

READING BOROUGH COUNCIL

REPORT BY DIRECTOR OF ADULT CARE AND HEALTH SERVICES

TO:	HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD		
DATE:	22 JANUARY 2016	AGENDA ITEM:	15
TITLE:	READING DRUG & ALCOHOL MISUSE NEEDS ASSESSMENT		
LEAD COUNCILLOR:	GRAEME HOSKIN	PORTFOLIO:	HEALTH
SERVICE:	PUBLIC HEALTH	WARDS:	BOROUGH WIDE
LEAD OFFICER:	SUZIE WATT	TEL:	0118 937 4806
JOB TITLE:	PROGRAMME OFFICER	E-MAIL:	susan.watt@reading.gov.uk

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Reading Borough Council (RBC) drug and alcohol misuse needs assessment quantifies the extent of misuse of alcohol and drugs in Reading; the effect this is likely to have on people and thus on health and social care and other services, and on prevention and early interventions and, the nature of current services and treatment demand for substance misuse; and what might be done to better meet identified needs.
- 1.2 This needs assessment is a precursor to a revised strategy for drug and alcohol services in Reading which will be developed in the near future.
- 1.3 Contributors to the report include key stakeholders and partners for example, Clinical Commission Group's, Source (RBC's Young Persons Drug & Alcohol Treatment Service), IRiS (Adults Drug & Alcohol Treatment service provider), RBC's Parental Substance Misuse Service, Thames Valley Police and RBC Licensing/Trading Standards Team. Client feedback and/or experience is not reflected within the paper because this is a needs assessment and not a details proposal for how service might be changed in the light of a needs assessment.
- 1.4 In Reading, as in many other places, there has been a greater emphasis put on the treatment of drug misuse rather than alcohol misuse. Whilst drug-related deaths rates in the local population are higher than the England average, and in comparison to other Berkshire local authorities, the numbers remain small. In contrast, the figures in the needs assessment show that the health and social care and the wider societal effects of alcohol misuse are substantially greater than those of drug misuse.
- 1.5 Appendix A - Reading Drugs & Alcohol Misuse Needs Assessment

2. RECOMMENDED ACTION

That Health and Wellbeing Board endorse the Reading Borough Council's Drug & Alcohol Needs Assessment and recommendations.

3. POLICY CONTEXT

The recommendations in this paper will help the Council meet obligations including:

3.1 National Policy & legislation:

- National Health Service Act (2006)¹ and Health & Social Care Act (2012)² - mandates local authorities to improve life expectancy and reduce health inequalities.

3.2 Reading's Health & Wellbeing Strategy:

- Promote and protect the health of all communities, particularly those disadvantaged
- Reduce the impact of long term conditions with approaches focused on specific groups
- Promote health-enabling behaviours & lifestyles tailored to the differing needs of communities.
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

3.3 Public Health Outcomes Framework [PHOF], which councils are required 'to have regard to:

- Hospital admission episodes for alcohol-related AND alcohol-specific conditions
- Alcohol-specific mortality AND alcohol-related mortality
- Mortality from chronic liver disease
- Number in treatment at specialist alcohol misuse services
- People entering prison with substance dependence issues who are previously not known to community treatment
- Successful completion of treatment for alcohol
- Proportion waiting more than 3 weeks for alcohol treatment
- Claimants of benefits due to alcoholism

4. THE PROPOSAL

4.1 Current Position:

Please see Appendix A.

5. CONTRIBUTION TO STRATEGIC AIMS

5.1 Prevention, intervention and treatment of drug and alcohol misuse contribute to Corporate Priority 2: *Providing the best life through education, early help and healthy living.*

5.2 The drugs and alcohol treatment services allows the council to significantly contribute to other strategic aims and corporate priorities. It contributes to

¹ *National Health Service Act 2006*. London, HMSO. Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2006/41/contents> (Accessed 22 July 2015)

² *Health and Social Care Act 2012, c.7*. Available at: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/7/contents/enacted> (Accessed: 22 July 2015).

the protection of vulnerable children, families and adults. It supports the prevention of alcohol and drug misuse and, uses harm reduction as a way of reducing risks to clients.

6. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND INFORMATION

6.1 Community engagement and consultation will be actioned in the follow up stages, once the needs assessment has been approved.

7. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

7.2 An Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) is not relevant at this stage.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no legal implications at this stage.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Not applicable at this stage.