

Substance Misuse Strategy Group

Intensive Youth Support to Prevent Substance Misuse in Priority Localities

Prepared by: Laurence Jones, Group Manager, Targeted Support and Youth Justice, Nottinghamshire County Council

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT:

- 1.1 This report presents the business case for investing a portion of the amount from previous substance misuse under-spend, now kept in a ring fenced reserve, on projects to reduce the likelihood of young people commencing problematic substance misuse. The proposal would be to commission two Junior Youth Inclusion Support Programmes in identified hot-spots.

2.0 BACKGROUND:

- 2.1 The main aim of the project would be preventing vulnerable young people, aged 8-12 years, from becoming substance misusers in the future. As the same causal factors for substance misuse are also seen in the risks of offending, school non-attendance and teenage pregnancy the project will have secondary aims of reducing these factors.
- 2.2 It would be proposed to commission a service from the voluntary/community sector for a project in a discrete geographical area. The model would be a lightly modified version of the Junior Youth Inclusion Programme model, which has a set of quality standards and is evidenced in terms of its impact.
- 2.3 The principal aim of a Junior Youth Inclusion Programme (JYIP) is to reduce and prevent the involvement of children and young people aged 8 to 12 years in behaviour that could result in their social exclusion. It seeks to achieve this by providing those children and young people who are most at risk of this with a range of activities designed to reduce the impact of those factors most associated with exclusion, and to enhance those 'protective' factors that reduce its likelihood.
- 2.4 The JYIP ensures that any child or young person referred to it only participates after their full, informed consent, and that of their parent or carer has been obtained, and that this is given on an entirely voluntary basis. Participants have the right to withdraw from the programme at any point without prejudice (i.e. he or she could re-engage at a later, perhaps more appropriate time in their lives).
- 2.5 The JYIP ensures that it focuses its work on a 'Core Group' of children and young people aged 8 to 12 years who are identified by two or more partner agencies as being those who are:
- most at risk of involvement in substance misuse, offending and/or anti-social behaviour
 - most at risk of exclusion from education
 - behaving in ways that require a multi-agency response.
- In order to engage this Core Group, the JYIP may also need to engage their peers in the neighbourhood.
- 2.6 The JYIP is committed to involving children, young people and families in planning activities and participating in all aspects of programme delivery and review. This is shown through policies and standards being in place that foster participation on an equal opportunity basis and that is proportional to age and maturity.
- 2.7 The JYIP recognises the paramount importance of the needs of the child or young person. It is

committed to safeguarding the health and well-being of those engaged in JYIP activities at all times. All JYIP activities are based on assessment of the child or young person's needs, in line with the Common Assessment Framework Guidance and informed by knowledge of the risk and protective factors associated with social exclusion. Effective assessment requires the establishment of a strong information-sharing protocol between JYIP partner agencies.

2.8 Identification of appropriate young people can come from the full range of local voluntary and statutory agencies. Relationship with schools, local policing and YOTs will be key.

2.9 The proposal would be to tender for services for a three year period. As this would be a competitive tender it is not possible to state the exact cost but looking at projects elsewhere a ball park figure would be £100,000 per project per year. For two projects, running for a minimum 3 year commitment, the total cost would be estimated at £600,000. There is a developed market for JYIP activity with a number of experienced national providers and a history of grass roots organisations also successfully running schemes.

	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16
Project One	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
Project Two	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
Total	£200,000	£200,000	£200,000

Proposed Geographical Areas for Consideration

2.10 JYIP projects work best when focused on a discrete geographical area such as a large housing estate. The following areas have been identified as the most in need of such a project.

Manton, Worksop

- Ryton Park Primary School, serving Manton has 194 (35%) young people of the of its 559 children on frees school meals.
- South East Worksop is a child poverty hot-spot and a Partnership Plus area for the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.
- The area has been highlighted in previous substance misuse needs assessments.

Coxmoor, Ashfield

- Morvern Park Primary has 125 (35%) young people of the of its 360 children on frees school meals.
- South Kirkby is a child poverty hot-spot and a Partnership Plus area for the Safer Nottinghamshire Board.
- The area has been highlighted in previous substance misuse needs assessments.

3.0 OUTCOMES:

3.1 As with all early intervention projects proving the success of outcomes can take time. It would be proposed to look at performance during the length of the project but also for an extended period post-project (allowing for data protection legislation and data retention guidance, approximately 7 years).

The following measures are proposed:

	Project Measures	Longitudinal Measures
Substance Misuse Measures	% JYIP cohort reporting onset of substance misuse % JYIP cohort requiring a substance misuse intervention	% JYIP cohort reporting onset of substance misuse % JYIP cohort requiring a substance misuse intervention
Proxy Measures	% change of JYIP cohort in relation to school attendance % JYIP cohort entering the youth justice system or re-offending	% change of JYIP cohort becoming NEET % JYIP cohort entering the youth justice system or re-offending % JYIP cohort receiving a custodial sentence % JYIP cohort becoming a parent prior to age 18

4.0 RECOMMENDATIONS:

4.1 The Substance Misuse Strategy Board is asked to;

- Consider committing £600,000 from the reserves for two JYIP projects, with a duration of three years, on the Manton and Coxmoor estates.