

Social Justice and Regeneration Committee

SJR 02-05 (p.1)

Date:	Thursday 3 February 2005
Venue:	National Assembly for Wales
Title:	Approaches to Treatment in Caerphilly County Borough

Within the County Borough, commissioners and service providers acknowledged that alcohol misuse is as great a problem as drug misuse and that services are planned and commissioned accordingly.

Approaches to treatment

1. Partnership

Services are planned and delivered on a partnership basis so that people misusing substances have access to a wide range of treatment and services. Inter agency co-operation and joint working is encouraged.

2. Commissioning group

It has been agreed to develop a joint commissioning group to map the need for services, identify priorities, commission and monitor provision across the health and social care for substance misuse as well as the issue of crime and disorder associated with substance misuse.

3. Local Substance Misuse Action Team (LSMAT) structure

The LSMAT is a multi agency responsible to the Community Safety Partnership for the strategic planning, design, delivery and monitoring of services to tackle substance misuse within the County Borough. The LSMAT sets the strategic direction in line with National Assembly policies, examines and ratifies the recommendations of the commissioning group and two sub groups in accordance with local strategy and evidenced based need.

4. Sub groups

Two sub groups have been established under the LSMAT, one focusing on education and prevention and the other on treatment and rehabilitation.

5. Different approaches

- a. Substance Misuse Resource Centre
- b. Residential rehabilitation
- c. Pan Gwent detox unit
- d. Wide range of provider agencies
- e. Beacon project
- f. GP shared care
- g. DTTOs/Arrest referral
- h. Through Care & Aftercare
- i. Dual diagnosis
- j. Children of parents with substance misuse problems

6. User forum

The user forum was set up in November 2004, and currently includes 18 residents of Caerphilly who misuse substances. The LSMAT Action Plan is founded on the belief that all users have ready access to a range of local treatment services when they are needed, and we intend to make best use of existing resources and to provide better coordinated services to tackle substance misuse in the county borough. The user Forum was set up to ensure that this happens. They are also consulted in the commissioning process, and are given the opportunity to verbally evaluate the services that are currently being provided.

Barriers

1. Services based outside Caerphilly Borough

For historical reasons, some agencies providing services within the County Borough are still based in Newport, outside the County Borough. Accommodation within the County Borough has always been difficult to obtain. Plans are well advanced to overcome this difficulty with every agency committed to working in partnership from a resource centre providing local access.

2. Public opposition

Previous attempts by agencies such as Drugaid to develop a treatment centre have led to widespread and vociferous opposition from local residents. It is acknowledged that providing services for people with alcohol and especially drug misuse does raise apprehension, concern and fears within the public of discarded needles, misusers selling drugs to children etc.

3. Natural tensions between provider agencies

Although there is a commitment to involving a wide range of specialist provider agencies in the provision of services to promote choice and cover the range of identified needs, it must be recognised that agencies do have different approaches and do need to attract funding to survive. This tension has to be managed.

4. Level 3 & 4 services

The NHS Trust service, the Gwent Specialist Substance Misuse Service, is

in the process of being redesigned with a new service specification

following difficulties in service provision. Commissioning level 3 and 4

services in Gwent require a partnership between County Boroughs. An agreement and shared understanding has not always been easy to reach.

5. Developing a shared understanding of commissioning

Whilst work is being undertaken to develop a joint commissioning framework, difficulties are being experienced with involving every stakeholder group. Discussions to date have demonstrated a lack of awareness of the commissioning process, the need to map and co-ordinate data and information across agencies and the confusion between purchasing strategies and a commissioning strategy.

6. Lack of GPs involved in GP shared care – there has been limited interest amongst GPs in becoming more involved in the delivery of substance misuse services. Currently, a Local Enhanced Service for GP shared care is being developed.

7. Transport – Caerphilly County Borough has all the difficulties of making services accessible in a rural/semi rural setting. Whilst work is being undertaken to improve local access to services, additional thought must be given to encouraging individuals into treatment through the use of bus passes. The concept of using a mobile bus to take services into areas has not succeeded with drug misusers reporting lack of anonymity as the main reason for not making use of the facility.

8. Not an adequate number of pharmacies involved in supervised methadone services.

9. Lack of co-ordination – the problem of co-ordinating treatment approaches has been overcome through the appointment and work of the substance misuse co-ordinator.