

LDAAT

Newsletter

Issue No 02
October 2007

Circulate

LDAAT Newsletter

Breaking the cycle of substance misuse



Welcome to the second issue of Circulate, the newsletter from Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Action Team.

We hope you enjoyed the first issue of Circulate and that you find this issue just as interesting. It has been designed to help spread the word about the inspirational work that our partners are doing to reduce crime and rebuild lives in the Lancashire area.

The second quarter of 2007 has been a busy and highly productive one for the Team. As well as successfully launching our 2007/2008 strategy, we have exceeded our targets in getting people into

treatment. We are also in the process of finalising the arrangements for the exciting European Network meeting, which we are hosting on behalf of Exass Net – a body dedicated to tackling drug problems across Europe.

We hope that you find this edition of Circulate both useful and informative. If you have any news that you would like to be featured in the next issue, or any comments about the current one, don't keep them to yourself, Circulate them;

charlotte.billington@centrallancashire.nhs.uk

Progress last quarter

- ▶ Exceeded numbers in Treatment target
- ▶ Launched 2007/2008 Strategy
- ▶ Held first public DAAT Executive Meeting
- ▶ OD 999 entered into prestigious Communications Awards

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New Strategy to Tackle Substance Misuse in Lancashire

LDAAT successfully launch their 2007/2008 strategy at a unique event held in Preston



People in picture (L-R):

Andrew Simpson,
Network Director, Lancashire Care Trust

Dave Rankine,
Support Manager, Wyre Support Group

Dave Brian,
Detective Superintendent, Lancashire
Constabulary

Graham Hatfield,
Senior Adviser, Lancashire County Council

David Herne,
Consultant in Public Health, Central Lancashire
Primary Care Trust

Catherine Witt,
County Youth Justice Services Manager

For further information

Charlotte Billington

LDAAT

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Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Action Team held a special event as part of their new strategy launch. The new strategy sets out clear objectives for the partnership in achieving the aims of the national drug strategy in Lancashire.

The national drug strategy works towards 4 themes, those being Young People, Treatment, Supply Reduction and Communities. The new LDAAT strategy details the work and achievements, accomplished in 2006/2007 under these themes, as well as highlighting the key objectives for 2007/2008.

The launch, which was held in Preston, was attended by over 180 people who can help break the cycle of substance misuse. This included people who work within the partnership and those who have been directly effected by substance misuse.

Key speakers from partnership organisations including Lancashire Constabulary, Criminal Justice Board, South Ribble Community Safety Partnership and Lancashire Care Trust demonstrated how the work of their respective organisations are helping to tackle substance misuse and make Lancashire a healthier and safer place.

Dave Rankine highlighted the context and importance of the work of the partnership.

Since a young age Dave's life had been blighted by his drug addiction. In his powerful speech he described the support he had received and showed how this has helped him to become drug free. He also spoke of his motivation to help others and explained why he is now running a service (The Wyre Drugs Project) to help those effected by substance misuse. There will be a feature on the project in the next issue of Circulate.

After hearing the keynote speakers', attendees were invited to see a small exhibition which showcased some of the most recent projects and the work of local treatment services.

There was also the opportunity for people to have their say in a small consultation that took place at the event. Over 100 completed suggestion cards were received. These responses have been collated and are being included in LDAAT's response to the national drug strategy consultation.



National Drug Strategy Consultation

The Government are urging people to have their say

**TACKLING
DRUGS
CHANGING
LIVES**

Drugs cause damage and can ruin individuals, families and communities. Too many young lives are taken over by drugs leading to wasted potential, broken relationships and, for some, a life of crime. Too many of our communities live under the shadow of drug dealing, making some of our streets and parks intimidating places.

The Government is determined to do something about this. In 1998, they published Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain. The strategy brought together, for the first time, government departments, police and local agencies in order to reduce the harms drugs cause to individuals, families and communities. This strategy was backed by record levels of investment in drug treatment, education and enforcement including giving greater powers to the police. This has delivered real results.

However, nine years on, it is the right time for the Government to take a radical look at updating its approach, being honest about where problems remain, yet ambitious enough to make a difference and build on progress made. The Government wants more drug dealers put out of business, young people to be better educated and informed so they can resist drugs. Other aims include widely available effective

drug treatment, ex drug users to be given a greater sense of hope and purpose in their lives, and power to be put back in the hands of the law abiding majority in our communities.

The Government wants to achieve this with you. They have been working on developing the next drug strategy, and are running the largest single consultation programme on the future of tackling drugs this country has seen. The Government is calling on communities, families, experts and current and ex drug users to tell us what can be done.

Have your say and let us know what you think:

charlotte.billington@centrallancashire.nhs.uk

An Open Invitation to LDAAT Executive Meetings

LDAAT Executive Members decide to hold their meetings in public



The LDAAT Executive Board meetings are designed to enable both board members and the public to report on national policy issues and to discuss how they effect the strategic direction of LDAAT.

Decisions made at the LDAAT Executive Board meetings have a direct impact upon the way in which we approach and tackle substance misuse throughout the country. Owing to this and the need to deliver initiatives that are developed in response to the direct needs of your particular community, we recognise that your voice is essential.

Whilst the agenda is designed by LDAAT, your input is invaluable in shaping the strategy. Following each agenda item, you will have an opportunity to raise questions, which will be addressed by those responsible for developing and implementing policies.

The next meeting will take place 29th November at 2pm. The venue is to be confirmed. If you wish to attend please book your place by 22nd November by calling Ann Gawne on [01772 647103](tel:01772647103).

Finding a different way to promote Drug and Alcohol Services in Lancashire

Service users help to design a guide to local services with a difference.



A new project is under-way to look at how services are promoted across Lancashire. The first stage of this project was initiated in West Lancashire. The West Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Group (DAAG) and the South Lancashire Treatment Effectiveness Group (TEG) have been working hard with service users from the Skelmersdale Inward House Project to develop a leaflet, which promotes the drug and alcohol services in Lancashire.

LDAAT supports this project and is now developing this work further to produce a mini directory of services for the 3 DAAT Locality areas. These directories will be for people affected by substance misuse and will be produced in a 2008 diary format. By producing the directory in a diary format it will increase the chances of it being kept and used. It will also mean that this hard to reach group will have instant access to all the information about their local services to hand.

West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership has kindly contributed significant funding to this project to ensure that enough directories can be produced in the area to ensure that the initiative is effective. LDAAT will be funding the production of the diary but would welcome any assistance that other partners may be able to offer.

LDAAT would like to sincerely thank West Lancashire DAAG, South TEG and the Inward House Project service users for their work on the project and West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership for the received funding.

This directory is the first of several new initiatives aimed at ensuring services are promoted effectively. Look out for more information in the next issue of Circulate.

New Partnership Campaign to reduce the availability of alcohol to children and young teenagers in Lancashire

Trading Standards, Lancashire Constabulary and the Schools & Communities Partnership team launch campaign.



The CAPS (Campaign Against Proxy Sales) initiative aims to reduce the availability of alcohol to children and young teenagers in Lancashire. A range of communications tools such as posters have been designed for retailers to make customers more aware of the law and the fact that it is against the law to purchase alcohol on behalf of a young person under the age of 18. Information cards have also been distributed containing the Crimestoppers number to report suspected proxy sales.

The penalty for 'proxy purchasing' is an £80 fixed penalty notice, or possibly court proceedings, where a maximum fine of £5000 can be given.

Jim Potts, Lancashire County Councils Chief Trading Standards Officer, said: "Although we are being very up front about the fines people could face, we also know that many adults can feel under pressure or threatened when approached by young people to 'do them a favour'."

"We want to help everyone to solve this problem by raising awareness of the issue through posters and notices and by working with the Police.

If anyone feels there is a problem of any sort relating to proxy sale in their local area they can contact the police or Crimestoppers."

By Lynsey Greaves

Operation Summer Nights & Celebration of Young Peoples Awards

Deputy Police Constable reflects on the success of the Summer Campaign



Operation Summer Nights is a campaign which aims to tackle alcohol-related crime, disorder & anti-social behaviour. As the campaign draws to a close Deputy Chief Constable Mike Cunningham has been reflecting on the success of the campaign:

"I am extremely pleased that this year's campaign has been a success. Of course it is always pleasing to get figures which show a reduction across all the target areas. Although of greater importance to me, hopefully these reductions will actually have been felt by the people of Lancashire."

"Even though the summer, and this campaign, are over it does not mean that Lancashire Constabulary is no longer committed to tackling alcohol-related crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour. We will continue to work with our partners to tackle these issues across the county."



"We want people to enjoy themselves safely in a way which doesn't impact negatively on those around them."

In light of the campaign new statistics have been released which show that there has been a 20% reduction in reports of anti-social behaviour, a 13% reduction in criminal damage and a 3% reduction in violent crime. Statistics also show that 2,262 seizures of alcohol from young people have been made and 1,350 penalty notices for disorder given.

An awards scheme for young people was also set-up alongside Operation Summer Nights entitled the 'Celebration of Young Peoples Awards'. Look out for further information of the award winners in the next issue of Circulate.

By Lynsey Greaves

Lancashire Fire and Rescue launch Sign Posting Initiative



Lancashire Fire and Rescue have refined their existing service to be able to try and help promote substance misuse services as part of a new Sign Posting Initiative.

Lancashire firefighters go into thousands of homes every year to conduct Home Fire Safety Check visits to domestic property where, at the invitation of the householder and FREE OF CHARGE, they will identify potential fire hazards such as overloaded electrical sockets and clothes left to dry too near to heaters.

Through working with partner agencies such as health and social services, fire fighters are now able to promote services to those most vulnerable.

A launch event was held in September where those leading on the project detailed the rationale for the new scheme and the work that had been undertaken in developing the project.

If you would like a free Home Safety Check please call free phone [0800 1691125](tel:08001691125)

For further information

[Jane Midgley](#)

Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service

[01772 866 955](tel:01772866955)

New Board Game to help Promote Awareness

Joint Efforts Board Game for Primary School Children



For further information

Lancashire County Council, County Hall, PO Box 61, Preston, PR1 8RJ
Tel: 01772 531 647

A new board game aiming to promote awareness and support development of drug policies has been launched by Lancashire's School and Community Partnerships Team and Youth and Community Service. 'Joint Efforts (Primary Edition)' is a game based on the original publication 'Joint Efforts' – which was designed for secondary school pupils.

The Key Stage 2 game can be played with young people, their parents, school staff or agency staff and encourages consideration of the law, personal and professional safety, health and safety (including drugs information), links to other policies (e.g child protection & confidentiality) and decision making.

The game is free of charge (+£12 postage costs or free collection from Lancashire County Council) and can be obtained through the LSES Marketing Team (LSES Marketing Team, LPDS Centre, Southport Road, Chorley, PR7 1NG. Tel: 01257 517197) or through their website www.lancsngfl.ac.uk/lses.

Each game contains: A laminated game board, 4 sets of question cards, counters and dice.

Lancashire Gears up For European Network Meeting



LDAAT are putting the final plans into place for the hosting of the prestigious European Network Meeting, which is being hosted in Lancashire. The network, which is made up of partnerships from across Europe, is dedicated to sharing best practice in tackling drug problems.

The first meeting, which was held earlier this year in Helsinki, gave representatives an opportunity to share experiences and discuss effective initiatives. Lancashire was selected to host the second meeting and was also invited to showcase some of its leading projects in a special tour of the county.

LDAAT have put together 3 unique tours of services and projects from across the patch including visits to the prisons and presentations from treatment providers. Home Office delegates will also present to the European representatives during a small evening reception.

Look out for a special feature on this visit in the next issue.

For further information

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New Group to tackle Alcohol Harm in Lancashire

Lancashire Local Area Agreement (LAA) - Alcohol Harm Reduction



The LAA Alcohol Project Board met for the first time in June. The remit of this group is to oversee the project management of the LAA funded alcohol harm reduction initiatives. The group reports to the Cumbria and Lancashire Alcohol Network, Lancashire LAA and LDAAT.

Alcohol harm reduction projects currently funded by Lancashire LAA are:

- › Lancashire Wide Best Bar None
- › Research regarding the use of Licensing legislation across Lancashire
- › Research regarding how regeneration of night time economies can be achieved in a sustainable and safe manner across Lancashire
- › Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service alcohol related accidental fire prevention
- › Consultancy support for Lancashire Primary Care Trusts and Adult Alcohol Service providers utilising the commissioning tool kit
- › Development of Social Marketing Campaigns

- › Trauma and Injury Intelligence, improving data collection from Accident and Emergency Departments across Lancashire to inform targeted prevention and harm reduction activity

Currently under consideration are ranges of additional projects including:

- › Alcohol related violence research
- › Piloting and evaluation of criminal justice alcohol interventions
- › Delivery of Tier 1 Training
- › Polycarbonate glass provision
- › Research regarding alcohol misuse in older people
- › LAA Alcohol Stakeholder event
- › Development and provision of improved alcohol service information.

Every edition of circulate will focus on one of these projects to explain its aims and impact across Lancashire. This month's edition will focus on Best Bar None.

Perspectives: Best Bar None

A new award scheme to recognise good practice



The Best Bar None Award Scheme is being introduced throughout Lancashire to recognise good practice within the drinks industry. It aims to establish a standard of excellence within the licensed trade.

Lancashire Constabulary is driving the award scheme in partnership with Primary Care Trusts, Council's and Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service. It aims to reduce the incidents of crime and disorder associated with the consumption of alcohol within town and city centres. It also aims to promote all towns and cities in Lancashire as safe and professional environments in which to live, work, visit and socialise.

As part of this scheme 130 licensed premises from across Lancashire have

completed a self assessment application form and over the next few weeks will be visited and formally inspected by a multi-agency team comprising of representatives from Lancashire Fire and Rescue Service, local Councils and Police.

Premises that meet the minimum Best Bar None requirements will become accredited and will be awarded a plaque and certificate. The premises will also go forward to a regional selection, where the best Pub, Club and Community Pub will be selected.

A formal Black Tie Diner where the Best Bar None awards will be presented in being planned for November at a venue in Central Lancashire.

For further information

Richard Hurt

Lancashire Constabulary

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A Unique Support Service for Young Carers' and Children of Drug Users in Lancashire – Celebrates its 10th Year



The service, which is run by Drugline Lancashire Ltd, was initially set in 1997 to cater for the needs of young carers and children from families affected by drugs and alcohol in the Preston and Blackpool area.

Over the 10 years it has developed from a part-time service to seeing over 50 young people on a regular basis starting with children as young as 3 years old.

Currently funded by the Lancashire Children's Fund and Lancashire County Councils Voluntary Community and Faith Sector Grant, the project plays a vital support role to young people affected by their family members drug and /or alcohol use. Kath Talboys, Strategic Director for Drugline, explained the importance of the service "Many children and young people have to live with affects of drugs and alcohol from an early age, often leading to poor attendance or attainment at school and increased physical and mental health problems. Many of these young people have had to grow up very quickly and haven't had the chance to play or talk together as children".

Amy Nutter who works as Project Worker added "The project helps the children

and young people to regain some of their childhood and show them positive adult role models, so there is less chance of them repeating the lifestyle pattern of their family members".

The project takes a partnership approach and works collaboratively with all agencies to ensure the family can stay together and offer the best possible support. The project has been recognised nationally and has received funding over the 10 years from the Home Office Family Support Group as well as Preston's Single Regeneration Budget to undertake further research to identify the needs of drug using parents. This had led to further funding from Avencentral to look at the needs of grand carer, caring for their grandchildren due to their own children's substance use. The project has also contributed to the recent Hidden Harm Report and Every Child Matters.

Kath concluded on behalf of the project "We are very proud of the project's achievements over the last 10 years, we will continue to work hard so that we can carry on making a difference and providing support for a further 10 years."

Lancashire User Forum



Many of you will be familiar with the Wyre Support Group (WSG), set up and managed by ex-service user Dave Rankine and funded by Wyre Community Safety Partnership. WSG is an informal drop-in service that supports users and ex-users with substance and alcohol misuse issues, and their carers. To find out more, call Dave on [07894 533357](tel:07894533357) or email wyrupportuk@hotmail.co.uk

LDAAT are keen to help set up projects such as this across the county and are seeking to increase service user and carer involvement. By attending Lancashire User Forum (LUF), you can become involved with groups such as WSG, set up your own user

group, access training or just have your say on what's important to you. LUF is a user led group which wants to hear about your experiences of accessing treatment services, good or bad, which will in turn help influence the treatment system.

Meetings took place in July and September with service users from Inward House projects attending who are now currently working with LDAAT on a major communications project. The next meeting will be at the end of October with a guest speaker from Sefton User Group so come along and join us!

For further information

Jo Kendall

LDAAT

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