

Developing Well

Substance Misuse in Children and Young People

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Introduction

[Public Health Outcomes Framework](#) requires a mixture of outcomes for Children and Young People experiencing substance misuse issues.

The overall increased healthy life expectancy, taking account of the health quality as well as the length of life starts with a successful implementation of early interventions once an identified case is referred.

First-time entrants to the youth justice system are to be reduced; the opportunity to work with schools, the Pupil Referral Unit and other professionals can assist with the desired reduction in numbers.

Other requirements include: reduce waiting times into treatment; the provision of psycho-social interventions; decrease the number of young people being admitted to hospital with substance misuse related incidents; increase the number the numbers of successful completions of treatment.

What do we know?

Substance Misusing Children and Young People in West Berkshire can access (self or professional referral) West Berkshire Council's in-house treatment service, The Edge.

There is full range of treatment available from a central location in Newbury and satellite services are provided at specified safe and secure premises eg schools, colleges, GP practices.

Treatment provision includes:

- Access to specialist opiate substitute prescribing
- Individual key work
- Parent and carers support
- Specialist counselling
- Education programmes
- Community and in-patient detoxification programmes
- Needle exchange

- Harm reduction service

There is a successful Transitional Policy between The Edge and Turning Point that enables dual support for 18 to 24 year olds whose pathway is eased into adult treatment.

As with the adult population, when young people are engaged in treatment, they use less illegal and legal substances, commit less crime, improve their health, and manage their lives better. Preventing early drop out and keeping people in treatment long enough to benefit contributes to these improved outcomes. As people progress through treatment, the benefits to them, their families and their community start to accrue.

What is the data telling us?

The ongoing trend of a reduction in cannabis and alcohol by young people in West Berkshire continues. However there is an increasing trend of methadone and designer drug use. Several clients have been hospitalised suffering from the effects of use e.g. bladder loss, memory loss, kidney failure

In terms of the outcomes of drug treatment, data is drawn from the [Treatment Outcomes Profile \(TOP\) NDTMS](#), which tracks the progress substance misusers make in treatment. This includes information on rates of abstinence from drugs and statistically significant reductions in drug use and injecting, and those successfully leaving treatment with secure housing and in work.

Overall we have very successful in-house services in The Edge and The YOT, there is a strong partnership support base, with the need of minor changes.

As West Berkshire is predominantly rural, the lack of public transport is the predominant cause of inequality for accessing treatment provision.

Requirements:

- Additional support for Parents and Carers
- Additional Rural Service Provision
- Increased referrals from GPs, Schools and CAMHS

Recommendations for consideration

- Increased specialist accommodation support
- Increased referrals from GPs, Schools and CAMHS
- Increased access to transport provision

National and local strategies

The current government's 2010 Drug and 2012 Alcohol Strategies asks local areas to increase the number of people successfully leaving treatment having overcome dependence, with the focus on Early Interventions regarding Young People.

Locally West Berkshire follows the recommendations contained within the document.

However there are amendments that include: closer working with accommodation providers, enforcement agencies, Children and Young Peoples Directorate, hospitals, Youth Offending Teams (YOT), GP practices, relevant charities and local businesses

It is recognised that although many individuals will require a number of separate treatment episodes over time, most individuals who complete successfully do so within two years of treatment entry.

[Alcohol and Drug misuse prevention measures](#)

[Substance Misusing Parents](#)

[Protocols for Drug and Alcohol Partnerships, Children and Family Services](#)

[National Drug Treatment Monitoring System](#)

[The Edge](#)

Other chapters you might be interested in

Childhood Obesity

Emotional Health and Wellbeing of Children

Oral Health (Children)

Sexual Health and HIV

Teenage Pregnancy

If you have any questions about this chapter, please contact Public Health and Wellbeing Team on publichealthandwellbeing@westberks.gov.uk or 01635 503437