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|--------------------------|---|
| District Councils | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through their membership at the Drugs and Alcohol Management Group |
| Health Authority | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> The PCT and CWPT through their membership at the Drugs and Alcohol Management Group |
| Police | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Through their membership at the Drugs and Alcohol Management Group |
| Other Bodies/Individuals | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Warwickshire Probation and the voluntary sector through their membership at the Drugs and Alcohol Management Group. |

FINAL DECISION YES

SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS:

Details to be specified

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Further consideration by this Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Council | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To Cabinet | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To an O & S Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| To an Area Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Further Consultation | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny
Committee**

18th November 2008

Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2006-09

**Report of the Strategic Director for Community
Protection and County Fire Officer**

Recommendation

That Members comment upon the attached progress report on the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2006-09.

Introduction

In 2004 the government launched its first national Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy for England. In 2006, after considering the national strategy, Warwickshire County Council; Community Protect led the partnership development of a county strategy.

The Warwickshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy 2006-09 is a multi-agency strategy that was formulated after considerable consultation with partners. As a cross-cutting issue, it included health and crime agendas and involved agencies such as Police, Primary Care Trusts, District/Borough Councils, Probation, Swanswell Trust, WCC Trading Standards and Positive About Young People.

Following the development of the strategy, implementation plans were produced at both county and district levels. This report highlights the successes and challenges that have come with implementing these plans, focussing particularly at a countywide level.

1. Outline of the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy

- 1.1 The Warwickshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy identified a number of aims but the main ones were:
- i. To achieve long-term changes in attitudes to irresponsible drinking and behaviour across Warwickshire.
 - ii. To reduce alcohol related crime and disorder and anti social behaviour across Warwickshire.
 - iii. To improve the identification, referral and treatment of people with alcohol problems in Warwickshire.
 - iv. To improve the co-ordination of services through an agreed strategic approach to commissioning alcohol services in Warwickshire.
- 1.2 The local Strategy reflected the national strategy by grouping activity under four main headings:
- i. Young people.
 - ii. Adult Support, Identification and Treatment.
 - iii. Families.
 - iv. Crime, Disorder and the Alcohol Industry.

2. Elements of the Strategy Successfully Delivered

- 2.1 A number of actions have been successfully delivered across Warwickshire in the last three years that have addressed the harm caused by alcohol. These are set out under the themes below.
- 2.2 Theme: Young People and Families
- i. The number of young people receiving support for their drug and alcohol use is at its highest due to service development and coverage. The National Treatment Agency assessed the partnership performance as Green at the 2008-09 Quarter 1 review.
 - ii. The delivery of drug and alcohol education in schools is progressing with the Children, Young People and Families Directorate reporting 58% of schools are achieving Healthy Schools Status with another 39% working towards achievement.
 - iii. The Every Child Matters survey 2008 indicated that older pupils (Years 12 and 13) were not drinking more 'on a weekly basis' than they had the year before, which was encouraging.

- iv. The DAAT achieved a National award (Highfliers Positive Practice Award for Information Sharing: Joining Health & Social Care) for the distribution of drug/alcohol awareness and service information.
- v. WCC Communications are regular contributors to media campaigns within local press releases and support for national campaigns, e.g. Know Your Limits and the Big Drink Debate.
- vi. The DAAT has achieved mainstreaming of drug/alcohol misuse identification and referral through focussed Tier 1-2 training of professionals and enhancement of referral policy and pathways. Specifically, staff within Fostering and Youth Services have received training in cannabis and alcohol awareness.
- vii. The development of education and prevention for young people has been mainstreamed within the Directorate for Children, Young People, and Families (CYPF). The Directorate are currently recruiting to a post that includes substance misuse service development.
- viii. The responsibility for young people drug/alcohol specialist treatment services has been transferred to WCC: Children, Young People and Families to provide a more mainstreamed and coordinated approach.
- ix. There are many local targeted initiatives designed to alleviate the problems attributed to young people and alcohol e.g. test purchasing and enforcement, proxy alcohol sales campaign, investment in diversionary activities, alcohol dip testing and local Police Operations. Trading Standards have made visits to retailers offering them advice on age check/Challenge 21 as part of their sales procedures.

2.3 Theme: Adult Support, Identification and Treatment

- i. There is an ongoing joint review (Coventry and Warwickshire) of alcohol care pathways, inpatient and rehabilitation services to deliver innovative, local solutions.
- ii. There continues to be year-on-year increases in the number of people accessing the Community Alcohol Service (LAA targets for commencements in alcohol services have been achieved with over 2,500 individuals receiving support for their drinking problems.).
- iii. A joint appointment has been made between the Council and the Primary Care Trust to lead on commissioning of alcohol treatment services.
- iv. Drug and alcohol awareness training remains a core feature of the substance misuse training for professionals, organised via the DAAT with 12 events attended by 213 front-line staff.
- v. Alcohol service user representatives have been appointed and are working closely with services at operational and strategic levels.

- vi. There is specific training for carers in the recognition and care of those with alcohol dependence.

2.4 Theme: Crime, Disorder and the Alcohol Industry

- i. The Alcohol Arrest Referral Scheme (AARS) is available within all police custody suites. This scheme makes contact with arrestees who are in police custody and refers those with alcohol problems to treatment services. In 2007-08 the Police and AARS staff offered services to 906 people.
- ii. The National Probation Service and WCC commissioners have ensured that specialist treatment for offenders on Alcohol Treatment Requirements (ATR) is available. This scheme has over-performed in engagements (68 against a target of 54), delivering approx 80% reduction in crime from this cohort.
- iii. WCC: Community Protection has funded a pilot, the 'Alcohol and Domestic Abuse Scheme' in Northern Warwickshire to provide a specialist service for victims and perpetrators. Recent monitoring has shown that there has been no re-offending within this cohort and commissioners will be examining the possibility of rolling this service out across the county. This work has been supported by a course in 'Domestic Abuse and Alcohol' for professionals, organised via the DAAT.
- iv. Intelligence led test purchasing campaign performed well above anticipated targets (247 intelligence led test purchases resulting in 16% sales and subsequent enforcement activity).
- v. The DAAT staff team has encouraged and supported alcohol-related crime targets within the LAA and Local Delivery Plans.

3. Strategy Threats and Weaknesses

- 3.1 In 2006 an Alcohol Task Group was created to develop Warwickshire's strategy. The group was disbanded after the launch of the Strategy due to several factors, including the discontinuation of the Alcohol Joint Commissioner post and reorganisation of local Primary Care Trusts and the DAAT governance structure.
- 3.2 These were contributing factors to a lack of consistency in strategy implementation by individual agencies and local partnerships. Although district implementation plans were developed, these were not necessarily fully owned at a local level. In future it may be as effective to work simply with one countywide plan, as long as districts/CDRPs incorporate necessary elements of the countywide plan in their own strategic plans for substance misuse and crime and disorder.
- 3.3 It is clear from Police reported activity that the strategy target for a 5% reduction in alcohol related violence was not achieved. Addressing this during 2008 and onwards is a main priority for all the partner agencies.

Of greatest significance will be the newly established Police led Violent Crime Reduction Initiative.

- 3.4 To ensure effective monitoring and review of the strategy it is essential that a formal structure be in place that involves officers and members of the wider partnership. This role will now be carried out by the newly established Drug and Alcohol Management Group (DAMG) in conjunction with the Community Protection Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC). There is also much interest being shown by the Health OSC in this area of work.
- 3.5 The availability of data also remains an issue, mainly due to the multiplicity of organisations that contribute. Any revised alcohol strategy and governance arrangements must ensure that data requirements remain simple, and that baselines are set and that data is consistent, accurate and timely.
- 3.6 The implementation plans failed to attribute sole lead agencies to actions, due again to the fact that there are so many contributing organisations. To ensure the success of future plans, single agencies should lead on individual items within plans.
- 3.7 Underpinning all of the above is the need for secure funding arrangements. Funding for alcohol services is currently spread across several organisations and, unlike funding for drug strategies, there remains no ring-fenced government contribution. Expenditure is spread across the health and local authority governing bodies, and priorities vary between organisations. Short to medium term funding may be obtained through bidding processes and one-off funding, but this does not necessarily lend itself to achieving sustainable solutions.
- 3.8 An evaluation of the County delivery plan indicates that there have been just 6 targets where progress has not been achieved. All of these are in respect of young people. The DAAT staff team are working closely with WCC: CYP&F to develop plans. These actions include targeted and generic campaigns and alcohol training for front line staff.
- 3.9 Future plans will be adopting the recommendations as presented in the Cabinet Report 'Young People and Alcohol Misuse' October 2007.
- 3.10 One final point of note is that any future strategy should have a strong focus on (alcohol-related) violent crime; the incidence and fear of which has risen in the county in recent times. Recent national developments will ensure that this is incorporated into any revised strategy (see below).

4. The Next Steps in Strategy Development

- 4.1 Warwickshire's first Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy is due to be reviewed and refreshed. This will be in light of national drivers that have arisen since the publication of the current strategy, such as:
- i. National Alcohol Strategy: 'Safe Sensible Social', 2007
 - ii. Youth Alcohol Action Plan, 2008.
 - iii. Youth Crime Action Plan, 2008.
 - iv. Drugs; Protecting Communities and Families. 2008-2018 Strategy.
 - v. Saving Lives, Reducing Harm, Protecting the Public: An Action Plan for Tackling Violence (2008-11).
 - vi. Every Child Matters, 2005.
- 4.2 The revised strategy will cover the period from 2009 – 2012 and its development will be overseen by the Drug and Alcohol Management Group (DAMG). Revised and updated implementation plans will underpin the strategy which will be available for comment in early 2009/10.
- 4.3 The 'Big Drink Debate' is taking place in Warwickshire during November. Stakeholders can participate in this debate either by logging on to the Big Drink Debate website (WWW.BIGDRINKDEBATE.CO.UK) or by attending one of the local community events being arranged in Warwickshire. It is anticipated that the first event will be held in Rugby on Saturday 29th November. A further event is being planned for Leamington Spa.

WILLIAM BROWN
Strategic Director of Community Protection and County Fire Officer

Shire Hall
Warwick

30th Oct 2008