

Substance Misuse Health Needs Assessment (HNA) of Young People in Sefton

Sefton Council - Public Health



Overview

This work was commissioned to help understand the needs of Sefton's children, young people and families around substance misuse.

The health needs assessment (HNA) will be used to inform policy, strategy and support for young people – and has provided an evidence-base for procurement of a new integrated substance misuse service starting in autumn 2017.

What we did

A collaborative team of associates was brought together to deliver the HNA, including [Centre for Public Innovation](#) (CPI) and [Michael Lloyd Research](#) (MLR) staff. Project work included:

- Consultation with a broad range of stakeholders and service users, to determine their views on local drug & alcohol treatment, and other local services.
- Analysis and modeling, using data reported in the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) and comparison against two statistical neighbours in the North West - Wirral and Stockport.

The final report presents need from both a preventative and treatment perspective, as well as wider issues around children and young people affected by substance misuse of a family member or carer.

Outcomes & added value

Feedback from stakeholders highlight:

- The importance of understanding substance misuse provision and future commissioning in the context of the 'toxic trio' issues that permeate the lives of many of the most vulnerable families – namely mental health, domestic abuse and drug and alcohol harm.
- The normalisation of cannabis use locally in recent years, and the perceived wide use of ketamine which appears to be more accessible and affordable.
- The continuing damage that parental/carer substance misuse has on generations of Sefton children and young people – both direct impact (for example in terms of a young person's health) and also indirect impacts on local communities.
- The need for a wrap-around family approach.
- The need for greater awareness and communication between service providers across Sefton.



A summative consultation session was held as part of the [Sefton Every Child Matters \(ECM\) Forum](#), to inform of project findings prior to group work - gathering views from this cross-sector network.

The reporting has been used to inform procurement of an Integrated Young People and Families Substance Misuse Service, operational from October 2017.

More information

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