

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR(2) –13-06(p3)

Date: Wednesday 4 October 2006

Time: 9.30am – 12.30pm

Venue: Senedd, National Assembly for Wales

Title: Prevention Work by P.D.A.C.

Powys Drugs & Alcohol Centres is the main treatment provider for substance misuse in Powys. P.D.A.C. is also actively involved in prevention work in line with the SMAT action plan.

The SMAT sets the agenda and monitors activity against its Action Plan on a quarterly basis. The SMAT established sub-groups in line with the Welsh Strategy "Tackling substance misuse in Wales together: a partnership approach" in 2005. The Prevention sub-group is comprised of partners from PDAC, health, education, youth services.

A variety of approaches and settings can be utilised with a prevention programme aimed at children and young people. A partnership approach is needed encompassing all of those listed to tackle the prevention agenda.

The Prevention sub-group aims to 'help children, young people and adults resist substance misuse in order to achieve their full potential - through a series of actions;

Mobile unit purchased through SMAPF capital monies

This unit is available to all SMAT partners and was launched at the Royal Welsh Show. P.D.A.C. youth workers were then present at the Young Persons Village, along with the mobile unit, providing information, advice, harm reduction interventions such as supply of condoms and fresh water. The unit has also been utilised by the YOT and been present at several events throughout Powys providing information and advice on substance misuse issues.

Training programme

P.D.A.C. has developed a training programme on substance misuse open to all SMAT partner agencies. The training is designed to help people identify substances and substance misuse and how to act accordingly. All courses have been fully booked up to December 06 and the feedback has been very positive. As well as this PDAC ensures that all staff are up to date on their knowledge of substance misuse through a staff Induction programme and ongoing training

Dissemination of information

PD.A.C. has identified appropriate materials on substance misuse including its own brochures and posters and these have been disseminated through P.D.A.C. projects, training courses, youth clubs and schools via PD.A.C. Youth Workers, Health Promotion and Police Liaison Officers

Website

P.D.A.C. launched its own website earlier in 06. The website provides people with information and advice on substance misuse issues, contact details as well as links to other relevant websites

Diversiory activities

P.D.A.C. is developing a diversionary activities programme allowing clients the opportunity to spend their time more productively and giving them the confidence to try new things with an aim to them reaching their full potential.

DIP programme

P.D.A.C. is the current contract holders for delivering the Drug Intervention Programme in Powys. As well as the arrest referral scheme providing prevention work the programme is designed to reduce re offending.

Partnership working (PDAC with other organisations).

Schools programme – P.D.A.C., Health and the Police Schools liaison Officers have organised a pilot project for October 06 with a view to reaching all of year 9 in one high school in one day. This will provide this year group with advice and information on substance misuse as seen by the agencies involved. If successful it is hoped to roll this pilot out across Powys. The mobile unit will also be on site that day.

A Peer Education programme in 4 High Schools – the PDAC youth worker was involved in the development of the materials. Co-ordinated via NPHS

Prevention strategy / action plan to be developed, incorporating a service mapping exercise to identify current actions and potential gaps in services – to be completed by end November 06.

Schools substance misuse survey commissioned by SMAT, undertaken by Dyfed Powys Police - reports to be available in December. Previous survey indicated that Powys below Home Office figures. However, 2004 report highlighted that biggest substances used by young people were alcohol and cannabis.

School Liaison core programme - 3 Officers covering the Shires of Powys, with a remit to deliver core programme focussing on anti-social behaviour, substance misuse.

Healthy Schools Scheme – this is an opportunity to look at development of policies / provision of Governor training. In addition to ensuring that substance misuse education is included within the curriculum.

Parents' evenings held in High Schools – mixture of awareness raising and general prevention re substance misuse – this is a partnership approach between P.D.A.C, Police & Health.

Work with Powys LEA re schools substance misuse policy – what to do re incidents etc. undertaken via NPHS/Healthy Schools

Additional funding is needed re alcohol prevention (ref ACMD report) so it links to Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage action-group of Community Safety Partnership.

Barriers to delivery in rural area.

Access to health services

Access to leisure services

Isolation

Poor transport links

Reported by young people. The lack of confidentiality and feelings of disempowerment, access to transport, amenities and information prevent people from making use of the limited facilities available. These problems are particularly severe in rural areas and are compounded by low income. As Powys is one of the lowest income areas in the UK this compounds issues even further. This is backed up by Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation & via Powys Youth Forum / Spotlight Debates etc.