Tackling Drugs with Vulnerable Young People:
Examples from Health Action Zones
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The SNAP building in Luton (shown on front cover)

SNAP (Social Needs Awareness Project) is a community based arts initiative involving young people in Luton.

(One example of the many and diverse drug prevention projects operating throughout Health Action Zones in England)
Acknowledgements

This publication was jointly managed by the Department of Health and the DH Drug Prevention Projects Programme*. The project team included Amitti Canaga-Retna (Department of Health, Systems Partnership and Social Inclusion Branch), Tony Thake (Department of Health, Drug Misuse Prevention Team), Nick Hope (Programme Manager) and Joanne Bell (Programme Administrator).

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Bradford
East London and the City
Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham
Luton
Manchester, Salford and Trafford
North Cumbria
Northumberland
Nottingham
Plymouth
South Yorkshire Coalfields
Tyne and Wear

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* The DH Drug Prevention Projects Programme operates through a service level agreement with the Department of Health at Bradford Health Authority. The Programme, overseen by the Health Authority’s Director of Public Health, has a small complement of two people, which will rise to three or four this year (2001). Over 180 drug (misuse) prevention projects in England are associated with the Programme.

The remit of the Programme is to provide or broker support to the projects as well as to put in place central monitoring and national evaluation processes. In addition it is tasked with producing best practice guidance with a view to informing future policy. See Further Contacts section at the end of the document for Programme contact details.
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Tackling Drugs with Vulnerable Young People: Examples from Health Action Zones

Introduction

Background
Helping young people resist drug misuse so that they can achieve their full potential in society is a key aim of the Government’s 10-year strategy, Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain. The strategy’s underlying principal is to shift the emphasis from reactive drug treatment to proactive drug prevention.

In The NHS Plan, the Department of Health, with other government departments, is committed to reducing the proportion of people under the age of 25 reporting the use of class A drugs by 25% by 2005 and 50% by 2008. Education and prevention activity are key to helping agencies achieve this target.

The Department of Health, in conjunction with the Home Office and other public sector partners, has funded a number of projects in Health Action Zones (HAZs) which focus on increasing activities in drug misuse prevention for vulnerable young people. Key objectives in funding these projects were to build up the capacity of long term sustainable drug prevention services (rather than short term projects) in deprived areas, and to give a boost to preventive work with groups of young people at high risk of drug misuse. They also give central Government an insight into the effectiveness of joint planning and funding of drug prevention services. For local agencies, they provided an opportunity to take advantage of the knowledge and experience of Home Office Drug Prevention Initiative (DPI) staff throughout the country, and an impetus to foster the development of joint working, planning and funding.

The projects are now an integral part of the Government’s anti-drugs strategy and are featured in the United Kingdom Anti-Drugs Co-ordinator’s publications First Annual Report & National Plan and Second National Plan.

Health Action Zones
The HAZ initiative was one of the first modernisation initiatives to be announced by the government when it came into office. Two waves of HAZs, focussed on areas of high deprivation,
were subsequently established in 1998 and 1999. There are 26 HAZs (11 in the first wave) ranging in size from 180,000 population to nearly 1.5m.

HAZs are partnerships between the NHS, local authorities, the voluntary and private sector, and local communities themselves. They are taking forward challenging work programmes which represent a new approach to public health, linking health, regeneration, employment, education, housing and anti-poverty initiatives to respond to the needs of vulnerable groups and deprived communities. Integrating the services and new approaches which HAZs are developing into mainstream activity is key to the success of these programmes. HAZs are designed to be a “catalyst” or “seed” for encouraging existing organisations to work together, to innovate and to cut across geographical and structural barriers.

**Drug Misuse Prevention Projects**

Funding for drug misuse prevention projects in 1st and 2nd Wave HAZs has helped enhance the co-ordination of such activities in deprived areas, as well as providing an incentive to develop more innovative, targeted services. HAZ partnerships are also an added advantage in encouraging the development of joint working and planning. Strong links have been forged between Drug Action Team Co-ordinators and other HAZ partners, and HAZ strategic level partnerships have ensured the commitment of senior planners.

Linked to local Drug Action Team plans, the projects are multi-agency in nature and cover a wide spectrum of vulnerable young people thought at risk of misusing drugs. In addition the projects are at differing stages ranging from the initial planning stage to achieving full implementation. Some have the aim of integrating drug misuse prevention within and across services for young people provided by health, local authorities and other HAZ partners. Others are discrete projects getting to grips with a particular category of vulnerable young person, say children with drug misusing parents.

Many of the projects and initiatives either support or have developed links with other initiatives. These include the Connexions Service, Single Regeneration Budget initiatives, Local Education Authority Drug Advisors and Healthy Schools Programmes to name but a few!
Evidence base
It is too early to say conclusively what contribution is being made overall by the (around) 130 pump priming drug misuse prevention projects and initiatives with young people now established in HAZs.

But some tentative findings in first wave HAZs suggest that some are making a difference and helping to shift the emphasis away from reactive drug treatment to proactive drug misuse prevention measures (as envisaged in the Government’s 10 year strategy mentioned earlier). For example one community arts based course project with excluded young people found that ex participants subsequently refrained from alcohol, re-offending and substance misuse. Another peer education and counselling service was able to measure a reduction in drug use within the targeted young people.

However tentative examples of successful projects are no substitute for an evidence base that can reliably demonstrate which projects and interventions are effective and this publication does not pretend to provide this. As more of the projects and initiatives come on stream, and the results of both local and national evaluations are known, it is hoped a better picture will emerge that will include what worked effectively and what methodologies can be used successfully outside the immediate localities where they originated.

Plans for an evolving national evaluation of the pump priming initiatives are underway which should be completed in 2003. The intention is that the evaluation will provide the independent evidence base on with conclusions can be drawn on the effectiveness of the projects and their associated methodologies.

Future guidance and this publication
As more of these projects come on stream and the evaluation kicks in, the intention is to produce guidance, which highlights best practice and provides a steer for future policy development. (This work is being co-ordinated by the DH Drug Prevention Projects Programme set up at Bradford Health Authority – more information about the Programme can be found through the Further Contacts section at the end of this document).

As a precursor to the guidance, this publication identifies a few examples of projects from mostly first wave HAZs, together with some key learning points. The examples are illustrative only and categorised into three important processes in the
development of drug misuse prevention services, partnership working, engaging young people, and training and support.

It is important that the reader recognises that the intention of this publication is to share experiences of a few projects, organised in a helpful way. Section 4’s key learning points are those relating to individual projects rather than overall guidance, which this is not, and certainly not a shortcut to setting up and running drug prevention projects. (Where people are concerned with setting up drug prevention projects, the Other Publications and Further Contacts sections maybe helpful).

Hopefully the contents of this publication will be of interest to a wide variety of people involved in the drug prevention field.
1. Partnership Working

The establishment of drug misuse prevention projects and initiatives within HAZs has enabled them to take advantage of existing partnership arrangements and helped advance the partnership agenda for drug misuse prevention in a number of ways:

• **Strategic planning across agencies:** for example, in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham HAZ, all substance misuse projects report to the Health Authority Substance Misuse Contracts Manager and the relevant borough based drug reference group, as well as the HAZ, so that longer term planning will take into account the learning from these projects.

• **Joint or collaborative commissioning of services:** such as the joint commissioning and funding of community drug education services and the opening of a centre which serves the boroughs of Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham.

• **Joint working at community, staff and management levels:** for example, Luton’s network of drug education/prevention workers and the police who worked in partnership to run two successful Football Festivals. The police and LA arranged the football competition but all the project workers devised an interactive health competition with a strong drugs awareness theme.

• **Co-ordinated policy:** such as Northumberland’s High School Pack and Whole School Policy Guidelines which were jointly designed and delivered by partners from health, education, police, the young service and young people themselves. Another example is the production of the Luton Drug Education Guidance and Policy which was developed with representatives of schools and other local providers of drug education to ensure a coordinated approach across the whole system.

It is clear that a wide variety of public and private partners have been involved with the projects. The following examples cover some of the partnership and multi-agency approaches taken by the HAZ drug misuse prevention projects. However, good partnership approaches are also evident in a number of other examples included in this document. The following selection should not therefore be seen as exhaustive.
**Project Examples**

**Trafford Substance Misuse Service - Youth Succeeding**

This project aims to develop a service based on multi-agency support for meeting the needs of disaffected youth in Old Trafford/Gorse Hill. The core aim of the plan is to engage with and provide positive and accredited learning experiences for disaffected Year 10 and 11 pupils. The work focuses on young people who have been permanently excluded or are continually self excluding from mainstream education in North Trafford and are at risk of anti-social behaviour. The project is to be match funded by Trafford Education Department from their Standards Fund allocation for drug prevention.

Further Information: Carol Furphy, Tel: 0161 912 1157, email: carolf@masthaz.freeserve.co.uk

**Lifeline - Salford Early Intervention Project**

The project is an early intervention project that focuses on young people at risk in Salford. It targets young people who are looked after, school non-attenders, homeless, involved in the criminal justice system or whose parents are substance misusers. The project aims to establish a network of service providers who will identify risk factors amongst vulnerable young people and develop a range of holistic interventions.

Further Information: Carol Furphy, Tel: 0161 912 1157, email: carolf@masthaz.freeserve.co.uk
**Luton Social Needs Awareness Project (SNAP)**
(run by Luton Community Arts Trust)

This is a community-based arts initiative working with young people who are excluded from mainstream activities due to age, gender, lifestyle, ethnicity, socio-economic status, lack of education achievement or residence.

Activities include workshops with vulnerable young people (homeless/drug addicts) covering photography both still and on location, video making, lyric/music. Group took part in the Luton Millennium photo project. These workshops enable participants to develop confidence and self-esteem through involvement in a group work process and provide them with pathways into education, training and employment. The project has resulted in requests for video making for mental health users support group and by the Local Authority’s Independent Living Team to take part in a video about young people’s experiences whilst living in care.

The project originated in 1997 as a pilot funded through Luton Dunstable Partnership but has flourished with further funding. The additional funding has enabled the project to evolve from a grassroots project into a successful community arts activity. It has created a self-help atmosphere where young people can seek support in relation to their own life issues and provided a proactive signposting service.

**Funding has been secured from a variety of agencies and the initiative is supported by a multi-agency group which secures its future sustainability. Agencies involved include the University of Luton, Luton Borough Council, Drug Action Team, Drugline, Safer Luton Partnership, Luton Youth Inclusion Team and the All Women’s Centre are all involved. The project links to all the other HAZ drugs prevention projects to ensure a coordinated approach.**

The last monitoring report showed that most participants left the course when schools and colleges reopened and a small number left after securing employment. Those who continued were unemployed but refraining from alcohol, re-offending and substance misuse.

Further Information: Website: [www.snapart.co.uk](http://www.snapart.co.uk)
**Luton ADIBOP**

This project was set up in response to the growing concern around drugs misuse in the Pakistani/Kashmiri and Bangladeshi communities. It provides information services to Asian young people and their families in a culturally sensitive environment and in appropriate languages; develop services and create innovative drugs education and prevention programmes for Asian young people. There are two outreach workers who are working within their target community to raise drugs awareness and offer advice on substance misuse in a culturally sensitive environment. They can communicate in Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali and Sylethi. There is in addition to a part-time Bangladeshi female outreach worker and a project coordinator, the latter funded by the Centre for Youth and Community Development (CYCD).

Prior to funding there was no drugs education or prevention work specifically aimed at Asian communities. Funding has enabled the establishment of a dedicated outreach service within the Asian communities offering confidential 1:1 befriending and information. As a result, two (single sex) High Schools with a high proportion of students from South Asian communities have incorporated drugs education into their Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE) classes in which ADIBOP have had a lead role. Youth Clubs are also targeted with information points also being set up at some of these. Community groups, including Asian women’s organisations and local mosques, are involved and awareness sessions held. The project also participated in the annual Summer School run by the Bangladeshi Youth League, holding workshops and drama activities. Regular drop in sessions are held in the local Community Centre, in conjunction with other drugs prevention and youth projects.

Awareness has been raised dramatically through schools and youth settings and parents from the Asian communities are now requesting information and education.

**The project is run in partnership with CYCD, Bangladeshi Youth League and Khidmat. These community groups support the cultural needs of both the Bangladeshi and Pakistani/Kashmiri communities. The project has greatly improved joint working. All workers link in and refer appropriately to SNAP, Drugline, South Beds Alcohol and Advisory Service, the Drug Action Team (DAT), Health Promotion, local Community Resource Centre, Luton Youth Inclusion, and the Police Schools Liaison service.**

Further information: Website: [www.adibop.co.uk](http://www.adibop.co.uk)
Gateshead p'HAZ'ed Project - North East Council on Addictions (NECA)

Gateshead Centre is one of the North-East Council of Addictions ten centres and houses four of NECA’s twenty-three projects. The focus of the intervention funded through the project funding was the development of activity based group work, utilising a programme of activities. The Young Peoples Project which was funded became known as the p'HAZ'ed Project (Personal HAZ Educational Development). The specific aims of the project are to develop effective prevention and harm minimisation approaches in work with high-risk groups of vulnerable young people. The range of interventions offered include:

- Specialist drug counselling and harm reduction advice
- Intensive, sustained, activity based group work to develop practical and social skills to increase self-confidence
- Incorporation of explicit drug prevention messages from the outset of the programme
- Networking and referral to other relevant services and agencies.

Since the start of the p'HAZ'ed Project the number of clients aged under 16 increased from 5 in 1998/1999 to 16 clients in 1999/2000. The target groups for the projects are:

- Regular truants, excluded or at risk of exclusion from school
- In contact with the criminal justice system
- In the care of Local Authorities or at risk of unplanned admission into care
- Identified as being at risk of becoming involved in serious drug misuse by Youth or Social Services.

The services provided by the p'HAZ'ed Project are based within the NECA offices which are relatively central thus providing access to young people across the Gateshead region. The offices are also close to the Young People’s Centre and the Civic Centre. The project has also established strong links with other local agencies, providing advice on Housing, Benefits, Careers and Employment, Training and Health needs. The target groups were selected due to the fact that the largest inconsistencies were related to drug prevention work with these young people in these vulnerable groups. Prior to the funding, NECA provided three individual projects, namely the Core Service of counselling provision, the Women’s Development Project and the Young
People’s Outreach project. The funding allocated to the Gateshead project was used to support a worker attached to the NECA Young Peoples Project. The worker operated alongside the Gateshead Community Support Team (CST) to provide longer term individual and group work with young people coming into contact with the CST.

The p’HAZ’ed Project continues to work closely with the Local Authority Drug Action Team (DAT) to link to existing drug prevention activities and expand activities to provide further support for young people. The p’HAZ’ed Project established an extensive network across Gateshead and the surrounding areas. Over twenty organisations and agencies have worked with the project to improve the support services provided to young people in the Gateshead area. In addition within the first 6 months of the project 124 young people have been involved in group-work activities in partnership with local schools, youth clubs and learning and training groups. In addition community awareness and health promotion activities have also been facilitated by Local Authority departments, Health Promotion Services and local Community Centres.

Further information: Andy Parkinson, Tyne & Wear HAZ
Tel: 0191 461 9208
Fax: 0191 461 9201
email: andrew.parkinson@exchange.gatsh-tr-north.nhs.uk
Northumberland
High Schools and Peer Education

A multi-agency high school intervention was trialled in Prudhoe High School. Delivered to Year 9 students, the intervention is actually suitable for the entire high school age range as it is largely student centred. The intervention also lends itself well to a peer education model and one of the exercises was used in the Duchess’s Drugs Awareness Day, led by Year 11 students delivering to Year 11 peers. Crucial to the Intervention is teacher involvement. Training in the intervention will also be given in the High School INSET Programme.

Because of the ‘student centred approach’ used in Northumberland, the potential of peer education is clear, but this approach can be fraught with difficulties. These will be explored in the context of suitable classroom based activities. The INSET will also include a workshop carousel around alcohol and scenarios involving thinking skills. Drug awareness, exploration of attitudes, work with parents, the spiralling curriculum, needs analysis techniques, self esteem, exercises and interactive activities will also be explored. Whole school drugs policy will be covered.

A very ambitious project was held in Alnwick in November. The whole of Year 11 were taken off timetable for the entire day and enjoyed a morning led by same age peer educators. Year 9 were also taken off timetable for most of the morning. There was also a parent’s evening led by the two peer educators, supported by school staff, the police and the Drug Education Teacher. Planning the event involved a variety of people and organisations including the police, school nurses, 6th Form GNVQ students, Year 11 students. While minor amendments could be made to similar events in the future, it was undoubtedly a hugely successful day and an ambitious and innovative project. Some of the students expressed an interest in working with feeder middle schools.

Blyth Community College Year 12 students are currently training as peer educators to deliver what amounts to the entire PSHE curriculum to Year 9s. Again, a very ambitious project which involves a wide range of health and education professionals. Noticeably, every one of the peer education team is a girl, so it is of the utmost importance that we concentrate our recruitment efforts next year on boys to achieve something resembling a balance.

The Drug Education Teacher is currently working on a peer education drama intervention with 6th formers at the Duchess’
High School in partnership with the school nurses. Negotiations are also ongoing with nursery/high schools.

Prior to funding there was only a Drugs Education project for middle schools. Funding has enabled activities to be developed in all phases nursery – high and beyond. It means that peer education interventions are also being devised, implemented and evaluated. Intervention around comparative risk being delivered to Youth Offending Team groups. Drama interventions to be piloted and evaluated – all phases and disaffected. Packs designed for generic use.

Long term sustainability is ensured by teachers being involved in planning, delivering materials and being involved in training. The High school and middle school packs are designed in collaboration to ensure that the subject matter may be taught by non-specialists while the format is teacher friendly, easy to follow and clear.

Further Information: Vanessa Bainbridge, DAT Coordinator
Tel: 01670 534744.
**PROJECT 6 in Keighley**

Partnership working is regarded as very important by Project 6 who provide a wide range of services to drug and alcohol users, their families, friends and carers. Project 6 work very closely with community based services, a multi agency antenatal service, housing & social services departments, and the police, to name but a few.

Project 6 is a registered charity (Airedale Voluntary Drug and Alcohol Agency established in 1989). Providing services to young adults (over 16s), they also work with pregnant women, and consequently mothers with young children, in partnership with other agencies working under the Bradford Health Action Zone umbrella.

While the work of Project 6 focuses on users and reducing their drug and alcohol use, it also provides appropriate prevention interventions to relatives, friends and carers of users thought to be at risk. The work with relatives and carers has a number of purposes. In addition to supporting this client group the advice and information increases their awareness and understanding about substance use. With this increased awareness the relatives and carers can help to prevent other members of their family or friends entering into substance misuse.

Project 6 is based in Keighley, West Yorkshire serving a geographical area with a population of 93,000 with high rates of unemployment and poverty. Over 10,000 visits were made to the Project in 2000/2001 (ratio of male to female visitors was 3:1).

Building on its previous success, Project 6 was able to supplement pump priming funding, received via Bradford HAZ, with local funding, to ‘develop the physical capacity of this voluntary sector substance misuse project’. This enabled the purchase of their rented premises and the adjoining building in April 2001 which allowed conversion, greatly increasing their physical capacity with a view to increasing and expanding their services. The refurbishment programme is continuing.
The new and refurbished premises will realise numerous benefits. Immediate benefits include improved staff working conditions, security of not being in a rented building and no annual rents to pay. The planned service benefits, some of which have already been realised, include those listed below:

Increase in numbers of people Project 6 is able to help through existing services which include:

- Assessments
- Needle Exchange Service
- Care Planned counselling
- Alcohol support group
- Relatives, friends and carers service
- Multi agency antenatal services
- Complementary therapies
- Training

Capacity to develop and improve service through:

- Improved conditions for service users;
- Access for people with disabilities;
- Helping to develop ‘with partners’ the maternity and family support services;
- Expanding alcohol core services to more women and younger alcohol users;
- Developing the relatives, friends and carers service to offer a community based support service in partnership with community based support services and projects;
- Developing the pilot complementary therapy service

Further information: Annie Bhogul: 01535 610180, email: proj6anniebhogul@aol.com
2. Engaging Young People

A number of HAZ projects identified a lack of services which would open up opportunities for young people to take action themselves, and as well as providing greater access to drugs education, prevention and treatment. Key developments include:

- services based on multi-agency, holistic approaches;
- working with parents;
- opening up dialogue across agencies on confidentiality issues and sharing information;
- intensive support to particularly vulnerable young people so that they feel their viewpoints are valued;
- services and targeted programmes which are child centred and designed together with children and young people.

Project Examples

**Shrewsbury Street Project/Old Trafford Kickstart Youth Programme**

This project aims to develop the capacity of the Old Trafford community to form strategies to tackle the individual, community and social harms related to the social exclusion of certain groups of young people. The project aims to improve the relationships between excluded young people and the wider community through the further development of the Kickstart Youth Programme. The project includes the opportunity for active involvement of community members at all levels and a potential model of good practice for engaging vulnerable young people across the Health Action Zone. The project involves activity based work with young people that includes information and training on substance misuse.

Further Information: Carol Furphy, Tel: 0161 912 1157, email: carolf@masthaz.freeserve.co.uk
Northumberland – Drugs Awareness Nursery Schools Initiative (DANSI)

Since DANSI’s introduction to Northumberland last December, attitudes have changed from ‘Drug education for pre schoolers? You must be mad’ to ‘When is the next DANSI training day, we’ve heard it’s really good’.

Northumberland have introduced a spiralling curriculum in drug education that is a consistent, integrated approach to life skills education throughout the child’s career in Nursery, First, Middle and High School and beyond. The aims of DANSI for 3 year olds are the same as the aims of our Sixth Form Peer Education Programme. Form is identical, content changes.

Evidence shows that children who value themselves, make their own decisions and take ownership of them, are far less at risk both in childhood and later life than those who have not developed these skills.

**Self Esteem** is the first module in the pack. It helps children to build their own self esteem by introducing the concept of uniqueness. It enables children to identify why they are special/unique and helps them to recognise others who are special to them. In circle time, they begin to recognise their own moods and how to cope with them.

**Decision Making** introduces children to making decisions about what they should wear in different types of weather, what they should eat and who they can trust; most importantly, children learn how and when to say NO.

**Medicines and Drugs** helps children to make decisions about how they treat their own bodies. They learn how medicines should be safely stored.

The spiralling curriculum is an important element of Northumberland’s strategy and DANSI forms its foundation. Self esteem, decision making and risk taking form the subject matter through all phases. Working with parents is also an important strand of DANSI. Opening a dialogue around drugs with parents when their children are clearly not personally ‘involved’, and when they have a much more intimate relationship with their...
child’s education in general, means that they are much more likely to continue that dialogue later in the first, middle and high schools.

Further Information: DANSI
Tel: 01670 533582

**Salford Anti Rust Project**
This project aims to work with vulnerable young people through a gardening mentoring project. The project aims to involve young people in gardening to improve their confidence, self esteem, social and practical skills. The young people would also have access to drugs information, which would be provided in addition to the existing programme.

Further Information: Carol Furphy, Tel: 0161 912 1157, email: carolf@masthaz.freeserve.co.uk

**Luton Youth Inclusion Programme (formerly Luton Youth Action)**
This is a peer-led drug education programme which had been operating in local High Schools since January 1997 and was expanded. The programme now includes projects with parents, particularly from minority ethnic communities, work with the Education Welfare Service around truants and those excluded from school and the establishment of a peer-education project with young homeless people.

All 12 high schools have participated. Over 146 young people recruited as peer educators during 99/00 school year; 121 completed training. Now linked to youth agencies and young people’s hostels and 5 out of 6 now developing peer led approach. Although Luton Youth Action was in existence prior to funding, it was with a limited peer-led drug education programme which could not reach all schools. Funding has enabled the project to appoint dedicated workers to reach every high school in Luton and extend their remit to young homeless and young offenders. Indications are that peer-led work is much more beneficial than anything offered by adults. This project also links to all drugs education/prevention agencies in the town. A network has been formed to enable a town wide coordinated approach, share good practice and eliminate duplication.

Further Information: Joan Bailey, Tel: 01582 486456, Fax: 01582 457631.
Bradford HAZ - Under 18’s Substance Misuse Casework Service

Bradford HAZ’s Under 18’s Substance Misuse Service aims to help reduce the rate of substance related crime among young people and to make it easier for young people experiencing substance related difficulties to access treatment services. Three caseworkers have been developing a service to meet the needs of particularly vulnerable young people, their parents and/or carers which includes:

- Information advice about substance misuse, its effects, the law, the services available locally and health related issues
- Assessing substance misuse by individuals and contributing to care or treatment plans
- Direct work with young people, experiencing drug related problems by means of practical and counselling support, harm reduction advice and relapse prevention work
- Referral on to more specialist agencies.

Centrally based within Bradford Social Services Alcohol & Other Drugs Social Work Team, these caseworkers offer a District wide service. From the outset the service has targeted young people already experiencing substance related difficulties and at risk of developing entrenched patterns of problematic use. The project planning has taken account of the Health Advisory Service report (1996) and targeted the most vulnerable groups of young people through those agencies which are most likely to become aware of them. The planning and development of the service has involved close liaison and joint working practices with a wide range of statutory and voluntary agencies. To date the significant partners in the project have been: Young Offending Teams (Y.O.T.), Social Services Childrens Division, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services, Voluntary sector Drug Treatment Services, Education Services.

The Project has placed an emphasis on delivering an outreach service characterised by a willingness to be persistent in seeking to engage young people. Young people who might otherwise be reluctant or unable to access help. The nature of substance using behaviour has ranged from early experimental usage to intermittent heavy consumption to dependent use. For the young people in the latter category heroin was the substance of first choice. Interventions have ranged from time limited task centred educational input to more open ended relationship building aimed at engaging young people in agreed plans of work. Sexual health issues have been seen to be particularly but not exclusively associated with those young people who are
heroin dependent. A significant proportion of young women using substances in problematic ways have also been vulnerable to sexually abusive/exploitative relationships.

Alongside the casework services more accessible drop-in advice clinics have recently been established within two youth support services; Barnardo’s Street’s and Lanes Project, and Bradford Council’s Youth Information Shop. The former is a specialist and confidential service for vulnerable young women. The latter is a generic public access service for all young people sited in the centre of Bradford. The Project is also developing further activity around group work with young people who have grown up in families where parents have been using substances in problematic ways.

Further Information: Hugh Bryson, Senior Care Manager, Bradford Social Services, Alcohol and Other Drugs Team, Tel/fax: 01274 757971.
Plymouth HAZ – OffBase project

Launched in July last year as a result of extensive consultation in the field. OffBase is an outreach project, which seeks to engage with young people known to be vulnerable in their own location/environment. ‘Clients’ are identified either through existing networks e.g. schools, Youth Offending Teams etc or through targeted street work.

Typically, the young people have multiple problems and multiple needs. They do not necessarily have to have problematic patterns of drug and alcohol use (though many have). It is more about providing supportive and ‘diversionary’ activities to prevent the development of entrenched problems. The workers link with other key professionals in the young person’s locality to ensure continuity and a coherent ‘package’ of support, where necessary workers make referrals to treatment services and maintain contact whilst the ‘client’ is receiving treatment. Age extends to 18 years and range of current clients is from 9 years to 17 years.

Prior to this project there was no service for this client group. That is, the young person with multiple needs who is likely to develop entrenched patterns of drug use.

Feedback from partner agencies e.g. youth service, schools, lifelong learning etc has been good with the service being seen to plug an important gap. Over the two-year life of the project we expect to establish a much clearer picture of the numbers and needs of the client group in order to inform the emerging HAZ/Drug Action Team drug and alcohol strategy for young people in Plymouth. The future of the project will be determined in the light of that process.

There are a number of key learning points to note. Because the project aims to link with and ‘piggy-back’ on existing work and relationships there is the obvious ‘cross-fertilisation’ of skills and ideas between professional workers e.g. youth workers and drug workers. This translates to the organisational level with the various agencies looking to align strategic aims and priorities. The process has undoubtedly been helped by the fact that OffBase has a multi-agency steering group composed of key partners.

Further Information: Gary Wallace,
email: Gary.Wallace@sw-devon-ha.swest.nhs.uk
This project was funded to prevent young substance misusers (16-24 years) from developing long term drug using and criminal careers, to ensure that young vulnerable substance misusers are able promptly to access relevant treatment services, especially in rural and HAZ areas. This was achieved by appointing a Community Practice Nurse (CPN) with a specific remit, and the development of 7 further clinical assistant sessions in line with our local policy of supporting the prescribing of Methadone in primary care and introducing a supervised Methadone swallowing scheme.

The initial objective was to make contact with those other agencies who deal with 16-25 year olds. The main focus has been to see substance users within the above age group who are particularly chaotic. This group of clients require more intensive contact than is usually offered. At times this has meant daily contact for monitoring purposes and developmental work. There are also assessment slots three times a week ensuring that the majority of the young people can be seen within 48 hours of referral.

Out of the 20 HAZ wards there are 5 that are in the east of the county. It was felt that the project should initially focus on those wards in the west with an advisory and liaison role provided to the east. The areas that are covered are primarily within the most deprived wards or where there has been an obvious unmet need for this age group. Services include:

- Counselling offered is primarily solution focused concentrating on areas such as assertiveness, alternative coping strategies, diversionary activities and relapse management;
- Practical support in life skills;
  Family support has been important in contributing to the stabilisation of the client’s lifestyle by promoting awareness;
- Interventions offered within a community setting;
- Prescribing services arranged through close liaison with the client’s GP. Prescribing may be on a stabilisation basis or a detoxification regimen;
- Methadone, Lofexidine and benzodiazepine prescribing can be offered as appropriate;
- Detoxification can be arranged within the community or through inpatient detoxification in conjunction with Yewdale Ward.
Effective areas of intervention have been: rapid response (48 hours), small case numbers enable the CPN to spend intensive time with clients, links with GPs enables rapid response to prescribing needs, thus engaging client at point of motivation and makes client feel that their need is of value.

Activity in the area prior to funding was a relatively standard approach to Health Promotion, campaigns, literature etc, a multi agency training initiative aimed at Teachers (Drug Awareness Group) and 4 Drug Reference Groups. Project funding has enabled further development of links already made into Youth Service, Voluntary Sector, Community Sector, further training, raising awareness and understanding of the CPN post and services available, the development of data and production of regular reports.

Further information: Catherine Thwaites or Gwyn Jones, North Cumbria HA, Tel: 01900 324143.
North Cumbria
Turning Point - Criminal Justice Team

The purpose of this funding was to reduce drug related offending in North Cumbria, especially in the most deprived wards identified in the HAZ Action Plan, to prevent young offenders from developing long term drug and criminal careers; to implement interventions aimed at cutting short the offending behaviour among young drug users through effective treatment intervention; and to increase community safety from drug related crime.

This was achieved by the appointment of two full-time Criminal Justice System Workers by Turning Point (a national charity), although the scheme itself was managed and monitored by Cumbria Probation Service. In the last full year, the following outcomes were identified by users:

Abstinence rose from 21% to 34%.
Chaotic drug behaviour reduced from 50% to 32%.
Controlled use of drug of choice rose from 29% to 54%.
Chaotic offending behaviour fell from 26% to 8%.
Crime free behaviour rose from 54% to 75%.
Some crime behaviour fell from 20% to 17%.
22% started employment/training.
36% were referred onto relevant agencies, or given practical assistance.

Cumbria Alcohol And Drug Advisory Service (CADAS) - Peer Education and Counselling

The purpose of this project was to develop peer education and counselling for young people, with the intention of preventing and reducing drug use in young people. The scheme has been extended into 2001/02 with funding from Education.

A number of young people have achieved abstinence or controlled drug use, enabling involvement in education and employment schemes. There has been measurable reduction in drug use within targeted young people. Funding has also enabled linkage with other schemes.

Further Information: Catherine Thwaites or Gwyn Jones, North Cumbria HA, Tel: 01900 324143.
Addaction Hackney Young Peoples Service

Addaction Hackney Community Drug Services is a busy drug service based in the Upper Clapton Area of Hackney. Prior to July 1999 young people aged 25 and under were seen by all project workers, there was no specific service or workers available to meet the needs of young people. In July 1999 two project workers were employed to work specifically with those clients aged 25 and under. These posts were funded through HAZ (Health Action Zone) monies for an initial period of two years. To give an impression of the levels of workload in the quarter January 1999 - March 1999 18 clients aged 25 and under were seen. Two years later, after the young peoples workers had been in post some 18 months, upwards of 38 young people were seen in the same quarter an increase of over 100%.

Over the two years of the project several pieces of developmental work have been carried out including - work at the community office on the Clapton Park Estate. Work has been performed at a local GP’s surgery in Stoke Newington where many young people go for methadone prescribing. Furthermore at the end of 2000 work was finished on a separate young peoples service attached to the main project funded through trust fund monies.

A flourishing service has been built up which, over the last two years, has become well known to many agencies working with young people in Hackney. The results achieved in such a short space of time, and from scratch, are extremely impressive. Levels of training with young people and other professionals have been extremely high and the development of a separate discrete service in line with government guidelines on good practice is, in itself, another milestone. In the next year the service will be concentrating on dealing with those clients aged 18 or under and developing services specific to this particular client group.

Further Information: Tim Vine, Addaction
Email: tim.vine@addaction.org.uk
3. Training and Support

HAZ drug misuse prevention projects have used a variety of strategies and methods to provide training and support to young people, staff, communities and parents. Key areas on which projects have focussed include:

- provision of accessible drug education for a wide age range (including nursery schools) and different perspectives (including different communities and professionals);
- joint, multi-agency training and education programmes with jointly designed support materials and guidelines;
- specific skills training for a range of professionals across agencies; and
- appropriate skills training for peer educators and parents.

Project Examples

**North Cumbria HIT - Training**

The purpose of this project was to train health and social care workers (including those working in the Criminal Justice System) to recognise drug misuse, and to know how to intervene or when to refer on. £22,000 of that made available to HIT (a long established organisation committed to the reduction of drug related harm).

The training was targeted on specific disciplines such as Social Services staff, Housing Authorities, Youth Service, GPs and Health Authority Directors, non Executive Directors and Commissioners. The remaining funding was used to train GP Clinical Assistants.

Further information: Catherine Thwaites or Gwyn Jones, North Cumbria HA, Tel: 01900 324143.
Healthy Schools Adviser for Drug Education

A key milestone has been the production of the Luton Drug Education Guidance and Policy, developed with representatives of schools and other local providers of drug education to ensure a coordinated approach.

Activities include one to one surgery sessions for school staff which has been well supported. Training events covering wider health and education issues enhanced the delivery of drugs education training sessions. The Adviser provides support towards a planned developmental programme of drug education within the school curriculum for all pupils based on the needs of the school community.

Effective liaison with the HAZ Smoking Cessation project resulted in the first High School establishing a smoking cessation group in September 2000. The Adviser also contributes to the annual multi-agency Football Festival aimed at getting key messages about substance misuse across to 12-14 year olds. Drug training sessions to primary school staff resulted in requests for similar presentations to parents with interpreters available. Over 40 parents attended the first session; they then went back to school to collect home activities with children; parents raised questions with school staff about drug issues in the community and where to go for further support (especially for older siblings and drug related issues). Links were made with ADIBOP (see page 7). As a consequence the family literacy project at this first school now has specific sessions on drug education.

Previously there was no specific support to schools and no prior input on drug education for staff or parents. Funding enabled the appointment of a dedicated person whom schools can contact for support. There is no charge to schools which means schools can request intensive support or ongoing input to a project.

Future work is planned as part of training events to share what is happening in Luton schools concerning work with parents and linking to drug education events. The work has now become an in built session of the family literacy project and the English as an Additional Language project (both funded through Standards Fund Monies). The LEA is now funding the post of Healthy Schools Adviser. Joint working is now established with the family literacy team and the EAL team, as well as with all schools. Planning for each of the sessions involved school staff, community workers and interpreters. A working group of key
Agencies who support school-based drug education established to network, share good practice and develop a coordinated approach.

Awareness of drug education has been raised considerably amongst parents and infants schools are involved. Parents are keen to get further information and advice on drug-related issues.

Further Information: Elizabeth Biggs, Luton Borough Council, Tel: 01582 548115, Email: biggsl@luton.gov.uk

South Yorkshire Coalfields - WISE UP

The focus of this project is on Looked After Children in Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster. Prior to this project there was no specific work focused on substance misuse and prevention for children looked after in the three boroughs. The need for the project was identified from the significant number of children looked after or leaving care who presented for support to the local Young Peoples Drug and Alcohol Services.

The project is overseen by a multi-agency Steering Group with representation from the three Drug Action Teams and the three Social Services Departments (Children and Families Sections). Project priorities are equipping foster carers, residential workers and others with responsibilities for Looked After Children to:

- Carry out basic drugs education with children in their care
- Recognise and respond appropriately, and early, to signs of drug or alcohol misuse
- Respond appropriately to disclosure or discovery of substance use by children and young people.

Project methods included two-hour drugs awareness taster sessions to 264 workers and carers, an accredited two-day Drugs and Young People Training Course to 170 workers and carers, and an accredited ten-day Drugs Liaison Skills course to 21 carers and workers. The latter is being followed up by a two-day Training the Trainers Course. This work is also supported by Policy And Practice Guidelines for carers and residential workers. In addition the project piloted some group work with children who are ‘looked after’.

The interim evaluation report identifies a clear demand for the training and the guidelines. Feedback on the training to date has been extremely positive from both participants and managers. It is not possible at this stage to show any impact on reducing...
drug use or drug related harm. This would require longer term evaluation for which funding has not been made available.

The two day training course will continue to be run in each district jointly by local drugs agencies and graduates of the ten-day course. It has been integrated into Social Services training programme and discussions are in progress about linking it to NVQ (National Vocational Qualification) accreditation. Graduates of the ten-day course will be supported to deliver drugs awareness sessions to other workers and carers and drugs education to young people who are 'Looked After'. The project is producing Resource Packs to assist the above work, including a range of exercises developed by the project, background information and games. Every Residential Unit, Fostering Team and Fostering Association will have a copy of this. In addition, Training Manuals are being produced to support delivery of the Drugs Awareness Session and the Two Day Training Course. The Policy and Practice Guidelines will be widely disseminated to Residential Units and with one copy each to Foster Carers. A Final Event celebrated the Project’s achievements and firm up future arrangements for the project.

Further information: Rotherham Drug Action Team: 01709 302097.
Manchester, Salford and Trafford

Lifeline - Manchester Parenting Project
This project will operate in the nine hot spots identified by the Manchester Crime Audit. It will focus on building the capacity of parents (birth and corporate) to identify and respond to drug use amongst young people. The project aims to build capacity within communities to respond to young peoples drug use.

Young Persons Programme

University of Manchester - A Peer Education Network
The project aims to establish a network of peer education projects across the Health Action Zone. The aim of this is to provide a resource to the community and a model of an integrated approach to work with young people on drugs and other health issues. The project aims to include young people in reducing the risks of problematic drug use and to develop the potential of services to work in collaboration. The proposal includes the development of an accredited peer education course, grants for individual peer education projects, supervision and evaluation of projects and a locally based conference to disseminate lessons learnt.

Manchester City Football Club - Kick it Project
The project aims to provide drug education and training for young people who are at risk of becoming socially excluded to become co-facilitators on the Kick It programme. The project currently provides drug education and football sessions for year 6 pupils across Manchester schools. The proposed extension to the project will involve a mentoring project for 13-16 year olds.

Further Information: Carol Furphy, Tel: 0161 912 1157, email: carolf@masthaz.freeserve.co.uk
DANSI Early Years Drug Education

DANSI is seen to be going from strength to strength (See previous example in Section 2 Engaging Young People). So far 60 schools have received packs and training. To support the practitioner the pack includes: easy to follow lesson plans for each module, vocabulary check lists for each module, a programme overview including desirable learning outcomes, a combined evaluation, assessment and planning sheet for use at the end of each session, parents activity sheets for use in any family learning initiatives.

There is a full colour, 32 page story book which is also on CD ROM. Finally, there are two puppets, one sad, the other happy, to enable the children to talk through the puppet about their feelings. The one day INSET covers nursery incidents; drugs awareness; the local picture; our approach to drug education; early learning goals; lesson planning – extending DANSI; work with parents and dealing with difficult situations. There will be sessions led by Early Years teachers who are using DANSI in the classroom now. The materials and training are free and supply costs will be met centrally.

Teachers have been involved in delivering parts of the training and that opportunity is being extended to others who are willing and able to contribute in this way. This is excellent for the trainees as they can elicit credible responses to practice-based questions; the teacher/trainers as they gain confidence in training fellow professionals; and the Drug Education Teacher also gains much from listening, observing and contributing to teacher/teacher discussion and activity. A workshop has also been run by one of the teachers together with Sure Start; something she ‘would not have dreamt of doing a year ago’.

DANSI has also been offered to the private sector; and 50-60 units will receive packs and training. This intervention has supplemented the budget by £2,000 which has implications for further work with the private sector. The spread of schools using DANSI covers all areas of the county, both geographically and socio-economically. The project was very well received at a recent Family Learning Conference as it lends itself so well to family learning.

**Key Stage 1 Pack** – This pack extends the glove puppet idea (see DANSI example in Section 2) to a puppet theatre. Schools who are using DANSI have all expressed a desire to follow it through into Key Stage 1 and a tranche of schools have been selected to pilot the project.
General INSET, is ongoing covering drugs awareness, exploration of attitudes, work with parents, the spiralling curriculum, needs analysis techniques, self esteem exercises and interactive activities. Whole school drugs policy and the management of drug related incidents is also considered.

A large pack of materials has also been sent out to high schools including DANSI’s own resource (see High Schools and Peer Education in Section 1) a video and teacher's guide concerning alcohol and violence produced by the British Association of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgeons in association with the Portman Group, a Drugs in Sport resource produced by Sunderland Football Club and Priority Healthcare Wearside, a Personal, Social & Health Education (PSHE)/Science resource book with teacher's notes and worksheets, aimed at 13-16 year olds, produced by the Portman Group and a variety of Health Promotion England leaflets with information on how to bulk order. Training is being offered to schools around these resources in January.

Further Information: Vanessa Bainbridge, DAT Coordinator Tel: 01670 534744

### Northumberland Young People Substance Misuse Worker Multi-agency Training Programme

This is a training programme for professionals currently working with young people in Northumberland. There are currently two levels to the training:

- Introduction to substance misuse – Level 1
- Substance misuse – Level 2

**Level 1** – This training is aimed at all primary and secondary workers, enabling them to identify and assess need and respond appropriately with a number of strategies, while engaging with colleagues in other services and agencies. The training also gives basic information on substances and Northumberland’s substance misuse service. So far, approximately 400 professionals have completed the training.

A Training of Trainers course has just commenced that will train 10 professionals from different disciplines to facilitate the level one training enabling more professionals to be trained throughout the county.

**Level 2** – This training is a 36 hour accredited course that includes portfolio work. It is run in conjunction with the local
college and is designed to equip at least one professional out of each agency/team with more in-depth knowledge and skills relating to substance misuse. This is targeted at Tier 2 of the Health Advisory Service model. We also offer professionals who have completed Level 1 training, the opportunity to attend training in Motivational Interviewing. This is a valuable tool used in substance misuse intervention.

Since developing and delivering the training, more professionals are able to give information and advice to young people and their families without the need to refer to specialist agencies. It has also reduced anxiety in some professionals who would have otherwise referred a young person to social services for information or help.

Prior to this training, there was no structured training in Northumberland for professionals other than the occasional ad hoc training provided by the police. The pump-priming monies have helped increase drugs prevention activities as it has enabled the training to proceed, allowing professionals to become trained and supported in their role as primary and secondary workers. This has increased interventions using preventative methods rather than awaiting crisis then reacting. More information is being delivered to young people in relation to substance use, which will help them in making more informed choices.

The training has improved joint working in many areas such as Health and social services through administration and facilitation, Health, social services, voluntary, education, police, community safety, private sector in Training of Trainers works (Planning, funding and participation), Health social services and education through level two training (Funding and facilitation).

Further Information: Vanessa Bainbridge, DAT Co-ordinator
Tel: 01670 534744.
Double Impact
The Project aims to develop the model of an integrated approach to ‘preparation of work’ needs of young people recovering from dependant Drug use. The comprehensive pathway approach drawn up by Peoples College Nottingham, an Independent Drugs Counselling Agency and the YMCA aims to provide training for work, guidance, counselling, social support and accommodation.

Within these aims the Project looks to increase the number of service users accessing permanent, safe and secure housing. In addition the project actively promotes educational and employment opportunities specific to the needs of the service user.

Through these stated aims the project looks to reduce the number of users returning to substance misuse and/or re-accessing treatment agencies and providers. It also intends to raise the level of awareness with employers and Educational providers of the needs of this specific group.

The project has very specific targets for the promotion of employment and Education. Client Outcome Targets.

Training and education attainments:

Year 1 12 Clients to NVQ Level I (or equivalent)
6 Clients to NVQ Level II (or equivalent)

Year 2 12 Clients to NVQ Level I (or equivalent)
6 Clients to NVQ Level II (or equivalent)

Work
Voluntary work 10 Client per year
Paid Work 8 Clients per year

The Project’s built in monitoring process indicated, in February 2001, that all planned outcomes are on target.

Further information: graham_doubleimpact@hotmail.com
4. Key Learning Points

Partnership and Co-ordination

Northumberland Multi-agency Training Programme
- Ensure all services are committed to the training programme and they will find ways of working together
- Participants have valued multi-agency training as a tool to understand each other’s role and to offer support and networking.

Luton ADIBOP
- Cultural sensitivity is essential in developing joint programmes. It is often necessary to work with single communities
- Liaising with other agencies in a co-ordinated way, each offering their own expertise, has helped in delivery of drugs awareness and peer education in schools and youth settings.

Bradford Under 18’s
- Through co-working, partnership and, potentially group work, the skills acquired by project workers will be shared with colleagues in mainstream services.

Mainstreaming and Sustainability

Bradford Under 18’s - Rethinking mainstream services
- At this early stage in the life of the Project informal and anecdotal feedback indicates that the service is perceived by referring agencies and services users as being a valuable resource. This is because the Under 18’s workers are applying skills and knowledge that are not necessarily or consistently available in mainstream services
- The project workers are responding to service requests more rapidly and flexibly than mainstream services are capable of doing
- They also have the capacity to be persistent in seeking to engage young people who all too often have been disappointed by the significant adults in their lives. This has been particularly true of those young people with dependent patterns of substance use. These young people often require open ended and, sometimes, daily contact to sustain contact with support services and/or continuity in treatment.
In making contact with young people in their own neighbourhoods these workers are meeting their older friends, 19 and 20 year olds some of whom are also dependent substance users and often not known to treatment services. Opportunities to develop outreach services for these individuals exist and have raised questions about extending the upper age limit for the service. To date the service has worked with a number of 18 year olds who, strictly speaking, fall outside the projects remit.

In the meantime, workers are developing skills and tools in working with these vulnerable young people. Through co-working, partnership and, potentially group work, these skills will be shared with colleagues in mainstream services.

Northumberland Multi-agency Training Programme
- Training must be ongoing, sustainable and up to date
- An arrangement for long term sustainability needs to be addressed upfront
- The multi-agency approach to training means that substance misuse and child protection issues are now being addressed in the mainstream.

Project 6 in Keighley - the importance of recording, measuring, reporting & reviewing to evidence outcomes
- Project 6 realised very early on that to justify their work continuing and to attract new funding they had to have a robust, integrated monitoring system, which provides outcome evidence. Besides Project Workers routinely recording and summarising all service use, Project 6 also introduced an outcome measurement system, in order to monitor effectiveness of treatment interventions.
- The ability to illustrate post treatment outcome measures for its service users in the care planned counselling service was seen as key. These had to be readily understood by Project Workers, the service users and commissioners alike.
- The outcomes are wider than the level of drug use and include physical health as well as stability in crime and/or legal behaviour. This gives Project 6 the necessary information to demonstrate cost benefits to the mainstream commissioners.
- The system enables Project 6 and the service user to identify and monitor any changes that the service user has made. At the assessment stage of care planned counselling, the service user gives a score from 1-9, indicating the severity of the problem for issues such as;
substance use, injecting, housing, finance, legal situation and relationships. Reviews are held every six to eight weeks with the service user who, at each review, allocates a new score to each issue to indicate progress towards identified goals. The scores are collated on a database and the changes are illustrated in graphical form for the service user.

- Sharing monitoring outcomes with service users has been found to be beneficial. The graphs give the service user visual displays of their achievements which can motivate the service user to maintain their commitment and motivation, which in turn may prevent a relapse and return to drug use.

- Overall for Project 6 the data can be used to illustrate outcome measures for both specific groups (such as age, gender and substance use) and for the service as a whole. Successes can be highlighted as shown in the box below.

An example: Outcome graph(s) for a heroin user showed the changes made as a result of non medical prevention interventions between first review and subsequent assessments. The scores clearly illustrated a reduction in drug use, a dramatic improvement to physical health and stability in crime and legal behaviour.

Targeting and Engaging Vulnerable Groups

Luton Healthy Schools Adviser for Drug Education

- Link drug education parent activities with systems and structures that schools already have in place
- Ensure both staff and parents are receiving up to date quality drug education sessions
- Consider the time and length of the session
- Start with what will initially be relevant for parents, eg what their child will be learning at a particular age in the curriculum
- Provide information which is culturally sensitive on drug related issues for parents to take away.

Luton ADIBOP

- Cultural sensitivity is essential for effective engagement.

Luton Youth Inclusion Programme

- Open it to everyone
- Peer led educators must want to do it; although facilitation by an adult is essential, work must be led by the students
- Listen to what the young people feel is appropriate to their year group.
Bradford Under 18’s

- Those young people with dependent patterns of substance use need open ended and, sometimes, daily contact to sustain contact with support services and/or continuity in treatment.

Confidentiality and Information

DANSI

- Really important to be very up front with statement of confidentiality when working with young people about sex/drugs/offending etc.
- Give young people tools; e.g. ‘tell them’ to talk about ‘my friend’ or ‘someone/heard about’ etc. if you feel they haven’t worked out that strategy themselves.

Bradford Under 18’s

- In developing our working practices with partner agencies joint protocols have been developed addressing in particular the sharing of information and the limits of confidentiality. Essentially information is shared on a need to know basis and confidentiality depends on the particular circumstances of each young person
- Any request for confidentiality can only be addressed on its own merits and by reference to the age, maturity and level of understanding of the young person as well as the nature of their substance use and its attendant risks
- Ideally we seek to work with young people openly and with the consent of their parents. However it is recognised that in some cases full disclosure of information to parents could place a young person at risk of harm.

Northumberland Multi-agency Training Programme

- Confidentiality should be a regular item for debate
- Through multi-agency training, confidentiality has often been found to be inconsistent and generally a grey area that needs policy guidance with a clear statement of confidentiality attached
- Confidentiality is also an issue the Programme encourages professionals to take back to line managers to address
- The Programme also encourages services/agencies that have a strong understanding of the issue to contribute to the ongoing debate.

Luton SNAP

- This project found that it was difficult to record participants’ substance use.
North Cumbria Young Substance Misusers

- There is now an increased awareness of issues between Primary Care and Specialist Services about responsibility for and confidentiality of information. Which appears to illustrate a need for clearer understanding of clinical responsibility, rather than being an information issue only. This will be a target of management action over the next 3 months.
Other Publications

**Tackling Drugs to Build A Better Britain**
The Government’s 10 Year Strategy for Tackling Drug Misuse
(Stationary Office)

**The UK Anti-Drug Co-ordinator's First**
Annual Report & National Plan
(Cabinet Office)

**The UK Anti-Drug Co-ordinator's**
Second National Plan
(Cabinet Office)

**The UK Anti-Drug Co-ordinator's**
(Cabinet Office)

**Assessing Local Needs**
Drug Intervention for Vulnerable Young People
(SCODA/Drugscope)

**Vulnerable Young People and Drugs**
Opportunities to tackle inequalities
(DrugScope/Department of Health)

**Young People and Drugs**
Policy Guidance for drug interventions
(The Childrens Legal Centre/Standing Conference on Drug Abuse (SCODA) 1999)

**The Right Approach**
Quality Standards in Drug Educaiton
(SCODA/Drugscope)

**The Right Choice**
Guidance on selecting drug education materials for schools
(SCODA/Drugscope/Drug Education Forum)
The Right Responses
Managing and making policy for drug-related incidents in schools
(SCODA/Drugscope)
Further Contacts

For information:

On the Department of Health’s contribution to Tackling Drugs to Build A Better Britain contact:
Richard Carter or Tony Thake
Department of Health Drug Misuse Team
Department of Health
133-155 Waterloo Road
London SE1 8UG

Tel: 0207 972 3000.
Or Visit Website: www.doh.gov.uk

On drug misuse prevention projects in HAZs contact:
Nick Hope
Programme Manager
DH Drug Prevention Projects Programme
C/o Bradford Health Authority
New Mill
Victoria Road
Saltaire
West Yorkshire BD18 3LD

Telephone: 01274 366056 or 366083.
Fax: 01274 539131 or 539243.

Email: jbell@bradford-ha.nhs.uk
Or Visit Website: www.doh.gov.uk/drugs

On the HAZ initiative contact:
Michael Swaffield
HAZ Policy Manager
Department of Health
Quarry House
Leeds LS2 7UE

Telephone: 0113 254 5002.
Email: Michael.Swaffield@doh.gsi.gov.uk

Or Visit HAZnet at http://www.haznet.org.uk or contact the enquiry line on 020 7413 1994.
On drug prevention generally
Drugscope
32-36 Loman Street
London SE1 0EE

Telephone: 020 7928 1211.
Fax: 020 7928 1771.

Email: services@drugscope.org.uk
Or Visit Website: www.drugscope.org.uk
(which contains contact details for all local Drug Action Teams)