

N-DAP news

Norfolk Drug & Alcohol Partnership

TACKLING
DRUGS
CHANGING
LIVES

Summer 2007 Issue 14



Welcome to your summer 2007 edition of N-DAP news...

The big debate is finally on! The Government has launched a major consultation exercise to determine the goals of the next generation National Drug Strategy.



"Drugs: Our Community, Your Say" poses a series of searching questions about what national priorities to focus on in the future, based on the main areas of the current drug strategy and how they might be developed. In some areas, it gives little away in terms of central Government's view on where next – there seems to be a genuine desire to seek

opinions across a wide spectrum about how to take things forward. In others, there are clear signals of intent. The consultation document and details of the many options for responding can be found at <http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk>. The consultation ends 19 October.

N-DAP is well prepared to respond and play its part in future strategy delivery. There is a big emphasis on the need for effective local partnership working throughout the national consultation document.

The DAAT will be working hard to coordinate an N-DAP response over the summer/autumn. The national consultation coincides nicely with our Planning for the Future work programme, which will help us inform debate around the national strategy on the basis of identified local needs. Combining these with national priorities will give us a robust plan for the future that everyone can sign up to.

So, a busy summer ahead. And while we can't do a lot about the weather, we can continue to make a difference to people's quality of life in Norfolk by reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse – providing we work together. At least there are some things that never change.

Tony Oram,
DAAT Strategy Manager



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New Chair for N-DAP

Harold Bodmer, Director of Adult Social Services, is the new Chairman of the Norfolk Drug and Alcohol Partnership (N-DAP) Chief Officers Group, who are responsible for governing N-DAP.

'I am very pleased to be the new Chair of the N-DAP Chief Officers Group. Norfolk faces a particular challenge because of its size and rural nature. We can only deliver the National Drug Strategy by working in partnership across all the member agencies.

We are very lucky to have a range of excellent drug and alcohol service providers who are able to bring their expertise to the design and delivery of services. The new look newsletter will continue to appear quarterly and will keep you informed about the work of N-DAP'.



Taking the long view

Outcomes Strategy consultation

Nowadays it seems that you cannot plan even a simple, sociable picnic without some form of written strategy clearly setting out aims, objectives and outcomes sought from available budgetary resources. Not only that, but you can be sure that some inspection process or other will ask whether your picnic strategy includes a risk assessment and contingency plan for wasp attack, sand in the sandwiches or ants in the apple juice. Strategy overload is always a risk, and can detract from the importance of doing a good job where it counts most – the frontline.

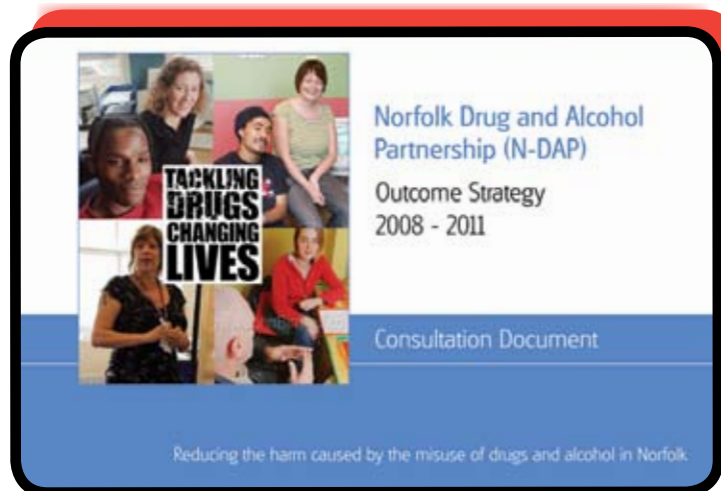
However, there is a need to be clear about what you are doing, why you are doing it and how you can best go about it. It's a tough task, but without clarity, things can drift with important objectives not being reached. Being clear about priorities helps you make best use of scarce resources and constrained capacity. It also helps you to assess how well you are progressing towards desired outcomes and how these fit with the plans of other agencies and partnerships. If you can link all this together, and represent it in pictorial form, so much the better.

As a partnership, we have relied for a long time primarily on the National Drug Strategy (original and updated) to act as the touchstone for all that we do. Rightly so, but we also need to have a clear idea about local priorities and to put the national agenda into a local context. The N-DAP Outcomes Strategy

2008 to 2011 brings together for the first time all our aims, objectives and desired outcomes under one partnership banner. It highlights what we are aiming to do, and what strategies and work plans we have, or need to have in place to do it.

It is the result of a lot of work by all agency members of N-DAP, which started formally with an outcomes focused meeting in November 2006, followed by a Partnership Strategy Day on 26 January 2007, and a plethora of consultations, briefings, meetings and discussions over the last 16 months. All members of the Drug and Alcohol Action Team have worked particularly hard to hone the strategy to something that is comprehensive, yet concise, at one and the same time – no mean feat. For example, the combined work of team and partners identified 121 assorted outcomes, outputs, and actions

along the way. None of these will be lost. They are a rich source of material that will help in the development of the 11 other strategies and 2 delivery plans identified as crucial to the work of the partnership and that collectively add up to our overall strategic 'family tree'.



The Outcomes Strategy was sent out for consultation in late June 2007 by N-DAP Chair, Harold Bodmer. The final date for submission of views and thoughts on the strategy is 5pm, Friday 7 September 2007. Daniel Harry, the DAAT Partnership Liaison Officer, and Tony Oram, the DAAT Strategy Manager are coordinating this phase of the consultation.

If you or your organisation have not received a copy of the consultation document and e-response form, and would like to do so, please contact Elaine Horn at Norfolk DAAT, by e-mail to elaine.horn@norfolk.gov.uk, by telephone on 01603 677577 or by writing to Elaine Horn, Norfolk DAAT, Phoenix House, White Lodge Business Estate, Hall Road, Norwich, NR4 6DG.

Needs assessment and commissioning strategies

Commissioning is a term used to encompass a wide variety of activity. Perhaps the simplest definition is that commissioning is 'planning with money'.

It is this planning which is occupying much of the DAAT's time at present, as needs assessments are starting, progressing or concluding. The outcomes of all the needs assessments will be vital as we work towards getting our commissioning strategies in place for 2008/09.

Assessing the needs of the population you are commissioning for is an integral part of the commissioning cycle. Ahead of the outcomes from the needs assessments, some questions and answers will hopefully provide some more context.

Why are needs assessments important?

There needs to be an evidence-based assessment of the characteristics, needs and harms of Norfolk's problem substance misusing population to ensure that the right services are in place.

Who does needs assessments?

Katie Hammett and Lynn Preston – DAAT Research & Information Officers, do much of the needs analysis work. However, on behalf of N-DAP, the DAAT also commissions the needs assessment work required for forward planning and making projections of future needs. The DAAT is currently working with several organisations on needs assessments – see below.

Adult Treatment

The bulk of the work is being carried out by a team from the UEA, led by Dr. Richard Holland. This will provide us with an assessment of the characteristics, needs and harms associated with Norfolk's problem drug users who are not in treatment.

To supplement this work, the DAAT Research and Information Officers will produce an analysis of National Drug Treatment Monitoring System data, including geographical mapping of services and service users across the county.

Young People

Dr. Victoria Scaife and Professor Margaret O'Brien of the UEA have been commissioned to undertake the young people's needs assessment. They will identify the characteristics, needs and harms associated with young people vulnerable to problematic substance misuse in Norfolk.



Children of parental substance misusers

This work is well underway. The Mental Health Research and Development Unit at the University of Bath will evaluate current provision for substance misusing parents and their children. They will also make recommendations on the most appropriate services, commissioning responsibilities and planning structures for the future.

Alcohol

Also in progress is the alcohol needs assessment being conducted by the Eastern Region Public Health Observatory. This piece of work aims to quantify the alcohol related harms suffered by individuals and their communities in Norfolk and is focused on health and crime.

What happens next?

The outcomes from each needs assessment will be reported to the Adult and Young People's Joint Commissioning Groups and will inform the Commissioning Strategies being drafted during 2007 and consulted on during the first quarter of 2008.

New adult service for North Norfolk

N-DAP have commissioned the Matthew Project to provide a new adult service in North Norfolk, based in Cromer, called **The Junction**. This new service, working in partnership with other agencies, supports anyone over 18 with drug and alcohol issues. This will increase the help available for residents using substances and worried friends and family members.

Andy Wicks, Service Coordinator said: 'Having worked in North Norfolk for a number of years and seen the need and how hard it is for people to access services, I am really excited that this support is now available locally. Together with other agencies we can work to make a difference in the community and to people's lives.'



The Junction is situated in the centre of Cromer, but workers will also visit clients at their homes and in their own community to ensure all those needing support are reached. At present, the North Norfolk team is made up of a Service Coordinator and 2 part-time drugs workers and covers the area from Potter Heigham to Fakenham and Wells.

Support from The Junction includes:

- information, advice & support
- 1-1 support sessions and groups
- needle exchange

- carers advice
- advice on reducing harm
- referrals to other services
- drop-in facility

It is envisaged that the base in Cromer, will also include debt and benefits advice and housing support. People will be able to access computers, the internet, telephone advice and liaise with agencies such as CAB.

Partner agencies have the opportunity to use the office to meet with service users. This will be especially useful for those services with no base in the area.

If your service would like to get involved or know of someone who needs support, please contact the Service Coordinator below.

Service Coordinator, Andy Wicks

Tel: 01263 510900

Email: thejunction@matthewproject.org

Post: 4a Garden Street (1st Floor), Cromer, NR27 9HN

The launch of the 'The Junction' will be in September. All will be welcome to come and see the services available and meet the team. Check The Matthew project website for details www.matthewproject.org



The Junction

TADS move!

In April of 2004 a journey of 'Integration' began that would bring together, under one banner, not only substance misuse services from health and social care, but also what were separate alcohol and drug services: Victoria Street and The Bure, within the Norfolk & Waveney Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

During May 2007 the Trust Alcohol and Drugs Service (TADS) moved into the Weavers Centre at Hellesdon Hospital. These moves represent the final haul to take TADS to the end of their integration journey.

Victoria Street and Colegate are closed, but 7 Unthank Road will remain as a service base for the Criminal Justice Team. The Willow Centre at Northgate Hospital continues to service the Great Yarmouth area.



New housing model offers step by step advice

Accommodating Drug/Alcohol Users

A Model for Housing Providers



Housing people with substance misuse problems can be very complex. Homeless people often have drug and/or alcohol related problems. Research by Crisis with homeless people in 2003 noted that 51% had alcohol problems and 57% had drug problems. The challenge for agencies providing supported housing is that some of the people that need their help are likely to be using drugs and/or alcohol.



Norfolk Drug and Alcohol Partnership have long recognised the need to respond to these issues. As a result, it has recently adopted a new model; developed as a guide for providers and commissioners of supported housing services. The aim of the model is to provide a framework when thinking through the delivery of housing for people with drug and/or alcohol problems. The model acts as a benchmark against which providers can compare themselves; the ultimate aim being to support providers and commissioners looking to improve successful housing outcomes for people with substance misuse problems.

Legislation can be a big source of anxiety for housing and support providers. With this in mind, the model outlines some of the key issues to take on board when delivering housing services that are likely to be needed by substance misusers. For example, the Misuse of Drugs Act states that supported housing providers have a legal duty to prevent the supply of controlled drugs but have no legal duty to prevent the possession of drugs or

the use of drugs. The only exception is the duty to prevent the smoking of cannabis and opium, in addition to more recent legislation pertaining to Crack House Closure Orders. The model highlights that the first steps to ensure supported housing maintain their legal duties need not be contacting the police or eviction - though this can become necessary.

The philosophy behind the model is that an approach is needed whereby people at any stage of recovery from substance misuse can be appropriately housed. This means there is a necessity for some schemes to accommodate people who will be using drugs and/or alcohol as well as some that provide a 'safe house' environment where people are abstinent.

Service users need the right support in the right environment – and so do the people planning and delivering housing services. That is why the launch of the model will include opportunities to develop specialised training packages for frontline housing workers, as well as an offer of talks and presentations all about the practical and strategic aspects of the model to senior executives, politicians, board members and trustees. N-DAP hopes that with sufficient promotion, encouragement and practical support, the new housing model will usher in an era of increased supply and improved effectiveness of housing support services for substance misusers that they – and the provider – can be rightly confident about.

To order your copy of the housing model or to request a presentation, please contact: Elaine Horn at Norfolk Drug and Alcohol Action Team (by email to elaine.horn@norfolk.gov.uk, or telephone 01603 677577, or by writing to Elaine Horn, Norfolk DAAT, Phoenix House, White Lodge Business Estate, Hall Road, Norwich, NR4 6DG).

Fresh start for service user engagement

A new initiative involving service users is underway. It aims to meet the N-DAP's objectives of improving access to treatment, increasing the capacity of the treatment system and improving the quality of services provided. The involvement of service users is regarded as fundamental in achieving these objectives. In March a Service User Engagement day was held at Hellesdon Hospital, Norwich. Speakers were invited from the Alliance and the National User Network. This was a well attended day and drew very positive feedback from the attendees. Building on this event a Service User Training group was formed, to date there have been meetings in May and June.

The first meeting agreed the terms of reference and appointed a chair. The second meeting included inputs from the Alliance on Advocacy and Jimi Grieve, National User Network, set out three levels of involvement:

- service user support groups
- advocacy
- service development.

The overarching aim of the Service User Training Subgroup is to guide and support activity that helps to identify training and development needs among service users wishing to be involved in the above.

The specific objectives for the group are:

- to assess the training opportunities for service user involvement
- to inform service users of the training and development opportunities that exist
- to enable service user development in order to increase effective participation in the design of treatment services and support of other service users.

The group is gathering information now, asking other service users whether they want to get involved and if so what other training needs they might have. This takes the group another step closer to enabling effective participation in the design of treatment services and support of other service users.

Want to know more? Or want to get involved in service user engagement work in N-DAP? Then please email Mike Hutchinson, DAAT Training and Workforce Development Officer at: michael.hutchinson.dat@norfolk.gov.uk

Comings and goings at the office

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff into the DAAT.



Roni Nelhams has taken up the Norfolk DAAT Team Administrator role. Roni will be working on training support, service user engagement, finance, team administration and PA support.

Catherine McWalter has joined us as Joint Commissioning Officer. We wish them both well in their new roles.



Training news

Dual Diagnosis

Coming soon: an accredited Dual Diagnosis course jointly developed by NORCAS, Julian Housing and the UEA. More information about this course will be available in the next issue of N-DAP News.



Distance Learning

Leeds Addiction Unit is offering two distance learning programmes:

- ● addiction studies either at certificate or diploma level
- and
- ● substance misuse and criminal justice.

For further information, contact the training unit at lau-training@leedsmh.nhs.uk