



Health and Wellbeing sub-group: Report to Neighbourhood Partnership

1. HEALTH INEQUALITIES

1.1. Welfare Reform

Craigmillar Medical Centre hosted the Medical Director of the DWP who had acknowledged that the process for work-related benefits is poor and made a commitment to improve it.

1.2. Community Alcohol Partnership

The subgroup welcomed the progress of the CAP in East Neighbourhood.

- Schools and organisations working with young people are working on messages for your people on the harms of under-age drinking and the illegality of proxy buying. The CAP is supporting the inclusion of Castlebrae CHS in the AlcoLols project, which is now running in 5 other high schools across the North East.
- Joint patrols have been carried out in areas identified as hotspots
- Develop responsible retailers through ongoing training and distribution of publicity materials

1.3. SE Recovery Hub

Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug partnership reported on its evaluation of the first year of operation of the SE Recovery Hub. Highlights have been:

- Significant reduction in average number of days waited for treatment, from 82 to 19 days
- Service users felt welcomed on arrival, from a non-judgemental service with friendly staff
- Many had changed their alcohol and drug use, were more in control of their lives and had more hope about recovery.
- Improved partnership working among relevant agencies, although it was recognised there was still room for improvement.

A new service in the Hub, for Long Acting Reversible Contraception, was described.

1.4. Community Renewal Health Case Management

Community Renewal presented the evaluation of the first year of working of their health Case Management service.

- They had tried to engage 61 people in the service, of whom half had fully engaged. The age range was 19-59 years and two-thirds were men.
- The main problems were mental health issues and difficulties in forming or maintaining any forms of social contact.
- Key factors in ensuring a successful service was offered were persistent attempts to engage the client, often lasting for up to 6 months; a sympathetic, non-judgemental, flexible approach; a holistic assessment of the client's needs and priorities; supportive assistance in managing interventions by other services; an easing down of service while maintaining availability as the client grew in confidence.

- Service could last for 18 months, so a target of 25 clients on the caseload at any one time was more realistic than the original target.
- Case studies of clients show marked improvements in their health, daily lives and view of their prospects for the future.

The project has also made a successful link with the Portobello Practice through a Scottish Government programme the Practice is participating in.

1.5. Local Area Co-ordination & Neighbourhood Networks for Adults with Learning Disabilities

Local Area Co-ordination is a new service in the area jointly promoted by the Council and NHS Lothian to assist adults with learning disabilities attending their Medical Practice. The work of Neighbourhood Networks in the SE LHP was also described.

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