



Norfolk Needle Exchange and Supervised Consumption Combined Advisory Group

Held: 10.30 a.m., 28th April 2009
Conference Room, Phoenix House, Norwich

Minutes

Present:	Apologies:
Anne-Louise Schofield (<i>Chair</i>) (ALS)	Tony Oram
Paul Brierley (PB)	Sue Graham
Richard Price (RP)	Andi Nunney
Tom Tomkinson (TT)	Neil Howard
Georgina Bacon (GB)	Mark Ash
Tony Dean (TD)	
Paul Duell (PD)	
James Fullam (JF)	
Veronica Nelhams (<i>mins</i>) (VN)	

Item	Subject
1.	<p>Declaration of Interest: None</p>
2.	<p>Apologies for absence and introductions: ALS welcomed everyone to the meeting; apologies were as shown above.</p>
3.	<p>Acceptance of minutes from previous meetings of the Norfolk Needle Exchange and Supervised Consumption Combined Steering Group held on 27th January 2009 (including any confirmation of any part of the minutes exempt under the Fol Act). The minutes were recorded as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on 27th January 2009.</p>
4.	<p>Matters Arising: Jocelyn Pike no longer wanted to receive the NEX meeting papers so it was agreed that an outline of the actions would be sent to JP and Alison Chapman. Action: ALS to send outline of actions to JP and Alison Chapman ALS said that the meeting regarding the pharmacist payment structure would be taking place following NEX – feedback would be given to the group. Action: ALS to feedback to the group information on the pharmacist payment structure PB advised that the NORCAS Homeless Outreach Team do not cover the soup-run with needle exchange but they could see the merit of it. NORCAS are in contact with the CAPS</p>

	<p>Team.</p> <p>PB said that it would be extremely difficult to make the pharmacy list locality based, however, the 100 hours pharmacies were being highlighted and was being updated. The group agreed to see how it works in future.</p> <p>ALS told the group that rather than form a Harm Reduction Governance Group she felt a Service Governance Group would be more appropriate. This group might be time-limited and would look at service governance partnership action plan and to take forward the Harm Reduction Strategy. ALS said that she would be setting up the first meeting soon and invitations will go out shortly.</p> <p>ALS advised the group that the implementation Groups for IDTS in Norwich and Wayland were chaired by the NHS and she was looking how to get a link into the partnership through the JCG.</p> <p>All other actions had been finalised.</p>
5.	<p>Financial Update & Activity Data</p> <p>PB told the group that due to the absence of admin support the financial update was still being worked on, However, he did not feel that there were any problems.</p> <p>PB said that 59,671 packs were distributed in 2008 against 59,752 in 2009 a slight increase of 90 packs. Over the last three years distribution levels of packs had been almost static despite there being a slight increase in the number of outlets.</p> <p>PB told the group that some agencies did not take 'pick & mix' and therefore showed zero. TADS at Hellesdon had seen a drop-off; there was an increase in Matthew Project and TADS Northgate were not busy as far as NEX was concerned. The preferred agency for supplying NEX in Kings Lynn was a pharmacist on London Road rather than at CADS. He also said that both the James Paget and Norfolk & Norwich hospitals tended to use their own needles.</p> <p>PB also said that although Herring House was not an outlet a sharps bin was being provided for them.</p> <p>PB said that a chase-up letter would shortly be going out to pharmacists regarding payments. ALS asked the group whether they should be looking at reducing the amount of time pharmacists had to collect payments after the 6-monthly and annual cut-off dates.</p> <p>PB said that the bins collected date was for 11 months. The Cliniserve contract would be continuing for this year, however, PB felt that this will have to go out to tender for 2010/11.</p> <p>PB, when asked, said that he was not automatically advised on new pharmacy openings so TD and PD agreed to send this advice to PB for all future openings. TD said that a new pharmacy had opened in Watlington.</p>
6.	<p>NEX & Supervised Consumption Co-ordinators – Update</p> <p>PB said that there did not appear to be any problems with NEX or supervised consumption although he did highlight that supervised consumption had gone up by 15% in 2008/09. The annual report will be distributed within the next few weeks.</p> <p>NH is now the budget holder and will be signing off invoices for payment.</p>
7.	<p>NEX and Young People – Update</p> <p>See below – under NICE Guidance Item 11.</p>
8.	<p>Hep B Update</p> <p>PB said that all seemed to be working well and there had been no recent requests any series of jabs.</p>

<p>9.</p>	<p>Inappropriate Sharps disposal</p> <p>PB told the group that the recycling centre at Costessey had been complaining about the number of sharps being found on the conveyor system which meant that they had to keep stopping and starting the machine. This was happening so much that they were thinking of charging the council.</p> <p>PB had been discussing this with Environmental Health and to take a 2 pronged approach to this problem by distributing posters through GP surgeries and by putting flyers into the packs for approx 1 year advising of safe disposal of sharps.</p> <p>RP offered PB the services of the Information Group if he needed any assistance.</p> <p>PB said that there had been a number of complaints about sharps in the Abbey Road area of Thetford – a PCSO had been patrolling the area looking for sharps but none had been seen so far.</p> <p>As stated above Merchants Terrace will shortly be provided with a disposal bin.</p>
<p>10.</p>	<p>Harm Reduction Strategy Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Objective 3, Action 3.9; safer Injecting Courses for Staff PB provides this training as and when requested. However, he has no records of individuals attending. He agreed to go back to the agencies and ask them if they kept records so that he could bring this information together for the next meeting. He was also asked to give an outline of the training given; whether there were any other training needs that could be taken to the Training & Workforce Development Group through Mike Hutchinson. <p>Action: PB to bring together further information for the next meeting which encompasses the number of people trained; the training given and whether there were more formal training requirements needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Objectives 5, Action 5.2 Developing Strategy for secure disposal of injecting equipment ALS said that she felt that this was all in place and that it just meant bringing all the information together in one Strategy document <p>Action: PB to bring together all information for secure disposal of injecting equipment into one document to act as the basis for the strategy.</p>
<p>11.</p>	<p>Terms of Reference Review</p> <p>After reviewing the Terms of Reference the group agreed that point 2.12 should be removed in it's entirety and moved into the service Governance group ToRs with a link into the NEX group.</p> <p>It was also agreed that minor changes would be made to the membership and a note made that any issues would be highlighted to the NHS Norfolk Commissioner and Gt Yarmouth & Waveney NHS Commissioner as they were not attending the group meetings. ALS agreed to see whether anyone else from the NHS should attend.</p> <p>TD and PD said that they might not always both attend the meetings but would co-ordinate attendance and highlight issues between themselves.</p> <p>Contact for queries should also be changed to current JCO.</p> <p>Action: ALS to amend Terms of Reference as agreed by the group.</p>
<p>12.</p>	<p>NICE guidance on Needle Exchange</p> <p>ALS said that the new NICE guidance on needle exchange was not specific about needle exchange for under 18s but PB produced a paper (NTA – Young People Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment – exploring the evidence Jan 2009) which stated that no under 18s should be allowed access to needle exchange unless they have had a full assessment and have a care package in place. It was not anticipated that there would be a clinical</p>

	<p>governance view from NHS Norfolk now that this definitive guidance was in place. It was agreed that Norfolk Guidance should be drawn up and a letter to all pharmacists sent out advising them of this latest guidance. PB to discuss with KH.</p> <p>Action: PB to discuss with KH to development of Norfolk Guidance for needle exchange and the under 18s. PB to draw up letter for pharmacists and send out after agreement with KH.</p> <p>NICE had recently published its public health guidance on the optimal provision of need and syringe programmes among injecting drug users and had included several recommendations. The group worked through each of the recommendations and agreed that Norfolk had already implemented the majority of these. Areas that needed further considerations were as follows: -</p> <p>Recommendation 1 – Planning needs assessment and community engagement, collection of local data estimates. It was agreed that due to the confidential nature of the schemes as they are currently provided that N-DAP would not look to collect the outlined data.</p> <p>Action: JF to ascertain if useful data relating to recommendation 1 could be taken forward through a snap shot piece of research and be useful for the Partnership to take forward.</p> <p>Recommendation 2 – Meeting need – point 4 – encourage identification schemes. It was agreed that the group would consider this point further once more detailed guidance became available.</p> <p>Recommendation 5 – Community pharmacy based NSPs – point 4 – ensure staff have health and safety training. It was agreed within the group that this training was provided but on a rather adhoc basis and that a simple good practice guide made available to all pharmacy staff would be of use. Consideration will be given at the next meeting to request the N-DAP information group to produce this guide.</p> <p>Action: PB to pull together any example of good practices guides that are currently available and bring to the next meeting.</p>
13.	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>There was a request for this group to receive some feedback from the DAAT on the Brief Interventions Training – to be tabled as an agenda item at the next meeting.</p>
14.	<p>Date, time and venue of next meeting:</p> <p>Tuesday ,28th July – 10.30am Phoenix House, Norwich</p> <p>To be Chaired by the Joint Commissioning Officer, Norfolk DAAT.</p>

Copies of Minutes and papers can be obtained from:-

Veronica Nelhams
Administrator
Norfolk DAAT
Phoenix House
Hall Road
Norwich NR4 6DG

Tel: 01603 677577

Email: veronica.nelhams@norfolk.gov.uk