

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
C O U N C I L

## Response to Request for Information

Reference      FOI 003010  
Date            28 November 2018

### ***APPG on Children of Alcoholics***

#### **Request:**

1) Can the Local Authority's Director of Public Health provide an estimate for the number of referrals made to alcohol treatment services in your local authority area for the following financial years?

- a) 2015/16
- b) 2016/17
- c) 2017/18

[In response to question 1, please see the tables provided on page 4.](#)

2) Can the Local Authority's Director of Public Health provide the out-turn data for budget spent on drug and alcohol treatment services in your local authority area for the following financial years?

- a) 2015/16 - £5,143,156
- b) 2016/17 - £5,075,045
- c) 2017/18 - £4,922,966

3) Can the Local Authority's Director of Public Health provide me with an estimate for the amount your local authority area is forecast to spend on drug and alcohol treatment services in the following financial years?

- a) 2018/19 - £4,022,950
- b) 2019/20 - £3,952,950

4) Does the Local Authority have a strategy in place to support children of alcoholics? - **Yes**

[The local authority commissions a specialist substance misuse service – Recovery Near You \(RNY\). RNY supports and works with families, children of drug and alcohol users, carers and anyone affected by a family member's substance misuse to address the negative impact of substance misuse and improve family functioning. This includes developing and maintaining personalised, holistic packages of support for service users and whole families.](#)

A 'team around the child' supported by a client-centred approach is adopted in the delivery of services taking into account the needs of the individual and family and the safeguarding of vulnerable children. RNY works within the city-wide approach to Early Help Assessments and the guidelines set out in a Joint Working Protocol document. This protocol outlines how Drug and Alcohol Services, Children and Young People's Services will work collaboratively to support and improve outcomes for children, young people and families where substance issues are a factor.

In partnership with Children's Services, Recovery Near You:

- i. Carries out risk assessments of dependent children living with a service user, including identification of young carers, to provide access to appropriate support to address the child's physical, social and emotional needs.
- ii. Ensures fixed term support is tailored to circumstances, outcome focused with appropriate move on arrangements in place.
- iii. Undertake home visits, provision of safe storage boxes and advice regarding medication for service users with children at home.
- iv. Engages with service users where there are care proceedings; providing reports for social care and assisting with reintegration of children to the family where appropriate.
- v. Works closely with the Council to facilitate access to Carer's Assessments where appropriate.
- vi. Signposts carers to mutual aid support services which ensure that they have support networks.

A Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) operates in Wolverhampton. This is a multi-agency co-located team, bringing together agencies (and their information) in order to identify risks to children and vulnerable adults at the earliest possible point and respond with the most effective interventions.

The MASH allows the multi-agency safeguarding team to carry out a joint confidential screening, research and referral of vulnerable children and adults. Agencies work together to ensure vulnerable children and adults are identified and properly cared for and protected. The purpose of the MASH is to make the best decisions that will keep individuals at risk safe. This will in turn ensure timely and necessary interventions, improving the outcomes for vulnerable children and adults.

Concerns relating to the safeguarding or welfare of a child or vulnerable adult will be considered by the MASH including self-referrals, multi-agency referrals, and a referral from the Police, other local authority or an anonymous referral.

RNY provides a consistent workforce resource within the MASH during hours of operation. This post:

- a) Works as a member of the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) to identify any substance misuse concerns within referrals to the MASH team. To offer advice on the possible risk posed by any identified substance use and interventions available to mitigate risk.
- b) Provides a single point of contact within the MASH for substance misuse issues.
- c) Increases/raises awareness on the impact of substance misuse on the family within adult substance misuse services.
- d) Promotes and increase awareness of substance misuse issues and its impact on the family across all services both statutory and voluntary.
- e) Promotes the Early Help Agenda across substance misuse services.

All Referrals where Alcohol is a Problem Substance		Individuals Referred where Alcohol is a Problem Substance	
Year	Total Number of Referrals	Year	Total Number of Individuals
2015/16	2,173	2015/16	1,971
2016/17	1,438	2016/17	1,200
2017/18	1,306	2017/18	1,146
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,917</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,317</b>

  

All Referrals where Alcohol is Primary Problem Substance		Individuals Referred where Alcohol is Primary Problem Substance	
Year	Total Number of Referrals	Year	Total Number of Individuals
2015/16	1,947	2015/16	1,774
2016/17	1,225	2016/17	1,035
2017/18	1,004	2017/18	879
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>4,176</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,688</b>

  

All Referrals with Sole Alcohol Problem		Individuals Referred with Sole Alcohol Problem	
Year	Total Number of Referrals	Year	Total Number of Individuals
2015/16	1,851	2015/16	1,700
2016/17	1,056	2016/17	902
2017/18	832	2017/18	742
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,739</b>	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>3,344</b>