

Preventing harm to children, young people and families affected by substance misuse

Matthew Scott

Substance Misuse Team Leader



department for
children, schools and families

Local Delivery

- **This fits under PSA 14 – many areas have local delivery boards**
- **Commissioning and delivery should be alongside mainstream Children’s and Youth services**
- **Funding has had ring-fencing and reporting requirements removed**
- **Areas to determine how to spend funding based on local needs assessment - acknowledging varying drug patterns across the country**
- **National Indicator 115 is used to measure progress in all areas in reducing young people’s substance misuse – we will encourage all areas to set out their ambition through a guide issued in December**



Universal

- **Drug, alcohol and volatile substances education for all young people – not only through schools but also through youth services and colleges, and links with FRANK campaign**
- **Parents should be actively engaged as partners in drug education:**
 - Parenting experts in all areas have drugs as part of their remit
 - Identified as an issue in local parenting strategies
- **Early identification of those at risk, or starting to develop substance misuse problems, by schools and children's services – this often needs substance misuse to be a workforce development priority**
- **Evidence shows that inclusive school policies that help to reduce truancy also reduce risk factors leading to drug misuse**



Targeted

- **We know that young people in some groups are more likely to develop drug misuse problems – those involved in crime, ASB, truancy/school exclusion and Looked After Children**
- **Approaches for these key groups of vulnerable young people should be joined up under the banner of Targeted Youth Support**
- **Children of substance misusing parents are also a priority:**
 - they should be included in local Young Carers work
 - Local Safeguarding Children’s Boards and adult treatment services should have protocols in place, including Maternity Services
 - STARS national initiative has more info on training & support
- **Identifying families at risk and providing interventions – e.g. FIPs, Option 2, Strengthening Families Programme**
- **Positive activities - are they targeted at areas with high rates of ASB/crime or at times when needed?**

Specialist

- **Parents need to be a priority for adult treatment services:**
 - assessments need to acknowledge any dependent children
 - are local services “family friendly”?
- **Clinical management guidelines advise that families & carers should be involved in treatment provision**
- **Specialist treatment for under 18s should be identified in local Children and Young People’s Plans**
- **Expert groups have been set up in local areas to guide the treatment planning for young people – supported by the NTA**
- **Is there a clear link between treatment in the young people’s secure estate and the community?**
- **Are there transitional arrangements for 16-24 year olds?**

