

Feedback from the Alcohol Pathway Workshop

30th April 2013, Shire Hall, Hereford

Introduction:

The purpose of this brief report is to provide feedback on the Alcohol Pathway Workshop held on 30th April together with a brief summary of next steps. Public health took on responsibility for commissioning alcohol misuse services in April 2013 and the public health team organised the workshop to bring commissioners and providers of alcohol misuse services together in order to better understand the local commissioner/provider landscape and to determine current service provision and pathway arrangements. Our intention is that this will be just the start of many discussions with stakeholders, partners and colleagues. If you were able to join us on this occasion we hope that, like us, you found the discussions helpful and that you enjoyed the way in which the morning was organised. If you were unable to attend, we hope that this report will give you a good overview of the discussions that took place.

Outcome of discussion:

The following issues and themes emerged from the discussions:

What people wanted to achieve from the workshop:

- Starting the discussion, getting to know each other
- Understanding current service provision & pathways for alcohol misuse service provision – identifying gaps
- Developing a strategic, partnership approach to achieving joined up effective, appropriate services that meet need

Exercise to test where Herefordshire is in commissioning comprehensive alcohol misuse services from Tier 0-4

In this quick exercise we were shown a picture of a race track with start and finish lines and a first aid tent - located on a fork roughly halfway along the track - for those needing "medical attention". Everyone was asked to mark where they thought we were as far as commissioning comprehensive alcohol services was concerned:

- No-one felt that we had already reached the "finishing line"
- Most people felt that we were only part way along the route and that things could "go either way" (ie to the "finishing line" or to the "first aid tent")

What are the other alcohol-related issues that a comprehensive service should address?

The following themes emerged from this discussion:

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| • Broader social issues and intelligence | • Effective use of resources |
| • Community roles | • Harm reduction including effect on secondary victims |
| • Corporate responsibility | • Links to wider healthcare services |
| • Critical health needs | • Social norms and local culture |
| • Education and prevention | • Strategic approach |

Three working groups were asked to map existing alcohol misuse service pathways as accurately as possible and to highlight any gaps

Some of the key themes that emerged from this were:

- Gaps/potential gaps and risks relating to Tier 4 services

- Other gaps/potential gaps include alcohol arrest referral; knowledge of existing services; access for some to existing services
- The importance of a whole system & joined up approach
- The importance of a person-centred approach & the need to address issues which influence alcohol use eg housing, employment
- The importance of prevention – and including prevention relating to children & young people
- The potential to use legislative levers
- The role of the 3rd sector, communities, families & carers
- Joined up services across the tiers

Reflections on the workshop and on what should happen next:

In the final feedback session, participants listed their comments on the workshop and identified a range of “greatest wishes for what should happen next”. Common themes included:

- The need for change, maintaining momentum & avoiding inertia
- Working together and having a joined up approach
- Understanding the individuals and meeting need
- Making use of the voluntary & community sector
- Role of community development
- Establishing an alcohol commissioning group
- Integrated care pathways
- Thinking about the health and the safety of the county
- The role of court-ordered alcohol treatment

Next Steps...

We are keen to maintain the momentum and to build on the conversations outlined above. Although colleagues from Public Health England were unable to join us for the workshop, we have had the opportunity since then to discuss the support that is available from them in relation to improving alcohol (and drug) service outcomes, and in particular in relation to focusing on recovery.

Our next steps include:

- continuing to work as part of the alcohol harm reduction group and supporting the future development of this as a multi-agency stakeholder group with the aim of reducing alcohol-related harm across the county
- establishing a commissioner forum for alcohol misuse services
- further work to review and, where appropriate, to redesign local alcohol misuse services and pathways, building on the work done at the workshop
- working with Public Health England and local partners to shift the focus to recovery-based outcomes (for alcohol and drug services), including running a session with PHE colleagues to explore this

Thank you

Finally – we want to thank everyone who took part in the workshop for contributing to the success of the session. We hope that you found it as useful and stimulating as we did. We hope that those who were unable to come along will still find something of interest in this report. We look forward to working with you all in the future.

Alison Merry, Consultant in Public Health
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