

Item No. 8.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 September 2010	Meeting Name: Corporate Parenting Committee
Report title:		Young Peoples Substance Misuse (YPSM) Commissioning Update	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Children's Services	

RECOMMENDATION(S)

1. To inform members of the progress of the Specialist Young Peoples Substance Misuse service and update members of the policy implications and strategic alignment of the work.
2. To ask the Committee to contribute to the forthcoming needs assessment beginning in November 2010, which will inform the 2011-12 YPSM Treatment Plan and so ensure that the needs of Looked after Children are specifically considered.
3. To receive the draft 2011-12 YPSM Treatment Plan for comment prior to its' presentation to the Southwark's Children & Families Trust (formerly Young Southwark) and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

National Background

4. A key aim under the Every Child Matters (ECM) 'Be Healthy' outcome for children and young people is to encourage young people to choose not to take illegal drugs.
5. Department for Education and the National Treatment Agency require Drug and Alcohol Action Teams and children's services to work together to improve outcomes for young people and their families and the community, as part of an overall strategy for meeting children and young people's needs.
6. Young people's services must be fully committed to identifying drug misuse in young people and intervening before the problem becomes acute, building on this through the ECM: Change for Children programme so that more can be done to prevent drug misuse earlier on, preventing today's young people from becoming tomorrow's problem drug users, a central aim of the government's drug strategy.

Local Background

7. The 2010/11 YPSM Treatment Plan has been developed following a comprehensive needs assessment process and was been signed off and agreed by the Director of Environment and Housing (Gill Davies) and the Strategic Director of Children's Services (Romi Bowen)
8. The Young Person Substance Misuse Joint Commissioning Group is made up of senior leads from Children Services and Southwark DAAT. This group is responsible for all strategic and commissioning decision relating to young people's substance misuse treatment provision. The YPSM Group reports to the Southwark's Children & Families Trust (formerly Young Southwark) and the Drug and Alcohol Action Team Board, a sub group of the Safer Southwark Partnership.

9. Until 2009, YPSM provision in Southwark was provided by a Virtual Team of seven funded posts across the Youth Offending service (YOS), the Children Looked After Team (CLA) and Children's and Adolescents Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Community Drug Education Project (CDEP). Following a needs assessment and consultation with a range of stakeholders, including young people, it was agreed that a dedicated young person's service to reach out to all young people in need of substance misuse advice, support and treatment across the borough was required.
10. Needs assessment work identified particularly the early intervention needs of the very large numbers of 13-17 year olds in Southwark who are using cannabis and alcohol and need interventions to prevent immediate and future harms.
11. After a comprehensive tendering process, the new contract was awarded to Blenheim CDP (BCDP) who was already well known in Southwark for running expert and successful substance misuse services for individuals over the age of 18. Blenheim CDP have also demonstrated their ability and commitment to engaging young people in service design and review and to positively continuing needs assessment work with young people to ensure the service best meets the needs of all young people in need in Southwark.
12. The new service launched in April 2010 and is currently based at Cator Street SE15. This is an interim arrangement with the service relocating to its permanent base at Crampton Street SE17 in December 2010.

Children Looked After

13. In 2008/9 data from treatment service told us that there were 21 recorded adults in treatment for substance misuse with dependant children.
14. In 2010 Children Services told us that from February 2008 to July 2009, 120 children and young people were subject to care proceedings. In 29 of these cases substance misuse was identified as a contributory factor. This represents substance misusers being implicated in 24% of all care proceedings during this period. In addition, of those 29 cases, 9 parents also had a mental health problem and 12 were living in a situation where there were concerns about domestic violence. In one case learning difficulties were also a factor. In the majority of the 29 cases, the child was under 5 years old and 12 of the cases concerns arose prior to birth.
15. The number of children in care with an identified with significant substance misuse need is particularly low; however there are high levels of children in need of 'Brief Interventions'. This may be due to data collection and reporting problems
16. BCDP has received 2 referrals from Children Looked After Team in quarter one.
17. BCDP are working closely with Southwark Children Looked After Team developing referral pathways, information sharing protocols and an integrated screening tool. Work is also underway to provide joint drop-in services from September 2010.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

Policy Implications

18. The 2010/11 YPSM Treatment Plan is driven by the Department for Education and the National Treatment Agency.
19. The work within the YPSM Treatment Plan is aligned and linked to various Strategies across Community Safety and Children Services, some are listed below:
 - Southwark's Children and Young People's Plan 2010-2013
 - SSP Rolling Plan

- Southwark DAAT Treatment Plan
- SSP Alcohol Strategy 2010-12
- Young Southwark's Strategy (13 to 19 year)
- Youth Justice Business Plan

Financial implications

20. At this stage there are no new financial implications arising from the YPSM Treatment Plan, beyond officer's support/time to undertake the development activities outlined in the plan.

Community impact statement

21. The new service will have an impact on children and young people accessing treatment services, which in turn will have a positive impact on the wider ECM outcome areas. These areas include education and training outcomes, as the service supports young people with access and retention, consequently raising the attainment of underachieving groups. The service also works with families, by providing support to parents and carers.
22. The service provided by BCDP will improve the outcome for all children, young people and their families affected by substance misuse.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Young peoples Substance misuse treatment plan	160 Tooley Street, London SE1 2TZ	Dionne Cameron (020 7525 7101)

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix A	Insight Southwark Activity Report Quarter 1 2010/2011

AUDIT TRAIL

Lead Officer	Rory Patterson, Assistant Director Children's Services	
Report Author	Dionne Cameron, Young Persons Substance Misuse Coordinator	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 September 2010	
Key Decision	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments Sought	Comments included
Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	No	No
Finance Director	No	No
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Officer	14 September 2010	