

# Croydon DAAT Newsletter



January 2008, Issue 10

[www.croydondaat.org.uk](http://www.croydondaat.org.uk)

## Inside this issue:

- **DAAT Update** – outreach service – healthcare commission review – alcohol strategy – adult & young people's budget news - Pg 2/3/4
- **Local News** Pg 4/5
- **Life Skills Project** Pg 5
- **A Day in the Life.....** Pg 6/7
- **Service User/Carer Involvement** Pg 7
- **Croydon PLUG (Peer Led User Group)** Pg 8
- **Events/Campaigns/ Publications** Pg 8/9
- **Movers and Shakers** Pg 9

## WELCOME

Welcome to Croydon Drug & Alcohol Action Team's newsletter. The purpose of this is to let people know what is happening in the drugs and alcohol world in Croydon and beyond. We hope you find the articles interesting and informative and would love to hear reports and stories from individuals and agencies about the latest news on substance misuse in Croydon. Please send articles to [Karen.handy@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.handy@croydon.gov.uk) or fax to: 020 8633 9613 or by post to DAAT Unit, 6<sup>th</sup> floor, Carolyn House, 22-26 Dingwall Road, Croydon CR0 9XF.

## CROYDON DAAT UNIT

**Andy Opie**  
Co-ordinator

**Janet Austin**  
Joint Commissioning Mngr

**Jackie Cave**  
Young People's Co-ordinator

**Ray Rajagopalan**  
Data Manager

**Taiwo Dayo-Payne**  
DAAT Projects Mngr

**Karen Handy**  
SU Involvement Co-ordinator

**Joyann Clarke**  
Temp Office Mgr

**Melanie Bowman**  
DAAT ROB Co-ordinator

**Adenike Alobobi**  
Data Analyst

**Zena Josiah**  
Criminal Justice Mgr

### NEW OUTREACH SERVICE - WESTMINSTER DRUG PROJECT

WDP (Westminster Drug Project) is opening a new outreach service in Croydon in spring 2008. The project aims to increase access to information, advice and treatment to 'hard to reach' groups, including drug users, alcohol misusers, sex workers, ethnic minorities, asylum seekers and the homeless. There will also be a specialist service for women.

The outreach service will make the initial contact with people experiencing drug and alcohol problems and will support the service users to access site based services for treatment. The team will also work to re-engage clients who have lost contact with treatment services, and promote harm reduction to those not already in treatment.

The outreach team will develop services to include the areas of:

- Selhurst
- West Thornton
- Thornton Heath
- Broad Green

The Croydon outreach service aims to reduce anti-social and criminal behaviour related to drug and alcohol use by extending and improving the range of local services available to drug related offenders, and those with drug and alcohol issues, thereby making Croydon a safer place for its residents.

---

**HEALTHCARE COMMISSION AND NTA JOINT SERVICE REVIEWS FOR SUBSTANCE MISUSE 2007/2008** - this is due to start and will be focusing on Diversity and Tier 4 provision. Service leads are currently being nominated.

**Assessment timeframe is:**

- DAT partnership and provider leads complete on line web based forms - current schedule - Monday 3rd March to Friday 28th March 2008 (4 week window).
- Partnerships & providers to compile an evidence portfolio to support data submission
- Ratification process - only two scenarios in which a comment can be made
- Spot checking of data submissions
- Release of provisional assessment results

• Theme A - Diversity	The extent to which provision responds to service users from diverse populations
• Theme B - Tier 4 provision	The extent to which Tier 4 provision is integrated and effective

## TIMESCALES: CURRENT SCHEDULE

### **Nominations:**

- Monday 4th February to Friday 15th February 2008 (2 week window).

### **Data Collection:**

- Monday 3rd March to Friday 28th March 2008 (4 week Window).

### **Release of anonymised results:**

- September 2008 latest

### **Ratification:**

- October 2008 latest

### **Plan improvement:**

- September-December 2008

---

## **POOLED TREATMENT BUDGET NEWS!**

Croydon have been informed that their allocation for 08-09 has been reduced by 6%. i.e. we will only receive 94% of the 07-08 allocation. No allowance has been made for inflation so in effect this is a cut of 8.3%. Further cuts are predicted for 09-10 and 10-11 unless performance improves. Thus there is less to spend on drug treatment than last year and efficiencies will need to be made to deliver the same level of services and increase performance against targets. The reason for the reduction has been because of a change in the funding formula - DAATs have been awarded funding as follows: 75% on performance and 25% on complexity of the population. Basically we need better recording and treatment interventions in services to increase the numbers of people in EFFECTIVE treatment (in 07-08 we saw less people in treatment and retention was poor i.e. 65%). If we can get more people to enter, be retained and complete in a care planned way, we may have a chance of being allocated more funds next year.

## **YOUNG PEOPLE'S BUDGET NEWS**

The young people's substance misuse funding for 08/09 has yet to be confirmed. The way this money comes down to local areas also has yet to be confirmed, i.e. if it will stay as a ring-fenced grant or if it will into the Local Area Based Grant. However, we have now received confirmation from GoL that some funding streams that previously made up the young people's allocation have been confirmed as being cut in 08/09. These funding streams are: DH Drug Education Funding and the DH Targeted Prevention Funding.

This is unfortunate news. It amounts to a reduction in the grant of £47,663 in total (if we are allocated the rest of the grant at the same level as 07/08). The other funding streams have been confirmed as continuing in 08/09 but we don't know yet if the levels will be the same as 07/08. As soon as we know the position we'll contact providers about the next steps.

The NTA has drafted new performance measures for young people's treatment services which will play a key role in monitoring our progress in 08/09. GoL's performance monitoring role in 08/09 has yet to be confirmed.

---

## **CROYDON ALCOHOL STRATEGY**

There is now a statutory requirement for local areas to develop an alcohol strategy. This requirement has been included within the Crime and Disorder Act and it is expected to be included within the local Crime Reduction Strategy. In addition, PCTs are required to include alcohol within their Strategic Needs Assessments and Social Services Departments will be required to report through their Self Assessment Survey what action they are taking to address problematic alcohol use for the first time in 2008/09.

Actions to address alcohol will be included in the DAAT strategy, as it has done in previous years. This will be developed during March and brought to the DAAT for approval in April. Sections on alcohol will also be included within Crime Reduction Strategy as well as the Health Improvement Strategy.

GoL have also recently commissioned some consultancy to develop a regional action plan and 3 workshops have been scheduled for early March to start scoping this work. Alcohol is certainly moving up the agenda from both central government and locally, but there remains a key challenge in local capacity to effectively deliver this work.

## **LOCAL NEWS**



### **Pub loses licence after police find 'jungle of weed'**

The police executed a search warrant at the Crescent Arms, 323 Whitehorse Road, Croydon on 8 November 2007 (under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971). The police say they found a number of cannabis plants and cultivating equipment in each of the first floor rooms at the premises.

A senior police officer then used police closure powers from the Licensing Act 2003 to order the pub be closed that day. They then had to go to Croydon magistrates' court to have the closure order heard. This was done on the morning of Saturday 10 November. The court had a number of options available to them - for example they could have

revoked the closure order and allowed the pub to reopen - but they decided to uphold the order and that the pub should remain closed until the licensing authority (the Council) had reviewed the premises licence (which allows the premises to operate as a pub and sell alcohol etc.).

The Council's licensing sub committee (a panel of 3 Councillors) heard the review of the premises licence at a hearing in the Town Hall on Monday 26 November. Two of the three premises licence holders attended, as did the police, a local resident and the Council's noise team, who had all made comments on the review. The sub committee heard evidence from all parties and decided to revoke the premises licence. There had been other problems at the premises before the drugs raid, which is why the noise team and the local resident became involved, so it wasn't just the drugs find that caused the licence to be revoked but it was the drugs find and the police using their closure powers that set in chain the events that led to the review hearing.

Michael Goddard  
Licensing Team Leader  
Environment, Culture & Public Protection Department  
London Borough of Croydon

## CROYDON COMMUNITY DRUG AGENCY (CDA)

- CDA developments : we are currently developing a 12 week **aftercare** group programme , which will be up and running beginning of April. This programme will be open to clients **across Croydon** that have completed structured treatment and are in need of aftercare support. More info and start date will follow.
  - News: Natalie Howarth is now permanently in post as service manager
  - **Reminder : CDA is open on Saturdays 10 to 2** Crack Cocaine specific service, consisting of Crack awareness group, acupuncture, breakfast club. As well as our drop in service, Needle Exchange, advice and information.
- 

## LIFE SKILLS PROJECT

On Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2007, three young people from Croydon participated in a project at the National Gallery, London, to design the fourth plinth in Trafalgar Square.

This project is in conjunction with the NCB (National Children's Bureau) and Nokia. Groups of young people from across the country worked with artists to design and build their model plinths, using ideas and themes current to young people today. Each of these plinths will be displayed at the National Gallery alongside the winning plinth

designed by the artists themselves. The young people also received certificates for their efforts and achievements during the two days.

The young people representing Croydon produced a design which was both thoughtful and creative. They presented their ideas to a large group of other young people and professionals and did an excellent job. Their behaviour in the hotel and during recreation times was also exemplary and we have received feedback from the NCB asking if they could be ambassadors for London and the South East with regards to the NCB Life Routes programme.

When the exhibition is finished we will be given back our plinth to display it somewhere in the Borough and in discussion at present is our group's attendance at Number 10 Downing Street in February to present their projects.

The young people from Croydon who participated in this project are in LA care and one of them is a CIN. Considering the vulnerability of these young people I was astounded by their professionalism, interaction with others and willingness to contribute intelligently.

Tara Cresswell

Vulnerable Young People's Substance Misuse Co-ordinator

## A DAY IN THE LIFE....

### A Day in "The Life of Bryan"

I have been asked to write this short article about a typical day in my life with Croydon Community Drug Agency.

Well first of all, I never really know what a typical day will be, as we never really know how the day will progress, we have nearly 200 active clients, some with very complex issues, and each day could bring a new set of challenges. So my day will normally start at 6am with a run. (I'm always in training for a Marathon or other and this year it's Cork in June, plus it's a nice way to start the day, getting the endorphins buzzing for a natural high). Then after a shower it's on my bike for the short trip to work.

Normally between nine and ten, we will be doing all the admin stuff and getting ready for the clients. It's also time for the first of many caffeine intakes and a chat with my colleagues. I am the only male amongst 9 females (you lucky B£%\*£d I hear roughly 50% of the readers) but can you imagine dealing with hormonal imbalances nine times a month? (I enjoy it really!).

Then at ten it's either one to one keywork or running our Choosing to Change group, which can be a challenge, but one I enjoy. In this group we have a mixture of clients, some who are ready to engage and embrace change and some who struggle to. In the afternoon it will normally be keywork again or on Wednesday's I will run the Mind Matters group, which is aimed at clients with mild to moderate mental health problems, of which there are many.

Also every other week on a Thursday afternoon., The Church St Wanderers will take to the field, over at Wandle Park for a training session. This is a client football team that I run and although in its infancy (We have had just one competitive match so far which we narrowly lost 13-3), clients are showing a lot of interest in.

The day will normally end with a debrief, a chance for us to discuss the days events and resolve any problems that may have arisen. Then at 5pm it's back on the bike and off home for much needed relaxation, that is unless it's a Tuesday, when I run The Family, Friends and Carers group, this is one of the highlights of my week as I find it very rewarding, being part of this supportive and sometimes very emotionally charged group (Lots of Kleenex).

Well that's just about how a day will pan out for me.  
Was that "blessed be the drug worker" I hear you say?

Bryan Tyrrell

## SERVICE USER & CARER INVOLVEMENT

I have been appointed as Service User Involvement Co-ordinator in the Drug & Alcohol Action Team and officially started on 1 January 2008. Since July 2007 I had been 'acting up', as well as covering off my office management role, and finding out about what was currently happening. It seems that service user involvement had declined at the start of 2007, with not many people applying to be Service User Representatives. I'm pleased to say that we now have 4 Service User Reps and 1 Carer Rep and a couple of people are in the process of applying. We hope to raise the profile of service user involvement across all agencies and encourage others to get involved. On 31 January 2008 myself and two SUReps will be attending the first National User Involvement Conference in Birmingham 'Nothing About Us Without Us' and will give feedback in the April issue. In the meantime, if anyone has any queries about service user involvement, please call me on 020 8726 6000 ext 14764.

**Karen Handy - Service User Involvement Co-ordinator**

## CROYDON PLUG (Peer Led User Group)

This is a new aftercare support group that has been set up and run by users themselves and is held every **Wednesday evening 5pm - 8pm at East Croydon United Reform Church**. The main criteria to attend the group is that you must **not** be intoxicated or under the influence of any non-prescribed drugs. It was set up in response to views expressed by services users about the lack of aftercare provision in Croydon and one of the needs identified was for peer led support. Refreshments are provided and the kind of things planned for the future include: social activities, advice on training/education/employment, drama workshops, advice on relapse prevention - everyone has equal input and given the chance to chair the group. If anyone is interested in attending, you can just turn up or call a PLUG member on 07516935932 or 07516935933 for more details.

## EVENTS/ CAMPAIGNS/ PUBLICATIONS

Government Review of Cannabis classification - invite to open meeting on 5/02/08  
The Government has invited the public to a meeting about the re-classification of cannabis - more details available at [www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-events/events/ACMD-open-meeting-feb-2008](http://www.drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/news-events/events/ACMD-open-meeting-feb-2008)

Know Your Limits - national alcohol campaign  
Free materials can be ordered from:  
[dh@prolog.uk.com](mailto:dh@prolog.uk.com) or call 08701 555455 For any questions call 020 7403 2230 or email [knowyourlimits@forster.co.uk](mailto:knowyourlimits@forster.co.uk)

Link to list of free publications available to order:  
<http://drugs.homeoffice.gov.uk/publication-search/Publicationlist/publication-list>

Getting help for a drug problem - a guide to treatment for users  
[www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/documents/nta\\_getting\\_help\\_with\\_a\\_drug\\_problem.pdf](http://www.nta.nhs.uk/publications/documents/nta_getting_help_with_a_drug_problem.pdf)

"Nothing about us, without us" - the English user representatives' report from the 2007 International Harm Reduction Association Conference  
[www.nta.nhs.uk/publications](http://www.nta.nhs.uk/publications)

"The role of CAMHS and addiction psychiatry in adolescent substance misuse services" - Draft Guidance  
Guidance for Adult Drug Services - Safeguarding the Children of Substance Misusing Parents - DCSF High Focus Area Programme Claire Cairns, September 2007"  
[www.nta.nhs.uk](http://www.nta.nhs.uk)

## MOVERS AND SHAKERS

### **New Appointments:**

Natalie Howarth - Service Manager of CDA (Community Drug Agency)

Karen Handy - Service User Involvement Co-ordinator (DAAT)

Westminster Drug Project - New Outreach Service for Croydon

Zena Josiah - Criminal Justice Manager (DAAT)

**Leavers:** Jennifer Francis - DIP Project Manager (DAAT)

---

If you wish to subscribe or unsubscribe from this newsletter please email [Karen.handy@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.handy@croydon.gov.uk)