

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 17 March 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Substance Misuse Services
WARD(S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Safer Policy and Performance Board with an overview of the work of the Substance Misuse Service (Adults) working with parents and other agencies to reduce the impact of substance misuse on children.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the report be noted.

3.0 BACKGROUND

3.1 Halton Borough Council commission's substance misuses services (drug and/or alcohol) the service supports local people who have substance misuse problems. The contract is delivered across the Halton area by Crime Reduction Initiatives (CRI).

3.2 A key part of that programme is to focus on public health information and prevention agenda to reduce the number of individuals taking drugs and misusing alcohol ensuring robust and accessible information is provided to residents of Halton. The aim of the drug and alcohol service is to improve health and social care outcomes and reduce the impact caused by addiction or dependency to drugs and/or alcohol, with a clear drive on improving health inequalities for local people.

3.3 There is approximately 650 individual's accessing the substance misuse service, approximately 304 have parenting responsibility. The service users with children living at home, 108 were assessed with drugs as their primary substance and 46 service users as alcohol as their primary substance.

All new clients into treatment who are identified as having contact with children at home are screened via the CART team for current or previous health and social care involvement.

3.4 Of the 154 parents with responsibility for children there is a total of 176 children within their households. Of these 176 children, 80 fall within the age range of 0-5. Consent is requested for all children in this age bracket to share information with local childrens centres in order to increase the support for parents.

Out of 176 children, 61 fit the criteria for discussion/referral/home visit with Addaction Young Peoples service. As part of this process, parents are offered information, joint home visits and referrals for support with Young Addaction.

Some individuals may refuse to engage with agencies, this is revisited during Recovery Planning sessions and CRI continue to complete Home Environment assessments whilst actively promoting other services.

- 3.5 CRI Halton implemented a Hidden Harm recovery co-ordinator post for Halton. The change of the role has enabled the service to work more closely with both our service users and their families and with relevant partner agencies. The outcome over the past 3 months has been significant and positive as outlined in the below case studies. At present the role is working with opiate clients who are at risk of or already involved with children's social care. This gives the service an opportunity to work with these vulnerable families and look at the different support that can be offered with the aim of reducing the overall level of need and to ensure children and young people are free from significant harm. This role enables the service to look at the hidden harm within these families and to look at identifying any additional support which may be required by the service or partner agencies. The service has implemented a Think Family post this proving to be positive for both the service and partners agencies and the families they are working with.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 None identified.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 None identified. Both the Runcorn and Widnes sites can be delivered within existing budgets.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton:**

The service will continue to work closely with the council's Children and Enterprise Directorate. The service continues to develop a local offer and promote early intervention, advice and support and will in particular support work to reduce the risk for children and young people affected by parental substance misuse.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton:**

To promote employment and educational opportunities for those individuals using substance misuse services.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Reducing the harm caused by alcohol is a key Health and Wellbeing Board priority. The service will continue to promote the Healthy Halton agenda and will also increase the footfall of people accessing support which will have a positive impact of reducing local dependency on substances.

- 6.4 **A Safer Halton**
Substance misuse can have a direct correlation to anti-social behaviour and crime. The venues will continue to be used by partner organisations to reduce the impact of substance misuse on the communities of Halton.
- 6.5 **Environment and Regeneration**
None
- 7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**
7.1 None identified.
- 8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**
8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report
- 9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**
None under the meaning of the Act