alcohol. The number of alcohol related deaths nationally has doubled in the last two decades and people are now dying younger because of alcohol related conditions. It is estimated that up to 17 million working days are lost through alcohol-related absences and between 780,000 and 1.3 million children affected by parental alcohol-misuse.
- 2.2 There is no central government funded budget for alcohol treatment - unlike that made available for drugs. Therefore it has been left to local NHS services to deliver alcohol interventions within their own budgets. NHS South of Tyne and Wear recognised the impact of alcohol misuse in their locality and built a business case to ring fence funding to address this issue. In October 2008, NHS South of Tyne and Wear made an annual recurrent investment of £2.6 million for the development of alcohol treatment services in Sunderland. This level of investment is comparatively unusual and has brought about a comprehensive range of services with the overall aim of reducing alcohol related harm. The key national indicator used to measure this is NI39, or the rate of alcohol related hospital admissions. Although national monitoring of this target has been discontinued, we will continue to measure effectiveness at a local level using it.

Historically, the range of alcohol screening and treatment services was limited in Sunderland with disproportionate funding levels in favour of drug treatment.

Consultations with providers and service users identified a variety of gaps within service provision. As a result the investment has been used to finance a number of service developments to effectively screen and treat people with hazardous, harmful and dependant levels of drinking. Developments were built around evidence based models which deliver services for all levels of need. The settings for screening and treating people include primary and secondary care, criminal justice and specialist community based substance misuse services. Additionally, 6% of the overall budget was top sliced and allocated to the Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP) to support the development of alcohol services for young people.

3. Current position

NHS South of Tyne and Wear has worked in partnership with agencies including Sunderland City Council, City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust, Northumbria Police, Northumbria Probation Service and Sunderland Supporting People to ensure a more responsible and responsive approach to tackling alcohol related harm in Sunderland. A joint commissioning approach has been adopted for the development of services. Services are commissioned in line with the Department of Health's Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers and based around a four tiered framework.

3.1 Tier 1

Brief Intervention Training

Brief Intervention training programmes have been commissioned to provide training to non specialist professionals and voluntary sector and community organisations to enable them to screen and offer brief interventions to those that have been identified as using alcohol in a hazardous way. The training also provides information about specialist services in Sunderland so that participants sign post individuals who they feel may be displaying signs of risky drinking. One hundred training places have been commissioned annually.

Alcohol Grants

The Safe, Sensible Social Small Grant Scheme was implemented in October 2008. The fund is to assist the voluntary and community sector to be innovative in seeking ideas for projects and activities that help alleviate alcohol related issues. The grant scheme has been successful in targeting groups from BME communities that wouldn't necessarily access mainstream services and educating them on the harms associated with alcohol misuse.

3.2 Tier 2

Community Integration Team

NECA (the North East Council on Addictions) have been commissioned to deliver community integration interventions for those service users coming to the end of their treatment programmes who have successfully completed treatment and are looking to rebuild their lives in their local communities. The service offers help and support on education, training and employment as well as getting service users involved in leisure, community groups and exploring personal interests.

Housing

Supporting People have been commissioned to support individuals with alcohol issues to gain access to appropriate housing. Brief Intervention and housing support workers have been recruited to work within various projects including NECA floating support, the Housing Options Team and Wearside Women in Need. The aim of these services is to address alcohol issues alongside housing support to maximise the chances of successful tenancy orders. Additionally, £20,000 has been allocated for a Housing Bond Scheme to fund access to the private rented sector for service users identified as having a housing need and an alcohol issue.

Hospital Project

The Hospital Liaison Project, based at Sunderland Royal Hospital, has been in operation since 2006. The recent investment from NHS SoTW has allowed the project to be mainstreamed and substantially enhanced.

It currently operates with three full time members of staff hosted within the Turning Point Engaging and Motivating Team. The workers offer screening and brief interventions to those individuals that have had an alcohol related admission to hospital. The service also offers initial assessment and referral into structured treatment for those requiring additional support. They are based in the Accident and Emergency Department and offer services during standard working hours.

Funding has also been made available to employ a Young People's Brief Intervention worker to target younger binge drinkers. This part of the service is also undergoing re-design to strengthen its links into other specialist wards and offer extended hours to cover evenings and weekends.

A specialist Gastroenterology Nurse has also been appointed to work with chronic drinkers both within the hospital and in the community to offer interventions that will reduce the necessity for some alcohol-related hospital admissions. This role has been recruited from within the Foundation Trust to coincide with best practice models nationally.

In support of the project a data analyst has been recruited within the Foundation Trust. The role includes the daily review of all alcohol related attendances and enables the identification of a cohort of repeat attendees that could be targeted with appropriate interventions. It also supports the implementation of the Cardiff Model in Sunderland by handling the collation of data concerning alcohol related violence and subsequent liaison with the Safer Sunderland Partnership.

NERAF

The North East Regional Alcohol Forum is an independent peer support charity for people wishing to recover from, or suspecting they may have an alcohol misuse problem. The service offers support groups and a 1-to-1 mentoring service run by people who have previously experienced alcohol related problems.

3.3 Tier 3

Criminal Justice

The Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) is a court order aimed at reducing alcohol related offending. It provides mandated access to a tailored treatment programme with the aim of reducing drink dependency linked to violent offences. The requirement can last between six months and three years.

The ATR model currently commissioned in Sunderland comprises of a Probation Officer and a Probation Support Officer who are the offender managers for the ATR. Additionally, two workers have been employed by DISC (Developing Initiatives Supporting Communities) to deliver a range of psychosocial interventions including 1 to 1 support sessions, group work, motivational interviewing and relapse prevention. A specialist nurse has also been allocated to the ATR team to offer testing and community detoxification or inpatient detoxification if required.

Counted4 CIC

Funding has been made available for the sustainability of existing nursing, detoxification and support staff within Counted4. Nursing capacity has also been increased within the service to ensure there is appropriate resource for people requiring specialist alcohol interventions within the community.

Oaktrees

Oaktrees is a community rehabilitation service based within Gateshead but accessible for service users across the North East region on a spot purchase basis. The programme offered is a structured 12 step programme based upon a recovery model of abstinence and links into mutual aid groups such as AA and NA across the City of Sunderland.

3.4 **Tier 4**

Inpatient Detoxification

There has been funding allocated for inpatient detoxification within the Huntercombe Centre. A care co-ordinator has also been commissioned from within the Adult Services Drug and Alcohol Team to organise access to this intervention.

Residential Rehabilitation

Residential Rehabilitation is made available via spot purchase arrangements and placements can be made wherever appropriate facilities for the client can be sourced.

3.5 **Carers**

Alcohol misuse also often impacts on the families of those who drink. There are a range of carer services currently in existence for drug and alcohol misuse across the city, however many are short term funded and reliant upon volunteers to deliver services. Additional investment has been made to each of these services and also with First Contact Clinical who have been commissioned to help develop the infrastructure of these services, to ensure that they are fit for purpose and able to offer equitable access to carers services across the city, including training, respite care, and one to one and group work support.

3.6 **Next Steps**

As most alcohol treatment services have been in place since 2009, all commissioned services are currently undergoing an evaluation. The objective of the evaluation is to ensure that we are securing positive outcomes for service users and receiving maximised value for money. It will also identify any areas of improvement and will assist in forward planning for 2011/12 and beyond.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1 It is recommended that members note the contents of the report.

5 Background Papers

- 5.1 Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers (2006)
- 5.2 Safe Sensible Social: The Next Steps in the Alcohol Strategy (2007)

Contact Officer: Name: Nicola Grainger
Job Title: Joint Commissioning Officer
Contact phone number: 0191 561 7957
Email address: Grainger.nicola@sotw.nhs.uk