

Membership

Councillors

- Ged Clarke (Chair)
- Fiona Asbury (Vice Chair)
- Michael Bennett
- Steve Carroll
- John Clarke
- Barrie Cooper
- Mike Cox
- Jim Creamer
- Bob Cross
- Vincent Dobson
- Rod Kempster
- Geoff Merry
- Tom Pettengell
- Wendy Quigley
- Alan Rhodes
- Keith Walker
- Brian Wombwell

● absent

Officers

Paul Davies – Governance Officer
Matthew Garrard - Senior Scrutiny Officer
Helen Lee – Scrutiny Officer
Ashley Jackson – Researcher
Phil Bradley - Service Head - Mental Health & Learning Disability, Adult Social Care and Health Department
Chris Harrison - Head of SEN Strategic Services, Children and Young People Department

Also in Attendance

Tammy Coles - NHS Nottinghamshire County
Charlie Keeney - NHS Nottinghamshire County

1. Minutes of the previous meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 March 2010 were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

2a. Membership

It was noted that Councillor Chris Winterton had been appointed to replace Councillor Steve Carroll.

2b. Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael Bennett and Wendy Quigley.

3. Declarations of interest

There were no declarations of interests.

4. Alcohol

Tammy Col, NHS Nottinghamshire County gave a presentation on the PCT's approach to tackling health problems arising from alcohol misuse. She referred to the costs to the local NHS estimated at £23m, to the rising trends of alcohol-related illness, and to the varying pattern of misuse across the county. The PCT was developing ambitious, evidence-based strategic initiative plans with targeted interventions, focused on prevention, managing risk and treatment. Ms Cole and Mr Keeney responded to members' questions and comments:

- The alcohol treatment requirement (ATR) existed to divert alcohol misusers from offending. It involved assessment by the Probation Service, but was not greatly used.
- Was any work planned on the streets of city and town centres? Such work was best carried out with partners. In Nottingham, the Early Doors project had police and ambulance service staff giving safe drinking advice in the early evening. An equivalent project was under consideration for Mansfield. The PCT was also keen to tackle the problem of people drinking at home before setting out.
- There were some signs of progress, with a slight reduction in the number of admissions arising directly from alcohol misuse.
- Impact of extended licensing hours and cheap supermarket alcohol? The NHS was left to deal with the consequences of cheap and readily available alcohol. Admissions related to alcohol were spread over a longer period than previously, from 7 pm to 4 am.
- Work with schools on under-age drinking was part of the personal and social education curriculum. Broxtowe Youth Council had done some excellent work. DARE also covered alcohol misuse. However, there was little sign of such education affecting young people's behaviour. Some schools in the healthy schools programme did specific work with parents, but again, the message was difficult to get over.
- Alcohol consumption was related to access, affordability and attitude. An individual's affluence would affect what sort of alcoholic drink was consumed.

- There were costs arising from detaining drunken people in overnight custody. The City Council had issued a great number of licences to premises.

It was agreed to note the work being undertaken to reduce hospital admissions due to alcohol misuse, and to request further information about the costs to the NHS and partners arising from alcohol misuse (including the cost to the police of custody and the possibility of charging for this).

5. Support to Young People in Transition to Adult Services

As an introduction to the forthcoming review of support to young people in transition from children's to adult services, Phil Bradley and Chris Harrison explained the services available to young people with disabilities. They replied to members' questions and comments:

- There had been no recent research of young people's experiences. However, some research by the university and Mencap some years ago had been positive. An indirect measure might be how many young people were in education, employment or training.
- Private providers would set up small residential units in locations where they felt there was a market. Residents might be placed by neighbouring authorities, and not necessarily by Nottinghamshire County Council. It was hoped that establishments gave the right support to residents to prevent disruptive behaviour. There would however always be a degree of risk.
- Although the rate of statements of special educational needs was low in Nottinghamshire, by providing support to the other categories of young people listed in the report, the county council reached the same percentage of young people as other authorities with higher rates of statementing.

It was agreed to establish a review group of 8-9 members, chaired by Councillor Asbury, to review support to young people in transition to adult services.

6. Final Report - Access to GP Services and Inequalities

Helen Lee introduced the final report of the review group, which had not found a link between problems with access to GP services and inequalities. The PCTs and LINKs were undertaking much work on accessibility already.

It was suggested that final reports include the names of members involved in the review.

It was agreed to note the final report.

7. Programme of Work

The programme of work for future meetings was agreed, with the addition of further information on alcohol misuse mentioned above.

The meeting closed at 11.40 am.

CHAIR

Ref: m_12april10