

Title of Report:	Feedback on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy Hot Focus: Alcohol
Report to be considered by:	The Health and Wellbeing Board
Date of Meeting:	November 2016

Purpose of Report: To feedback on the Alcohol Hot Focus session and suggested further actions

Recommended Action: It is suggested that an task and finish group be set up to take forward developing a strategic approach to addressing alcohol misuse. This was informed by the discussions of the hot focus session.

<i>When decisions of the Health and Wellbeing Board impact on the finances or general operation of the Council, recommendations of the Board must be referred up to the Executive for final determination and decision.</i>		
Will the recommendation require the matter to be referred to the Council's Executive for final determination?	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Is this item relevant to equality?	Please tick relevant boxes		Yes	No
Does the policy affect service users, employees or the wider community and:				
• Is it likely to affect people with particular protected characteristics differently?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Is it a major policy, significantly affecting how functions are delivered?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Will the policy have a significant impact on how other organisations operate in terms of equality?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to functions that engagement has identified as being important to people with particular protected characteristics?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
• Does the policy relate to an area with known inequalities?			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Outcome Where one or more 'Yes' boxes are ticked, the item is relevant to equality. In this instance please give details of how the item impacts upon the equality streams under the executive report section as outlined.				

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Executive Report

1. Introduction

1.1 The Health and Wellbeing Strategy Board agreed that within the Health and Wellbeing Strategy two key priorities would be identified that would be the Board's focus for the coming year, from October 2016 to October 2017. One of these was to reduce alcohol related harm in West Berkshire and it was further agreed that a multiagency task and finish group would be set up to take this work forward.

1.2 In order to help the Health and Wellbeing Board and other key community stakeholders gain a greater understanding of current services available to reduce alcohol related harm in West Berkshire an Alcohol Hot Focus session was run on October 27th from 09.30am till 12.30pm at the council offices in Market Street, Newbury.

The session also sought to demonstrate how it would be possible to achieve the Health and Wellbeing strategic objective of reducing alcohol related harm and what steps would need to be taken.

1.2 The aims of the session were:

- (1) To bring together relevant stakeholders with members of the Health and Wellbeing Board to gain a better understating of current provision of alcohol services from prevention to treatment and recovery.
- (2) To identify the contribution of different organisations to the alcohol agenda including police, health, specialist treatment organisations and the voluntary sector.
- (3) To gain a better understanding of local issues and priorities relating to alcohol
- (4) To introduce the Public Health England alcohol CLear self assessment tool
- (5) To identify potential members of a task and finish group to work together to improve communication between organisations, identify gaps and suggest solutions that will inform the Health and Wellbeing Strategy delivery plan for alcohol harm reduction.

1.3 The hot focus session included the following: an introduction and scene setting by Debi Joyce, Public Health lead for substance misuse commissioning, West Berkshire Council; GP perspective delivered by Dr Steve Brinksman, GP and Medical Director for Swanswell specialist substance misuse providers in West Berkshire; Sian Orton, Recovery Coordinator for Swanswell; Inspector Matt Lugg, Thames Valley Police and Orla Hendron Family Intervention Worker for the Youth Offending Service. The various partners had 20 minutes to discuss their work around alcohol, including what their service offers, who it is aimed at and any particular challenges they face in delivery of alcohol focussed interventions. Nisha Sharma, Health and Wellbeing Programme Manager, Public Health England gave an overview of the Alcohol CLear self assessment toolkit and briefly described

other relevant policies. David, an Alcoholics Anonymous Public Information Liaison Officer gave a moving testimony on the impact of being a dependent drinker on his own life and his children's.

- 1.4 The last part of the session involved small group work where partners were asked to explore the following questions: should West Berkshire adopt the 6 outcomes outlined in the National Alcohol Strategy (2012)? (see below), what services and activities are currently in place to address alcohol related harm? and what additional local priorities exist that have not been covered in the session?

The six outcomes in the national Alcohol Strategy (2012) are:

- A change in behaviour so that people think it is not acceptable to drink in ways that harm themselves or others.
- A reduction in the amount of alcohol related violent crime
- A reduction in the number of people drinking above NHS guidelines
- A reduction in the amount of people 'binge drinking'
- A reduction in the number of alcohol related deaths
- A sustained reduction in both the numbers of 11-15 year olds drinking alcohol and the amounts consumed.

- 1.5 The groups gave the following feedback when asked **what are we currently doing (and any suggestions for what we should be doing)?**

There is so much happening that we don't know about and that there needs to be some mapping across different services and coordination. There is good access to specialist intensive treatment, should there be more around prevention. Room for more integration between different services and better communication/awareness rising to the public and between services.

Give people especially young people need alternative activities e.g. sports, music, build self-esteem and hope for the future. Work in schools to change the perception that binge drinking is acceptable. Work with parents.

Help raise more awareness of morning after alcohol levels. Alcohol Brief interventions training to a range of staff including housing and social workers who can then use the making every contact count approach to implementing this with their clients. Work with the alcohol industry/government to lobby for minimum price per unit. The impact of social isolation, constraints on/available budget

The group fed back the following on **Are there local priorities that the national objectives don't meet**

It was felt that we could adopt the national objectives but prioritise to local need.

Additional points were raised in the group discussion:

More on safeguarding: Alcohol misuse is linked to violence in the home, emotional and mental health. Locally 95% of child protection plans feature alcohol in some form.

More on specific groups: Work with golf clubs and horse racing industry to promote sensible drinking and a joined up approach.

1.6 Group feedback – **Suggested actions**

Looking at successful models of work in other areas and see if they can be implemented in West Berkshire.

Map local provision across a range of organisations and community assets to develop awareness of services and community resilience. Use the alcohol Clear Toolkit to provide a structure for the mapping.

More involvement of primary care, focus on prevention, early identification of those at risk. The use of night safe to deliver alcohol awareness messages.

Change the narrative locally from thinking about alcohol use as either safe or harmful to being on a continuum with each unit as an increased risk.

Developing of an alcohol task and finish group with membership from a range of organisations. This group should focus on identify good practice, gaps and suggest solutions that will inform the Health and Wellbeing Strategy delivery plan developing

2. Conclusion

2.1 Positive comments were fed back at the end of the session with partners stating that it had been helpful in understanding what services were available and who did what locally. There was also a great deal of positivity about the opportunity for partners to work more closely together particularly in setting up a task and finish group and to conduct a mapping exercise.

2.2 Attendees were asked to self select to be part of the task and finish group .This group will develop terms of reference and develop an action plan for the next year. The first meeting has been set for 15th November 2016.

3. Equalities

3.1 The event considered any equality and diversity needs of the delegates. Due consideration of the issues faced by alcohol dependant individuals, was regarded by both speakers and the event planners.

4. Appendices

Appendix A - Public Health England Alcohol CLear Toolkit
