

BARNSELY METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

This matter is not a Key Decision within the Council's definition and has not been included in the relevant Forward Plan

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITIES CABINET ON 10 JULY 2019

SCRUTINY TASK AND FINISH GROUP (TFG) REPORT ON SUBSTANCE MISUSE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To report to Cabinet the responses to the recommendations as set out in the Overview & Scrutiny Committee investigation undertaken on its behalf by the Substance Misuse Task and Finish Group.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Members endorse the responses to each of the recommendations as outlined in section 4 of the report.

3. INTRODUCTION

- 3.1 As part of its work programme the Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed to undertake a Task and Finish Group investigation into substance misuse in Barnsley. Given the heightened profile of substance misuse both locally and nationally, the Overview & Scrutiny Committee felt it was an opportune time to undertake work in this area.
- 3.2 The investigation sought to better understand the extent of substance misuse in Barnsley, the challenges being faced by services in tackling this, including community safety and enforcement as well as provision of support services for young people and adults.
- 3.3 The Task and Finish Group undertook a number of 'check and challenge' sessions with officers regarding the work being carried out and future plans. This involved asking questions of them regarding their work, their involvement and partnership working with other agencies including the impact of this on Barnsley residents. This included:
 - Meeting with Council representatives working in Community Safety Services;
 - Meeting with Council officers responsible for the commissioning of Adult Substance Misuse Services;
 - Undertaking site visits to meet with managers and practitioners from the adult substance misuse service, as well as a service user, at the Service's Hubs at Burleigh Court in the Town Centre and at The Factory in the Dearne;
 - Meeting with officers from South Yorkshire Police;
 - Meeting with the Cabinet Member and Executive Director of the Communities Directorate;

- And finally, meeting with Council officers responsible for the commissioning and management of the Children and Young Peoples Substance Misuse Service.

4. PROPOSAL AND JUSTIFICATION

4.1 The findings from the Scrutiny Task and Finish Group investigation resulted in six recommendations being made. Each recommendation is supported by the service areas involved and the responses to how these will be addressed are included below;

4.2 **Recommendation 1: A Multi-Agency Conference is held in relation to addressing the complex needs in our communities covering Housing, Substance Misuse and Adult Mental Health**

This recommendation was made in three Scrutiny Task and Finish Group Reports in relation to housing, substance misuse and mental health. Whilst carried out as separate investigations the discussions and findings demonstrated the significant overlap and interdependencies that exists across these areas.

It is recognised that there is further work to be done in relation to addressing the issues and challenges that have been raised across the three areas. This work will be driven through existing mechanisms that are in place namely the Public Sector Housing Task and Finish Group, the Mental Health Crisis Care Concordat Group and the 'complex lives' work stream, where relevant officers and key partners at both strategic and operational levels, will work together to address the issues and identify solutions. The lead officers will take stock of developments and review whether such an event would be of value as this work progresses over the next 12 months.

4.3 **Recommendation 2: An All Member Information Briefing (AMIB) is held on the structure and function of the Safer Neighbourhood Service including the Hub as well as our local Substance Misuse Services (following the re-launch of the Children's Service)**

The Safer Neighbourhoods Service Executive "Gold" group has agreed that an All Member Information Brief would be a welcome opportunity for the integrated team to raise awareness of the service and the functions within.

The service would like to focus on the following;

- Vision and Objectives
- Functions and Structures
- Achievements to Date
- Challenges and Future Service Improvement Priorities
- Opportunities for Broader Public Sector Collaboration in neighbourhoods and with clients with complex lives.

A provisional date of 9th July 2019 has been set for this briefing session.

4.4 **Recommendation 3: Humankind increase proactive outreach work and visits to people in their own homes.**

Barnsley Recovery Steps (Humankind) understand the need to proactively reach individuals and communities whose complexities or other needs make it more difficult for them to access treatment and services. The Service recognises that this can be for a variety of reasons such as physical health problems, mental health issues, financial pressures including the sometimes prohibitive cost of public transport, and also the stigma attached to treatment buildings, and are always looking at ways to improve access to support.

In terms of hard to reach communities or individuals, Barnsley Recovery Steps work in partnership with other agencies or workers. Some examples of this work include:

- Regular Outreach sessions with the Safer Neighborhoods Service and the outreach workers based in the Housing and Welfare team.
- Outreach in the town centre targeting particular areas and groups.
- Outreach in community pharmacies and Barnsley Hospital.
- Outreach in Family Centres targeting families impacted by substance misuse

Barnsley Recovery Steps will continue to work with GPs, under a Shared Care Model, where GPs provide prescribing for the service users with Recovery Navigators from Barnsley Recovery Steps based in the practices coordinating care and delivering psychosocial and recovery support. Whilst Shared Care isn't suitable for all service users, this does allow people to be seen and receive treatment in their local community.

Building positive social networks/relationships and integrating with community activities and peers is an important part of an individual's recovery, however, there are times when service users require home visits and the service does accommodate this. Recovery Navigators undertake home visits and clinical interventions at home on a needs / risk assessed basis particularly where an individual has high complex needs and is vulnerable.

Barnsley Recovery Steps are working collaboratively with the Family Centre service and Early Help team to improve the identification of parents who are substance misusers who would benefit from early interventions and targeted support within the context of families and their parenting role. The use of Family Centres will enable better joint working between the adult substance misuse service and children's services to take place.

Whilst the above work will continue to be developed Barnsley Recovery Steps are planning to improve their offer to reach hard to engage communities and individuals. These include:

- A move to offering increased shared care provision across Barnsley, with 4 GP surgeries across the locality offering a wider range of treatment options.
- Home visits and joint appointments with Barnsley Thrive, the service commissioned for people with multiple and complex needs.
- Joint assessments, appointments and interventions delivered at Family Centres across the borough
- A potential pilot with Public Health providing outreach in the night time economy.

- A new premise to deliver recovery based intervention with less stigma attached.
- Contribution at key meetings and forums such as mental health crisis care concordat and 'cuckooing task and finish group' allowing us to work in a multi-agency way with hard to reach groups.
- The expansion of the volunteering and peer mentor offer allowing the service more capacity to undertake more home visits and outreach.
- Utilisation of the Library@the Lightbox to deliver groups and one to one sessions in a building with no stigma attached. There are also plans to deliver drug and alcohol awareness sessions to professionals and local businesses in this building.

4.5 **Recommendation 4: Local employers are encouraged to ensure they have effective substance misuse policies and procedures in place which support staff to access treatment services**

The BMBC Be Well@Work offer includes a range of options to encourage employers to improve health and wellbeing within the workplace. This offer includes signposting employers to local support services such as Barnsley Recovery Steps where employers can advertise treatment services but also access awareness training from the Service. Employers can also progress towards the Be Well@Work award of which one of the themes is drugs and alcohol which encourages employers to meet a number of criteria such as signposting of services, developing of policies and training of staff in relation to drugs and alcohol.

Barnsley Recovery Steps have also made excellent links with the Barnsley Chamber of Commerce and are now working with local employers to encourage them to have/develop substance misuse policies and procedures which positively support staff to access treatment services where appropriate. The service supports and advises a number of local employers who refer staff members in to the service when they are identified as having problems with drugs and/or alcohol with the ultimate aim of maintaining employment status.

A particular example being the support offered to ASOS and their employees. The organisation has welcomed the Service into their premises to engage with employees who may be experiencing drug and/or alcohol problems. Barnsley Recovery Steps have a drop in and promotional stand in the ASOS Break-Away area where staff take their breaks allowing them to seek information, advice and support. Plans are in place to increase this type of work with more employers over the next year.

Barnsley Recovery Steps attends the Workplace Health Champion Network meetings when invited, where representatives from businesses across Barnsley meet to exchange good practice and ideas on how they can improve health and wellbeing within their workplace. The network provides opportunity for the workplace health champions to connect with Barnsley Recovery Steps and learn what support the service can offer to both employers and employees.

4.6 **Recommendation 5: Barnsley Schools Alliance undertakes specific work to identify and share good practice in relation to substance misuse prevention work through the PSHE curriculum and that this is delivered to ALL Barnsley pupils**

As of 2020, schools will be mandated to deliver health education. Part of this education is around risks and keeping safe (of which substance misuse forms a part). The government has not currently been prescriptive as to how this curriculum should be delivered.

Whilst we recognise the importance of substance misuse prevention work being delivered in schools it should be noted that as a council we have no direct control over how schools choose to deliver the PHSE Curriculum. However, we are working with school leaders to influence the content of the curriculum through a PHSE network.

In addition, we are developing an online hub of resources to support schools around the PSHE curriculum. This will contain a section on evidence based substance misuse resources that would be suitable for use in schools. The officer leading on this piece of work will continue to work in partnership with the Barnsley Schools Alliance and other key partners to highlight the importance of substance misuse prevention and education and will feedback progress as this work develops.

4.7 Recommendation 6: OSC Members are consulted on the Substance Misuse Strategy Refresh and local partners take the opportunity to review their contribution to these vital preventative services

A key piece of work with regards to refreshing our substance misuse strategic priorities is the completion of a needs assessment so we can gain a clear understanding of the local substance misusing population and their needs. Integral to the needs assessment is the consultation with key partners and stakeholders to review their contribution to the substance misuse support available including any specific delivery from their organization. This work will be completed by early July.

Findings from the needs assessment, a strategic review of the substance misuse service and the Alcohol Clear Assessment recently completed by Public Health will then;

- inform our strategic approach
- identify the local priorities
- enable the development of a multi-agency substance misuse plan to achieve the identified priorities

Officers within Healthier Communities undertaking this work welcome the opportunity to consult with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the identified priorities and draft multi-agency plan before taking through the relevant governance channels for approval.

5. CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

5.1 There are no alternative approaches recommended for consideration.

6. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL PEOPLE/SERVICE USERS

6.1 The responses to the recommendations made are in support of improving access to support and improving outcomes for people in Barnsley. Council officers, partners and services recognise the importance of people's physical and mental health in all

aspects of their life and the negative impacts substance misuse and poor wellbeing can have on individuals and communities.

7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There may be financial implications with regards to recommendations 1 and 5 so further consideration will need to be given.

8. EMPLOYEE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no specific employee implications in responding to the recommendations in the report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no specific legal implications in responding to the recommendations in the report.

10. COMMUNICATIONS IMPLICATIONS

- 10.1 The recommendations and responses consistently highlight the importance of effective communication to promote the availability of and access to local substance misuse services both for young people and adults. This includes both clarity of information provided and the utilization of a range of communication channels, including digital platforms, to ensure messages reach target audiences.

11. CONSULTATIONS

- 11.1 Consultations have taken place with: the Substance Misuse Task and Finish Group Members; the Overview Scrutiny Committee; Councillor Jenny Platts; Council Officers from the Communities and People Directorates; Humankind Substance Misuse Service; South Yorkshire Police; and the Council's Senior Management Team.

12. THE CORPORATE PLAN AND THE COUNCIL'S PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK

- 12.1 As outlined in the Corporate Plan, the three priorities for Barnsley are: a thriving and vibrant economy, strong and resilient communities; and citizens achieving their potential. Positive physical and mental wellbeing are central to achieving all of these priorities; therefore it is essential the Council and its partner organisations continue to work together to support these aims, in particular by preventing and supporting individuals and families involved and affected by substance misuse.

13. PROMOTING EQUALITY, DIVERSITY AND SOCIAL INCLUSION

- 13.1 Throughout the Task and Finish Groups involvement in this work they have specifically referred to making sure services are accessible to all, particularly given the vulnerabilities of those requiring substance misuse support. Often those with complex and unmet needs are those most likely to turn to substance misuse and are in need of support services. As highlighted in the responses to the

recommendations, council officers, partners and services are committed in ensuring that services and support are accessible to all individuals and communities.

14. TACKLING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY

- 14.1 Encouraging people to have healthy lifestyles and avoiding the use of substances can help in tackling the impact of poverty. There are strong links between poverty, deprivation, widening inequalities and problem drug use. It does not mean that all those facing these challenges will develop problems; however the most vulnerable in our society are most at risk. It is therefore important that the Council and its partner organisations continue to ensure that services and support are accessible to all and in particular those with multiple and complex needs and vulnerabilities.

15. TACKLING HEALTH INEQUALITIES

- 15.1 There are large health inequalities between Barnsley and England, and within Barnsley itself. Improving people's mental wellbeing and reducing health inequalities will help local people to reach their full potential. The investigation undertaken by the Task and Finish Group, and subsequent responses to the recommendations made, are in support of improving health outcomes and services across the borough; with recognition that additional work is required in specific communities to help address health inequalities.

16. REDUCTION OF CRIME AND DISORDER

- 16.1 It is likely that the recommended activities and responses to these will contribute further to the effective mitigation of these risks --

17. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 17.1 This issue relates to the following risks currently logged on the Council's Strategic Risk Register, as follows:

3025 – 'Failure to Safeguard vulnerable service users'

3026 – 'Failure to achieve a reduction in Health inequalities within the Borough'

3047 – 'Failure to protect the health of the population from preventable health threats'

- 17.2 It is likely that the recommended activities and responses to these will contribute further to the effective mitigation of these risks, and it would be appropriate for any follow-up report to be cognisant of these risks.

89. BACKGROUND PAPERS

If you would like to inspect background papers for this report, please email governance@barnsley.gov.uk so that appropriate arrangements can be made

Report author: Jo Ekin