The Public Health Call to Action for Alcohol Use - Northamptonshire

Prevalence

- Estimated prevalence of drinking behaviours in Northamptonshire adults aged 18 and over (2011-14):
  - 10.4% abstain from alcohol
  - 27.9% drink more than the recommended 14 units per week
  - 19.6% binge drink on their heaviest drinking day*
  - 1.2% are alcohol dependent, equivalent to 6,535 individuals

  *Binge drinking is defined as 8+ units for men, or 6+ units for women.

Health Burden

- In 2016/17, there were 15,718 alcohol related hospital admissions for Northamptonshire patients (assessed across all diagnoses)
- In 2014/15-16/17, 192 under 18s were hospitalised for alcohol specific conditions
- In 2016/17, there were 611 hospital admissions for mental/behavioural issues due to alcohol
- In 2014-16, there were 159 deaths due to alcohol specific conditions
- In 2014-16, there were 183 alcohol related road traffic accidents in the county

Costs

In 2018/19, the total budget for substance misuse services (combined drugs and alcohol) is £7 million, which includes:

- £5.5 million for structured treatment services including detox and specialist prescribing
- £800k for holistic recovery services supporting housing, employment, wellbeing and social integration
- £380k for young people’s treatment and prevention services
- £160k for services to support families affected by substance misuse
- £155k for drug and alcohol awareness training aimed at professionals and workplaces

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Treatment

In the period Mar 17-Feb 18, 897 adults in Northamptonshire were treated for alcohol use, of which 39.1% successfully completed treatment and did not return to services within 6 months

In 2016/17, 13.3% of Northamptonshire adults accessing specialist treatment for alcohol misuse were also in contact with mental health services

Local data shows that in 2017/18, 106 under 18s were engaged in structured treatment for alcohol use, typically with concurrent cannabis usage, of which 65.1% successfully completed

Risk Factors

A local study of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) found that 48.7% of people in the county experienced at least one ACE, and 10.6% had 4+ ACEs

Compared to people with no ACEs, those with 4+ ACEs were 1.6 times more likely to be high risk drinkers

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National survey results* show that men are roughly twice as likely to drink at levels hazardous to health than women (AUDIT score 8+)

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In 2016/17, 11.5% of GP patients aged 18+ were recorded as having depression

In 2016/17, the rate of domestic abuse related crime reported to the police was 27.3 per 1,000 population
**Public Health Plan on a page: Commissioning for Outcomes (Alcohol use)**

**Vision:**
Our vision is to prevent, treat and reduce the health and social related harms caused by unsafe alcohol misuse to individuals, families and communities in Northamptonshire. We want to ensure the best use of resources to meet the needs of the population, whilst enabling a high functioning system.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Our Priorities/Objectives</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Whole system approach</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Widening access to services</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Behavioural approaches</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evidence Based Approach</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Achieved through:**
- Developing a strategy and establishing a county partnership for substance misuse
- Working with licensing authorities to ensure safe supply
- Working with service providers to ensure that there is regular monitoring of access
- Working with NHS to minimize barriers in relation to dual diagnosis
- Social marketing of the risks
- Earlier identification and Intervention
- Recognising that Recovery is as important as treatment in minimising the harms caused by alcohol
- Updating Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) chapter for alcohol
- Undertaking research
- Regular engagement with service users

**Our Commitment / Enablers**
- Reducing inequalities - services which mitigate inequalities and work to overcome - by location, approach, policy.
- System partnerships - engage and co produce with partners and stakeholders e.g. NHS, local government, schools, workplaces and prisons.
- Continued investment in prevention, better access to target populations and promoting MECC*
- Engagement and co-production of research aligning with evidence. Evaluation to monitor and assure service delivery and quality.
- Embed Health in All Policies - a common way of analysing the health impact of alcohol; creating places which support and generate good health; governance/policy ideas based on collaboration.

**Measures of Success**
- Development of Countywide Substance Misuse Partnership and Strategy
- Assurance that the advice relating to safe alcohol use is consistent
- Increasing the number of settings for IBA training. strengthening the link between mental health and drugs and alcohol services
- Continued improvement in treatment outcomes for service users
- Increase in the number of people entering treatment

*Making every contact count