

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 16 June 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Substance Misuse Services Annual Report
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 key developments for the Substance Misuse Service (Adults) during 2014/15.

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 During early 2015 the Halton Substance Misuse Service has relocated to Ashton Dane in Widnes and 75 High Street in Runcorn. The relocation of the service was implemented following feedback from informal carers and service users. The two services have provided increased choice, flexibility and accessibility for Halton residents. The service will continue to develop links and relationships with local businesses and partners.

3.4 The Halton Brew (a coffee shop within the Halton area developed by the carers group) is ready to launch/start up as a working and sustainable enterprise supporting people in recovery and people affected by substance abuse.

The Council have supported the Halton Brew initiative applies for capital funding from Public Health England. The award was successful and the scheme has awarded £15.935 capital funding from PHE to help with the

start-up capital costs required to secure and furnish the venue that will house the Halton Brew.

3.5 Commissioning Managers and CRI have worked with Probation colleagues to apply for £50k grant funding for a temporary post to co-ordinate and deliver advice, guidance and training interventions that meet the needs of unemployed people who have a drug & alcohol issues or are in Halton treatment services; promote, coordinate and operate referral and liaison procedures with other agencies as required.

3.6 Due to the emerging trends around Legal Highs, CRI conducted workshop on the dangers of Legal Highs lead by CRI's national Novel Psychoactive Substances lead. A number of external stake holder services including local hostels and young person's substance misuse services were invited to attend sessions coordinated at Ashley House. The workshop was attended by CRI Staff, YMCA, Cheshire Police and Young Addaction and was successful in educating and refreshing knowledge on this subject matter.

The Safer Policy and Performance Board Scrutiny Review continue to consider the implications of legal highs for Halton residents.

3.7 The substance misuse contract with Crime Reduction Initiates (CRI) is due to expire on the 31st March 2016. During 2015 the substance misuse contract will be tendered with a new contract start date of the 1st April 2016. During a period of procurement the service will continue to provide a responsive and invaluable service to the residents of Halton.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 None identified.

5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 None identified.

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**
- 9.1 None under the meaning of the Act