

NEWCASTLE BOROUGH COUNCIL

Briefing Note for Scrutiny – June 2013

The Alcohol Action Plan

As the alcohol action plan is so broad we have decided initially to concentrate on two key projects:

Early Intervention/Prevention Project in Schools

Background

The aim is to secure support for the introduction of a comprehensive prevention and education programme within key Secondary Schools within Newcastle Borough. The key component of the project is the revamping of the Personal, Social, Health and Education (PSHE) agenda. The PSHE work underpins the entire project. This project is multi-faceted as it incorporates the following elements:

- On-line pupil survey undertaken at key stages throughout the project;
- Social norms approach to alcohol education;
- Parental surveys designed to engage Parents/Carers in the project;
- One meeting per term via district forums;
- One to one support if needed.

The project promotes flexibility on commitment of participation, there may be elements of the project for example the Parental surveys which Schools may not fit into their way of working.

Entrust (formerly Education Transformation) has been awarded the contract to initiate this programme of change.

Currently over 40 front-line Learning Support Families First staff have been trained up to deliver the resources within the Schools.

Several Newcastle-under-Lyme Schools were invited to participate in a Schools forum workshop on 1st February however none could attend.

Current Developments

Jo Abbott from Entrust who is co-ordinating the project in the North of the County arranged a catch up meeting with the Schools who couldn't attend the initial workshop on 1st February. The meeting took place on 23rd April and was attended by representatives from Clough Hall, Cedars PRU, St John Fisher, Clayton Hall and also Nigel Manning (Alcohol Change Lead), Steve

Lovatt (Police), Sarah Moore (NBC), Trevor Smith (NBC) and Adam Brunt (T3). Unfortunately the Schools didn't sign up there and then but promised to take the proposal back to their respective Schools.

Jo Abbott has since chased this up and has had no response from these Schools. Sarah Moore has made contact with Mark Heuston (Headmaster at Clayton Hall and also Chairperson of the local Headteachers forum) and arranged for myself and Jo to attend the next meeting on 3rd July. Hopefully after that meeting the Schools we have identified will officially sign up to the project.

Sarah will hopefully be meeting up with Mark in the interim and will do some groundwork.

Strengthening Families Programme

Background

This project covers ages from 10 to 14 and looks to prevent and deter a number of issues such as anti-social behaviour, substance misuse, alcohol fuelled violence and domestic abuse. It is a prelude to the Troubled Families agenda which focuses on intervention after the event has occurred. Although this project has been driven by Staffs County Council the Alcohol Change Lead has asked each District to take some local governance over this project.

Current progress: Learning Support Teams have been engaged, training has been delivered, extra funding is being sought, and a course approach with looked after children and parents with drug issues are being formulated.

Current Developments

I am awaiting an update from Mark Hewitt the County District Commissioning Lead for Troubled Families and will be able to give a verbal update at the next Scrutiny meeting.

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