



Nottinghamshire County  
Drug and Alcohol Action Team  
*Working for a Safer and Healthier Nottinghamshire*

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Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones  
Sutton-in-Ashfield Central  
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Dear Councillor Edward Llewellyn-Jones

**Re: Drugs Education Review Final Report – January 2008**

Thank you for sending a copy of the above report. In February 2008, the Home Office launched the new 10-year national drug strategy; "Drugs: protecting families and communities." In view of this, and as the key partnership for the strategic commissioning and planning of local adult and young people's drug and alcohol services, projects and interventions in line with the strategy, we thought it was now timely to send you a response to the recommendations contained within the report.

1. **Parent / carer engagement with drug and alcohol education** – this is a key strategic actions in two strands of the national drugs strategy - "Preventing harm to children, young people and families affected by drug misuse" and "Public information campaigns, communications and community engagement." There are already a number of local initiatives and resources to encourage parents / carers to become more involved in their child's drug and alcohol education including parenting courses, parent assemblies, community events, parent evenings and open days etc. The DAAT Partnership will explore how these initiatives can be developed further including targeted education for families at risk e.g. through Joint Action Team roll out.

2. **Continuous drug education programme through a young person's school life** – this recommendation is fully supported by the DAAT Partnership as recognised good practice. There are limitations as to how this can be enforced but locally, schools have access to a range of quality educational providers that can help schools develop and deliver drug and alcohol education in a seamless, spiral curriculum approach. Schools are responsible for developing their own drug and alcohol education in line with both statutory and non-statutory requirements PSHE, Citizenship and Science Order frameworks. The DAAT holds the view that it would be appropriate for the DCSF to designate PSHE as part of the National Curriculum and therefore statutory thus further enhancing its priority.
3. **Education for those not accessing mainstream education** – this recommendation is also fully supported by the DAAT Partnership and this fits in to our wider agenda of information and campaigns outside of school settings. The current annual young people's needs assessment will focus on more vulnerable young people including truants / excludees.
4. **PSHE provision in years 12 and 13** – this is fully supported by the DAAT Partnership. However, it must be remembered that PSHE is non statutory. The DAAT continues to lobby the Department of Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) in making PSHE statutory.
5. **Hidden Harm** – this is an agenda that the Nottinghamshire County DAAT Partnership have led the way nationally. Currently the Hidden Harm agenda is becoming more embedded within the Safeguarding Children's Board. Support services are available for children and young people affected by another's substance use and the WAM video provides a useful training tool to be used in all settings for professionals, families and young people.
6. **Peer mentoring** – this is a recognised area of development for the DAAT Partnership. In line with integrated children's services, it is key to link in with organisations such as Connexions and the Youth Service who are able to offer accredited peer mentoring training and schemes for young people.
7. **Funding for drug and alcohol education and interventions** – as you know schools receive funding resources for the delivery of drug and alcohol education from their delegated funding. The Young People's Substance Misuse Partnership Grant provided from the NTA to the DAAT to deliver the Young People's agenda has now been placed within the area-based grant. The DAAT Partnership are moving towards an integrated commissioning and planning approach in relation to young people's substance use interventions, with the Children and Young People's Partnership to ensure the sustainability of delivery in line with evidenced need. This closer relationship with the county's Children's Services will almost certainly result in improved substance misuse services to schools.
8. **Alcohol education** – the DAAT Partnership have evidenced this as a priority area and are developing education and campaigns to highlight the impacts of high levels of alcohol use across all aspects of a young person's life i.e. health, sexual health, risky behaviour, safeguarding, anti social

behaviour etc. The DCSF have now published their Youth Alcohol Action Plan, which has clear national priority actions in relation to alcohol interventions which we will ensure are delivered in Nottinghamshire.

9. **Quality of delivery / provision** – the DAAT Partnership agrees that drug and alcohol education should be delivered by those that have adequate training and knowledge and there is a range of training and resources available for professionals to attend. Nottinghamshire County have had low engagement of teachers on the national accredited course and this is being reviewed.
10. **Overall lead** – We are pleased to announce that the Substance Use Consultant post, currently commissioned through the DAAT Partnership, will be part of mainstream Children and Young People's Partnership provision from 1 October 2008.
11. **DARE programme** – DARE have made considerable progress in altering aspects of their delivery to enable a more teacher led approach, which also assists with resource issues faced by many external education providers. The DAAT Partnership continues to support DARE as one of a range of external education providers.
12. **Review of progress** – the DAAT Partnership would be happy to support the Select Committee in a review of the progress against these recommendations from January 2009.

We hope that this provides you with an overview of the DAAT Partnership's continuing commitment to drug and alcohol education for young people, their families and professionals and evidences our determination to work closely with the County Council to ensure the best possible substance misuse services including the best possible drugs and alcohol education..

Yours sincerely



**JOHN BERRIDGE**  
Chair, DAAT

cc YP JCG Members

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05 September 2008

John Berridge  
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Dear Mr Berridge

**Drugs Education Review Final report – January 2008**

Thank you for your response to the County Council's scrutiny review of Drugs Education, dated 13 August, which Councillor Llewellyn-Jones, Chair of the Select Committee has forwarded to me.

Your response to the recommendations and continuing commitment to drug and alcohol education for young people by the DAAT have been noted and the information will be included in the progress report requested by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in January 2009.

Once again thank you for your contribution to the select committee and should you have any queries about the review please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Helen Lee  
Scrutiny Officer