



# Feedback to Portsmouth from the Alcohol Harm Reduction National Support Team

Alcohol Harm Reduction National  
Support Team

## Overall Strengths: Commitment

- Additional investment into alcohol interventions and treatment in 2010-11
- Alcohol is a 'flagship' issue for the City and is included in all the key strategic documents
- Overview and Scrutiny have prioritised alcohol as an area for investigation
- Dedicated capacity to coordinate the alcohol strategy
- Willingness to innovate to manage alcohol harm
- Highly commendable Alcohol Strategy, informed by a needs assessment
- Excellent alcohol commissioning and project plans for NHS Portsmouth funded initiatives

# Theme 1: Vision, Strategy and Commissioning

- Alcohol is a clear priority set out in all your local partnership documents. Although chief officers are fully engaged in the agenda there appears to be an over reliance on two individuals translating this into delivery. The NST believes that the priority afforded to alcohol and the objectives of the Alcohol Strategy have not been integrated into the core business of some partner agencies
- In order for the senior level commitment on alcohol to be translated into delivery, the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) should specify the accountabilities and responsibilities for the delivery of the Alcohol Strategy for each partnership board. This contribution should be reflected in each partnership board delivery plan
- This work should be brought together in a partnership-wide delivery plan for the Alcohol Strategy, which can be monitored by the Alcohol Strategy Group (ASG)

# Theme 1: Vision, Strategy and Commissioning

- **We heard concerns about lack of engagement from QA Hospital in the alcohol agenda**
- **We recommend that QA Hospital take the following steps to maximise their contribution to reducing alcohol related admissions:**
  - Identify a senior champion for alcohol
  - Ensure senior representation at the ASG
  - Develop a delivery plan for their contribution to the Alcohol Strategy
  - Utilise the new hospital alcohol service steering group to coordinate the various elements of the hospital alcohol delivery plan
  - Take responsibility for implementing the ED assault data collection project

## Theme 1: Vision, Strategy and Commissioning

- The design and management of the night time economy needs to be an integral part of the new Regeneration Strategy for Portsmouth and the overall aspiration for the City to be “the premier waterfront City with an unrivalled maritime heritage – a great place to live, work and visit”, as set out in ‘Vision 2008-2018’

## Theme 2: Data

- There appear to be good arrangements for analysis of alcohol data and a strong recognition of the need to use data to inform commissioning. However we heard some concerns about the validity and reliability of some source data
- We recommend that partners actively review how data collection and recording can be improved and that there is a thorough critical appraisal of any data that is used to inform commissioning

## Theme 3: Alcohol Interventions and Treatment

- During the visit we were unable to obtain a clear understanding of the extent of IBA delivery by frontline services. We recommend that you identify target groups who should receive IBA and train staff in these areas.
- We heard that the number of community detoxifications being delivered is low and that there is a large waiting list for inpatient detoxification. There appears to be a culture of inpatient detoxification, with an over reliance on this intervention as opposed to community detoxification – this needs reviewing
- We heard widespread concern regarding the service response to people with a dual diagnosis.
- We understand that some changes have recently been made to Alcohol Treatment Requirement (ATR) provision, which have moved the threshold for ATRs to an AUDIT score of 30+. As this has reduced the number of offenders being issued with an ATR we recommend that you consider the appropriateness of this threshold
- Ensure there are links between alcohol and domestic abuse agendas

## Theme 5: Criminal Justice, Licensing and Availability

- Portsmouth's Licensing Policy is being reviewed and is currently undergoing consultation. This presents an opportunity to:
  - Confirm a clear shared vision for the night time economy
  - Reinforce the objectives of the cumulative impact policy in Guildhall Walk
  - Consider other areas for cumulative impact policies e.g. Albert Road
  - Improve data collection and sharing protocols to develop a more intelligence led approach to test purchases and enforcement
  - Formalise roles and responsibilities of all key partners and Responsible Authorities
- The NST was unable to ascertain which aspects of alcohol and management of the night time economy are covered in: the Evening and Late Night Economy Partnership (ELNEP); the Portsmouth Business Crime Reduction Partnership (PBCRP); and Pubwatch. We recommend a review to clarify which group takes the lead on particular alcohol issues to avoid duplication



## Theme 6: Workforce Training and Awareness

- As Portsmouth has adopted alcohol as a flagship priority, it is important to ensure that all partners have workplace alcohol policies for their staff. This should include providing brief advice in the workplace

## Theme 7: Children, Young People and Families

- In the challenging financial climate there may be economies of scale in joining up commissioning across a range of health issues and risk taking behaviours e.g. substance misuse, teenage pregnancy and smoking, through the Children's Trust. The new Children's Trust structure, based on age-banded Boards should assist in developing this holistic approach
- There is also a need to ensure close links between substance misuse commissioning for children and young people with the Alcohol Strategy and commissioning of services for adults.
- Given the impact of parental alcohol use on young people's behaviour, there is a need to ensure that all available opportunities are utilised to tackle parental alcohol use

## Top 5 Priority Actions for Portsmouth

- Develop a delivery plan to support implementation of the Alcohol Strategy and ensure that delivery is integrated into core business of partner agencies
- The Acute Trust needs to ensure that it is fulfilling its responsibility for delivering the Alcohol Strategy, including implementing ED data sharing
- Develop a clear model for the alcohol treatment system that makes best use of available resources
- Ensure all public sector workplace alcohol policies are fit for purpose
- Clarify the scope of the re-tendering exercise and the model for delivering services for under 25s