

ANDOVERALCOHOLARRESTREFERRALPROJECT

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Titleofpaper :PilotBriefMotivationalInterventionsforAlcoholrelated OffendingProjectinAndover		
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Presentatmeeting: Yes		
Leadingpartner/s: Police,DAAT,CrownProsecutionService,HMCourts, CRi		
Summaryofcontentandissuesraised: Thereportsetsoforthethekeyfeaturesoftheservicewhichhasjustbegun.		
Recommendations: i) ThattheBoardnotesthereport		
FinancialandHRImplications FinancialprovisionhasbeenmadethroughtheFloor TargetActionPlan		
PromotionofEquality&Diversity		
Purposeofpaper(tick)	Decision	
	Discussion& comment	
	Information	<u>√</u>

1 BACKGROUND

The Test Valley Community Safety Partnership identified the reduction of alcohol related offending a top priority and a key focus for delivering against PSA1 and other local targets. The Partnership found that there was a gap in the provision of alcohol treatment services for those people who were causing many of the problems in the Borough around alcohol related crime and anti social behaviour. It was found that all current alcohol treatment services focussed on addressing the drinking habits of dependent drinkers who were not necessarily our target group. A look at best practise around the country revealed a number of promising alcohol arrest referral projects which delivered dedicated and bespoke alcohol 'treatment' for people whose drinking habits were 'hazardous' e.g. binge drinkers.

The Test Valley Community Safety team, supported by Hampshire DAAT, Hampshire Police and Hampshire Probations service began to assess the level and nature of the need and developed a model of service which appeared to best fit the circumstances and situation here in western Hampshire. The neighbouring Community Safety Partnerships at Eastleigh and New Forest were also involved and supportive of a OCU wide approach. However, at joint presentation in July 2007, New Forest Community Safety Partnership announced their withdrawal from the project citing recent budgetary cuts and this was shortly followed by a similar announcement from Eastleigh Community Safety Partnership. Undeterred, Test Valley continued to seek a way forward and with excellent support from Hampshire Police, Hampshire Probations service and Hampshire DAAT, found an approach for a pilot project which although smaller in scope, was financially feasible and practical.

This has now culminated in the launching of an Alcohol Arrest Referral Service based in Andover, with CR providing brief interventions to clients who have been referred by police, from the Andover custody suite. It will also be taking police referrals from certain Community Safety Partnerships subgroups, namely, the Anti Social Behaviour Panel, the Prolific and Priority Offender group and the Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conferences for Domestic violence cases.

2 THE PROJECT OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the project are:

- 1) To support the Community safety strategy of the CDRP to achieve the aim of reducing alcohol related harm through reducing offending, particularly as it relates to violence and criminal damage.
- 2) To refer those requiring longer term help to specialist services.
- 3) To run a project which serves as a useful learning tool for other parts of Hampshire County and inform their strategies in addressing alcohol related harm.

3 WHAT IS IT?

This pilot project is starting in early October and will be finishing at the end of March 2008. It is to provide a form of specialised but limited alcohol 'treatment', starting at the point of custody, for those arrested for a range of alcohol related offences. The 'treatment' is known as 'brief interventions' and will take place over three, one to one sessions, which will normally involve a detailed assessment, the completion of drink diary and the provision of motivational interviewing. It will be aimed at those individuals who are arrested for alcohol related offences associated with antisocial behaviour and violence (not all), that would not normally lead to a custodial sentence. It is not aimed at alcoholics who are dependent drinkers, but instead at those people who, whilst perhaps not dependent on alcohol, do tend to be in a way which is harmful when they drink.

4 WHERE WILL IT HAPPEN?

The Andover Police custody staff will initiate the referral, making an assessment (usually the 'morning after') and then booking the appointment (usually at the point of release). The referred client will then visit the offices of CRion New Street in Andover at the agreed time, usually within a few days of release from custody. Further appointed meetings will also take place at the CRion office in New Street.

5 DO PEOPLE WHO ARE REFERRED HAVE TO ATTEND?

The clients who are referred after arrest and who are released on police bail, will be advised by the custody officer that their attendance at these sessions will be a material consideration when it comes to reviewing the case with the CPS to determine whether or not to charge, and in the event of it going to Court, will also be a material consideration for Magistrates when considering the effect of it going to trial. (Albeit I understand that their failure to attend would not be a material consideration when considering the passing sentence). It will not however be a bail condition. The effect of this is that there is a positive incentive to take up the sessions but there is no penalty as such for refusing to do so.

6 CONNECTION TO OTHER RELATED SERVICES

There is a very close connection between this service and the treatment which CRI provides for ATR's (Alcohol Treatment Orders) which are Orders imposed by Courts which help to ensure that someone who is alcohol dependent, received suitable treatment. The two services should compliment each other as they focus on different client groups but there will invariably be some crossover. The new pilot Arrest Referral project will refer suitable cases on to all other suitable treatment providers as necessary, including Cranston's Tier 2 Young People's Substance Misuse Treatment services, primary care trust and community and mental health teams services as well as their own ATR service.

7 EVALUATION

It is proposed that the project is evaluated primarily by way of a comparison of before and after alcohol consumption assessments with a cohort of clients, combined an examination of re-offending patterns. Other useful information will include qualitative feedback from clients and from partners.