

**NORTH YORKSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**CORPORATE AND PARTNERSHIPS OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**  
**COMMITTEE**

**31 JANUARY 2011**

**DRUGS AND ALCOHOL COMMISSIONING: IN-DEPTH REVIEW**

**1.0 Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To introduce discussion on the involvement of this Committee in work being undertaken by the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee in relation to:
- a. a review of the functions and effectiveness of the Substance Misuse Board;
  - b. the corrosive effects of substance misuse in communities; and
  - c. future work in relation to the balance between commissioning of drug treatment schemes and alcohol prevention, intervention and treatment.
- 1.2 To invite the Committee to nominate Members to attend a workshop on Thursday 24 February.

**2.0 Introduction**

- 2.1 The Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee has now reviewed the effectiveness of what was then the DAAT, now the Substance Misuse Board. This multi-agency partnership is responsible for commissioning drugs and alcohol treatment services in the County area.
- 2.2 Seamus Breen, now Chair of the Substance Misuse Board, has reported on the nature and scale of substance abuse in the County previously to this Committee and what the Board does to meet those challenges. You asked for reports to come to Committee meetings as developments occur so that you could also take a view on the extent of involvement you wanted to have.

**3.0 Progress of the Care and Independence Overview and Scrutiny Committee's Work**

- 3.1 The Committee responded to concerns about the leadership and direction of the DAAT Board by reviewing governance, contractual arrangements with providers and action plans. The Committee was

impressed at the recent progress made and highlighted two key findings –

- There is strong strategic level commitment from partner organisations to the objectives of the Board.
- There is demonstrable evidence of activity and change, which would benefit communities and provider organisations.

3.2 The remaining areas for review are around how different stakeholders, especially providers and users of carers, understand the local landscape pattern and the aims of services and pressures faced. This is reflected in the attached project plan

#### **4.0 Future Work**

4.1 For the medium and long-term the Care and Independence Scrutiny Committee always intended to consider broader, more thematic issues around the balance of commissioning of services to address drugs and alcohol misuse.

4.2 For that reason colleagues from the Board together with provider organisations have been asked to return on Thursday 24 February 2011 at 10.30am so that a more detailed assessment might be completed. This aim of this workshop is to find out what it feels like on the ground for practitioners and representatives of provider organisations and service users in the County area.

4.3 This will also help to shape the next phase of this review by discussing

- ❖ What evidence is there that the Board's actions are improving things and what has been the reaction of stakeholders, providers, users and carers? Do these agencies and stakeholders share the Substance Abuse Board's view of its success?
- ❖ how the Committee moves the alcohol commissioning intervention and prevention agenda forward including -
- ❖ Looking at the balance in commissioning activity between drug and alcohol treatment; what would an effective transformation of services look like and how might we plan for delivery?
- ❖ What is the bigger picture around intervention and the notion that more money spent on intervention and preventative services, especially on combating alcohol abuse, benefits other services 'upstream' (especially Health) .

- ❖ How are elected Members to be involved as place shapers/community leaders so that as this debate broadens, their expectations are understood?
- ❖ To what extent can the Committee/Elected Members press for these to be priorities for the Director of Public Health especially as public health responsibilities are incorporated within local authorities?

## **5.0 Recommendations**

- 5.1 This Committee may be minded to maintain a strong and continuing interest in this review in the light of its terms of reference and remit around community sustainability.
- 5.2 For that reason the Committee is invited to nominate a representative or representatives to meet on 24 February 2011 at 10.30am with representatives of the Committee and agencies and organisations involved in this agenda.

### **BRYON HUNTER SCRUTINY TEAM LEADER**

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17 January 2011

Background Documents: None

North Yorkshire County Council  
 Care and Independence O&S Committee  
 Drugs and Alcohol  
 Project Plan

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| <b>1.0</b> | <b>BACKGROUND</b>   |
| 1.1.       | Drugs and alcohol misuse is both a major and growing national problem and is seen to impact upon North Yorkshire significantly.   |
| 1.2.       | A Drugs Action team is the formal partnership responsible for delivering the local implementation of the National Drugs Strategy.   |
| 1.3.       | Historically there has been one DAT team covering 2 partnerships – NYCC & CYC. Separation is in train.  |
| 1.4.       | An Independent review of NY partnership performance summer 09 highlighted the failings of the current arrangement(s) and proposed actions with timescales to address poor performance and shortcomings.   |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>PURPOSE OF WORK</b>  |
| 2.1.       | The rationale for work by Scrutiny Members' on this stems from their community leadership role. Councillors, as democratically elected strategic leaders are encouraged to look across all public services, not just those that are the responsibility of the authority they represent.   |
| 2.2.       | The Committee has chosen this topic essentially to ensure that the recommendations are acknowledged; are recognised; are indeed owned by the DAAT Board and that progress, according to the timescale outlined is maintained. The justification (if any be needed) is quite clearly the community is not being well served by the current arrangement, nor has it been able to influence the agenda |
| 2.3.       | These are the "short term" objectives of any review, the Committee intends to go on to consider broader more thematic concerns around the balance of activity between drugs awareness and treatment and alcohol, which is seen by most to be the more urgent and wider problem for North Yorkshire.   |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>MEMBERSHIP</b>   |
| 3.1.       | Yet to be defined number of Care and Independence Scrutiny Members - involvement of Corporate and Partnerships Scrutiny to be determined.   |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>SCOPE - Phase one</b>  |
| 4.1.       | Focus around the strategic assessment on the fitness of the DAAT to deliver against its core objectives.  |
| 4.2.       | Evaluate whether 30 recommendations that emerged from the Strategic review are acknowledged and owned by the DAAT Board and that progress, according to the timescale outlined, is maintained.  |

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| 4.3.       | Assess whether change had not just happened but that the results for the community were positive   |   |  |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>OBJECTIVES</b>  | <b>ACTION</b>   | <b>TIMESCALE</b>   |
| 5.1.       | Seek reassurance of that strategic level commitment from leaders of partner organisations  | Initial meet informally with leaders of organisations that represent the partnership.   | September 2010<br>informal meeting<br>Scrutiny Members<br>and reps DAAT<br>Board and NTA |
| 5.2.       | Identify and assess demonstrable evidence of change.   | Examine information on Action taken – report/briefing to Elected member group.<br>Seamus B and Amanda Bloor   | October 2010 -<br>date to be agreed  |
| 5.3.       | Effectiveness with which implementation of the recommendations being approached  | Meetings (on site?) with <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ DAAT Team</li> <li>▪ Practitioners on the ground.</li> <li>▪ Representatives of the provider organisations in the county area.</li> </ul> | November -<br>December 2010 -<br>dates to be agreed                                      |
| 5.4.       | Understanding of Local Landscape, pattern of and access to services and pressures faced  |   |  |
| 5.5.       | Involvement/Engagement service users   | <b>To be determined</b>   | January 2010   |
| 5.6.       | Initial findings re Progress of DAT etc  |   |  |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>SCOPE - Amalgamating Phases Two and Three</b>   |   |  |
| 6.1.       | Review of the structure of how the corrosive effects of substance abuse in the North Yorkshire is tackled in the county area. This would entail a wider thematic view of the service delivery arrangements in the County; were the correct range of services in place; were funding arrangements sensible and working well and an assessment of the effectiveness of multi-agency working. |   |  |
| 6.2.       | Wider analysis of the balance of activity and relationship between alcohol and drug use in our communities – <b>especially in relation to alcohol commissioning agenda, with the aim of identifying real and significant service improvement and potential savings opportunities.</b>  |   |  |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>OBJECTIVE</b>   | <b>ACTION</b>   | <b>TIMESCALE</b>   |
| 7.1.       | Role of wider partnership agencies - Feed in understand relationship to total place  | Connection with Total Place Pilots – meeting/representation/visit?  | January/February   |
| 7.2.       | Desktop research - compare other DATs understanding of national picture etc Role of the NYSP   | Another Meeting with organisations that represent the partnership.  | February   |

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| 7.3.       | Relative spending/priority in relation to treatment and  |  |                      |
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| 7.4.       | Considerations of options relating to reducing the social and financial costs of alcohol misuse in a sustainable and long term way |  |                      |
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| 7.5.       | Reach Conclusions  | Draft Initial account - agreed by members and shared with key DAT players. | End February 2010    |
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| <b>8.0</b> | <b>COMMITTEE POSITION REACHED</b>  | <b>REPORT TO C &amp; I</b>   | <b>17 MARCH 2010</b> |