

item:	4
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SUBSTANCE MISUSE AND FUNDING STREAMS

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Summary

This Report is to brief the Committee on the funding streams that support alcohol & substance misuse services for children & young people in Highland and, in line with the developing For Highland's Children 3 improvement objectives, to put forward proposals to further enhance children's services with the additional alcohol funding allocation being managed through NHS Highland.

1. Background

- 1.1 Substance misuse is an issue affecting all our communities in Highland. One of the many key challenges is in relation to prevention and education for young people,
- 1.2 Previously the national priorities set by the Scottish Government included:
 - Reduce hazardous or at risk drinking by children and young people because the particular health and social risks'
 - Reduce the proportion of young people reporting the use of illegal drugs.'
- 1.3 In Highland we developed the following local targets in *For Highland's Children 2*:
 - Reduce the proportion of 13 and 15 year olds self-reporting using alcohol in the last week – initially by 2% to 35% by 2006 (as identified by Scottish Schools Adolescent Lifestyle and Substance Use Survey - SALSUS)
 - Reduce the proportion of 13 and 15 year olds self-reporting using drugs in the last month – initially by 2% to 14% by 2006 (also SALSUS)
- 1.4 As previously reported to this Committee these targets were successfully surpassed. This is both a positive recognition of many young people making better informed and healthier life choices in relation to alcohol but also a reflection of the more co-ordinated approach being taken by all agencies who are attempting to address this problem.
- 1.5 Whilst this progress is gratifying there still remains a significant number of young people engaging in drinking and drug taking resulting in potentially very harmful consequences for them, their families and the

wider community. Further, the broad targets previously identified provided little focus on the detail of substance misusing behaviour, either at local level, or across age ranges or different groups. Accordingly, the Joint Committee has supported the undertaking of a lifestyle survey with all P7, S2 and S4 pupils, which will be happening later this year.

2. Single Outcome Agreement

2.1 Under the single outcome agreement with the Scottish Government new key aims have been developed with HDAAT which are to be delivered by NHS Highland and the Highland Council:

Key Aims

- Develop appropriate services for those presenting with drug and / or alcohol related problems ensuring a broad range of interventions are implemented to address their needs.
- Safeguard and promote needs of children, young people and families affected by the issues of substance misuse.
- Promote a responsible approach to the use of alcohol and seek to prevent the negative consequences arising from harmful use.
- Reduce the level of drug and alcohol related harm affecting our communities.

3. Funding

3.1 Within the continuum of principles of GIRFEC, where the level and nature of services that are provided should be determined by the assessed needs of young people, Substance Misuse Services provide a range of interventions in line the GIRFEC model of service delivery.

3.2 Early intervention

These services range from information and advice sessions provided in schools delivered by Youth Action Team (YAT) and Health Promotion staff with some input by the local Councils on Alcohol as part of the school curriculum.

3.3 Where young people, their parents or staff within health, education and social work need more detailed information on substance misuse or associated problems, they are able to contact the Gael Og Drug Advice helpline and drop in services which have recently been revamped and taken under the umbrella of Action For Children.

3.4 This service is jointly funded by the Joint Committee (£40,000) and NHS Highland (£20,000), providing

- confidential telephone helpline
- web based resource
- Inverness based drop in Centre
- drop-In Advice Surgeries in locally based community resources
- one-to-one interviews (by appointment)

- sign posting to specialist services
- outreach services utilising Positive Options Project
- follow-up support utilising Mentoring Project

3.5 Family support

Action for Children also has secured 4 year funding of £372,070 from Lloyd's TSB to provide the family in partnership service for families of parents with substance misuse problems and have further developed a volunteer mentoring service to work with 5 to 11 year olds whose parents are involved in substance misuse.

3.6 Support for those identified as having a substance misuse problem

If a young person has been identified and assessed as having a significant substance misuse problem and require more intensive support within the GIREC triangle of staged intervention, the YAT's will provide a structured planned intervention using recognised tools to assess the levels of problem and the appropriate intervention as part of the Child's Plan. Funding for the 3 Youth Action Teams amounts to £1,029,739 per annum, as shown below. The £82,000 NHS Highland contribution via the HDAAT specifically funds Substance Misuse Workers in each of the Teams.

Youth Action Teams

Income		
SWS	947,739	
NHS	82,000	
		1,029,739
Inverness, Nairn, Badenoch & Strathspey		342,744
Ross, Skye and Lochaber		283,348
Caithness, Sutherland and Easter Ross		305,329
HQ (training, staffing & property)		98,319
TOTAL		1,029,739

3.7 Frequently young people with substance misuse problems have an associated pattern of offending often linked to chaotic and high risk taking behaviour which results in them coming to the attention of the Police. In a recent audit of the Highland Youth Action Teams caseloads of 150 cases looked at over 60% had a significant substance misuse problem - which was usually alcohol. This pattern reflects national Scottish statistics which have identified that 80% of serious offences including murder were committed by offenders under the influence of alcohol or drugs and often both.

- 3.8 Where the levels offending or levels of chaotic substance misuse influenced risk taking behaviour are at a level of significant risk to themselves or others, as an alternative to Residential School or Secure Care, young people are considered for the Intensive Support & Supervision (ISS) Programme or Intensive Supervision & Monitoring Service (ISMS). These services receive £470,000 funding per year. They are complemented by various specialist provisions across the authority, who can form part of young people's programme, including learning support within schools, and off-site provision such as The Bridge (Inverness), An Cala (Fort William) and Airport House (Wick).
- 3.9 The Youth Action Teams also provide support to parents whose children are involved with substance misuse and offending through running parenting groups helping to empower parents and improve their own parenting skills in relating to and managing their children's behaviour in more positive and constructive ways.
- 3.10 Young Carers
The YAT teams also have a remit to support Young Carers whose parents are having problems with substance misuse providing support and guidance as well as running Young Carer Support Groups.

4. For Highland's Children' 3 (FHC3)

- 4.1 As part of the review of the Youth Actions Service, improvement objectives in relation to substance misuse in FHC3, still need to be endorsed, but will be focus on:
- Improving levels of support to young people involved in substance misuse through improved access to services by earlier identification appropriate assessment and effective intervention as part of the Child's Plan.
 - Improving the Health outcomes of young people involved in substance misuse by baseline health assessments at the beginning of interventions and follow up health monitoring
 - Increasing support to young Carers whose parents are involved in substance misuse by improving awareness of young people involved in this role and increasing the levels of individual and group work sessions for Young Carers.

5. Future funding streams

- 5.1 NHS Boards across Scotland received an allocation of monies to address the problems associated with alcohol misuse, with the expectation that part of this money is used to deliver alcohol screening and brief interventions as part of the standard services offered by NHS Scotland.
- 5.2 Increased screening for alcohol misuse may have a knock on effect on the volume and capacity of downstream services. Consequently the

allocation is also expected to deliver upon a range of services, particularly services focusing on early intervention and treatment (including support for newly identified dependent drinkers), as well as prevention activities. Where appropriate, services/activities developed should comply with guidance contained in the Health Technology Assessment Report 3 on Prevention and Relapse in Alcohol Dependence.

- 5.3 The spend of funding identified for enhancing/developing prevention and treatment activities inline with delivering priority outcomes, will be determined by Alcohol & Drug Action Teams based on local need and taking into account health inequalities. It's expected that these activities will be delivered in partnership with a broad range of services including NHS, local authority, third sector and voluntary sector agencies.
- 5.4 Therefore, in support of these interventions, Highland Drug & Alcohol Action Team has invited proposals from across all the sectors for the development of enhanced/additional alcohol specialist services. These proposals should demonstrate effective partnership working to address identified local need; be based on best practice, and should evidence effective outcomes.
- 5.5 HDAAT has asked the Northern Community Health Partnerships, North, Mid and South East, to take the lead role in their respective geographical areas for co-ordinating and prioritising the proposals. The deadline for submission is Friday 23rd January 2009.
- 5.6 As previously considered and supported by the Joint Committee, to ensure the newly revamped Drug Advice Service is able to widen its remit to cover the whole of the Highlands, additional funding will be required. Action for Children are therefore submitting an application to HDAAT for the additional alcohol monies to achieve the full integration of the three inter-related Action for Children services, (Gael Og Mentoring, Positive Options and the Drug Advice Service) thereby combining alcohol and drug services, to maximise effectiveness and achieve a pan-Highland delivery model.
- 5.7 Discussions on the Improvement Objectives for *For Highland's Children 3* have also identified the value of direct nursing support within the Youth Action Service. This would involve public health practitioners across Highland, in both the assessment and intervention work with existing services. The practitioners could work directly with clients with alcohol and drug issues – offering clinical assessment, advice, support and education.

Recommendation

The Joint Committee is asked to consider current activities to address substance misuse by young people, and to note that improvement objectives for 2009-12 will be included in *For Highland's Children 3*. In the meantime,

the Joint Committee is asked to support the proposals to enhance services for children that are being submitted to the Highland Drug & Alcohol Action Team.

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