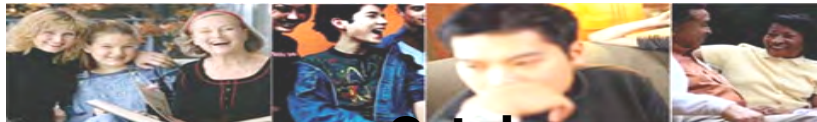


# Croydon DAAT Newsletter



October 2007. Issue 9

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

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## 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 CO-ORDINATION UNIT

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DAAT ROB Co-ordinator

**Adenike Alobi**  
Data Analyst

### **Diversity Working Group**

Following the DAAT Diversity workshop in June, we have now organised the first meeting of a group to drive the work forward. The meeting will be held on the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007 and will be attended by representatives of the DAAT sub groups and the council's Corporate Equalities Team. The purpose of the meeting is to lead on the development and implementation of a DAAT equalities and diversity plan and to ensure that equalities and diversity issues are fully taken into account across DAAT and its commissioned services. Draft Terms of Reference have been developed and are available for circulation to anyone wishing to see a copy.

### **Single Assessment Process**

During 2006/2007 and the early part of 2007/02008, the DAAT Unit and Adult Treatment services were involved in the development of a single assessment process (SAP). As well as common assessment tools that all adult services use, the project also included standardised information sharing referral, transitions and carers policies. The SAP went live in June and is now being reviewed following the initial 3 month pilot phase. The review will include feedback from both drug workers using the tools and the services users receiving the assessment. The final tools and policies will be signed off by the end of November and will be a significant step towards a better, more integrated treatment system.

### **Drug & Alcohol Reference Group (DARG)**

The DARG is a sub-group of the DAAT and contains a broad range of members with an interest in the local Drug and Alcohol Strategy. This sub-group has recently undergone a review to give the meeting more focus. The meeting is largely used for information sharing and networking but it was felt that it could be given more purpose and influence through having a more discursive format. During the last meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October, the agenda was divided into two parts. The first part concentrated on general updates and discussion as before but the second half moved to round table discussion on the new National Drug Strategy consultation document. Having these workshops with round table discussion will be more conducive to engaging partners in discussion and generate useful feedback on key themes. The next meeting in January is likely to concentrate on the Needs Assessments currently underway. This new format is geared to use the DARG as more of a consultative forum that can feedback key issues to the DAAT.

### **Tackling Drug Supply Partnership Group**

Within the Safer Croydon Partnership there are a number of sub-groups that are responsible for delivery of the Crime Reduction strategy. A new sub-group has recently been set up to look at partnership approaches to tackling drug supply locally. Although the groups sit within the Safer Croydon structure, it will also have accountability to the DAAT and be responsible for implementing the Supply and Availabilities sections of our strategy. Part of the work that the group will be overseeing is the mapping of local drug markets that will start in the next few weeks. The new group will be able to give more of a focus to partnership activities tackling supply and will raise the profile of this strand of the drug strategy.

### **Comprehensive Spending Review and Public Service Agreements**

The Government has recently announced the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) and new suite of Public Service Agreements for 2008-11. Although budget figures have been announced for Government Departments it is unclear at this stage how much will be allocated to local areas.

As part of the CSR the Government have also announced 30 new Public Service Agreements (PSA). This has been significantly reduced from the 110 set in 2004. These 30 PSA's set out the key priorities the Government will focus on over the 2008/11 period. The main changes to the previous PSA's are that there is a greater emphasis on cross departmental working within central Government and there is a greater emphasis on outcomes.

Within each PSA there is a small basket of outcome focussed performance indicators that specifically relate to crime, anti-social behaviour (ASB), drugs and alcohol. Within each PSA there is an overarching commitment to build services around the needs of citizens. The indicators that relate to the Drugs and Alcohol agenda are covered within a number of PSA's and can be summarised as follows:

- Improve public perceptions of crime, ASB, drug use and drunken behaviour
- Reductions in serious violence including sexual offences and domestic violence
- Reduce acquisitive crime and a focus on the most harmful offenders
- Reduce re-offending for adults and young people
- Improve the recovery of assets
- Reduce the numbers of young people using drugs and alcohol, adult drug related offending, alcohol related hospital admissions and increase the number of drug users entering treatment.

In summary, this new suite of PSA's and the indicators within them are broadly similar to the previous set so the priorities that we are currently working towards should not change too much. There is a greater emphasis on alcohol than there previously was and there is a continued focus on reductions in violent and acquisitive crime and improving perceptions and public confidence in the criminal justice system generally.

The Government will soon be publishing new performance indicators for local authorities working alone or in partnership. These indicators will be part of the Local Area Agreement for 2008/08 and the Home Office will be consulting partners on key aspects of this shortly.

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## LOCAL NEWS



On 11th August 2007 at an address in the High Street Purley, the Purley Safer Neighbourhood Team executed a drugs search warrant following reports from members of the public that cannabis plants were at the address. A search warrant was obtained the same day as the information was received and executed the following day by the local SNT team.

A total of 15 cannabis plants were recovered. A 26 year old male from the Purley area was arrested for possession of cannabis and has been bailed pending further enquiries.

Sgt Mark Bullen said" This was a further example of the Purley team acting swiftly on intelligence received from the local public and working to keep Purley a safe place for those who live there ".

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## DNA COUNSELLING SERVICE



**DNA Substance Misuse Counselling Service** is offered to young people between the age of 14 - 25, who live, work or study within the borough of Croydon and who require an intervention regarding their own and/or others' substance misuse (ie parent, carer or sibling)

We have two counsellors based within the service Justine Isembert our 'short term interventions' Drug and Alcohol Counsellor and Vidya Maharaj our 'long term interventions' Drug and Alcohol Counsellor.

Justine offers 6 - 12 sessions of individual counselling, working with young people offering the young people support to work towards goals they have set regarding their drug and/or alcohol use as well as at the same time supporting the young person to address related issues.

Vidya offers 12 + sessions of individual counselling working with young people with deeper rooted issues who have also been affected by their own or another's Drug and Alcohol use.

### HOW TO REFER

Both are established services at DNA, which continue to do well with a steady stream of self-referrals.

We operate a self- referral policy thus ensuring that young people who contact us are motivated to address their substance misuse issues. However, agencies, parents and/or carers are welcome to make enquiries on behalf of a young person who has requested that they do so. We would ask that we speak to the young person concerned to make an appointment.

### OPENING HOURS

**DNA opening hours are Monday - Friday 10:45am - 5:45pm**, the service is appointment based only. The counsellors offer two late evenings per week. You can contact the service by phone or email (listed below), if a counsellor is not available for you to talk to and book an appointment another worker will be able to deal with your query.

For further info please call on 020 8296 9655 or email [DNA@offtherecordcroydon.org](mailto:DNA@offtherecordcroydon.org) or contact us by mail DNA @ Off the Record, 72 Queens Road, Croydon, Surrey CR0 2PR

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### LOCAL NEEDLE EXCHANGE - EXTENDED OPENING HOURS

Needle Exchange is now available for longer hours from the following:

Boots Pharmacy, 10 Daniell Way, Valley Plaza who are open Mon-Sat 9.00-24.00, Sun 10.30-16.30

Sainsburys Pharmacy, 66 Westow Street, Upper Norwood open Mon-Fri 7.00-23.00, Sat 7.00-22.00, Sun 10.00-16.00

In both cases service is through a hatch when the store is closed. In addition Boots and Superdrug in the Whitgift offer the service during store hours which include Sundays and Bank Holidays.

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### CROYDON COMMUNITY DRUG AGENCY (CCDA)

On **Friday 30th November**, for World Aids Day, CDA will be having a lunch buffet, information and advice session and a questionnaire. All welcome.  
**Starts at 1.00pm**

**Saturday Service** at CDA, consists of acupuncture group, structured crack awareness group, breakfast club, drop in service, advice and information, Open times **10 -2 pm**.

Family, Friends and Carers support group every **Tuesday** at **6.00pm** and Family Friends and Carers Therapy Group **Monday** at **5.30 pm**

### SHIP AHOY - CROYDON TEENAGERS FLOAT THEIR VIEWS ON DRUGS TO MINISTERS

Young people from the Croydon YOF Management Team who were recommended to us by Rachel Ashcroft, Youth Service Participation Worker, had the chance to put their views on tackling illegal drugs straight to Government Ministers on HMS Belfast on Tuesday night.

The workers were escorted to the event by specialist substance misuse workers Malini Shummoogum, Croydon Youth Offending Team and Paulin Sullivan DNA @ Off the Record Croydon.

The event, just one part of a wide scale consultation on drugs, was organised to gauge young people's views on the harm caused by illegal drugs, looking at issues such as enforcement, education and treatment. Around 80 young Londoners had the opportunity to express their views and ideas on tackling drugs to Home Office Minister Vernon Coaker and Children and Families Minister Kevin Brennan and Olympics and London Minister Tessa Jowell in quick fire sessions. This was a real chance for young people to influence the Drug Strategy that will be implemented from April 2008.

Home Office Minister Vernon Coaker said:

"I was delighted to meet young people from across London. It is vital to listen and to educate them not only on the harm caused by illegal drug use, but also on the wider social and health problems that it can lead to.

"Thanks in part to record investment and the Frank drug awareness campaign we have made great strides in reducing drug harm among young people: school surveys show that drug use among secondary school students has fallen in recent years and more than half of young people believe that cannabis is very likely to damage health, an increase on previous years.

"I am heartened by that progress but I know we can never be complacent about the scourge of illegal drugs and remain committed to tackling drug use through education, enforcement and treatment."

Children and Families Minister Kevin Brennan said:

"We know that drugs are often part of the world that young people live in, which is why it's crucial to listen to young people's views on how to tackle the problem.

"It is good news that drug use by young people is falling -but we need to get better at identifying families and children at risk and intervening early to make sure they don't go off the rails."

Olympics and London Minister Tessa Jowell said:

"A drugs policy for young people will only work if young people are involved in developing it each step of the way. Illegal drugs can be devastating for young people, affecting not only their physical well-being but their future opportunities in life as well. This event was a first step in ensuring that the Government's messages on drugs are as effective as possible."

Croydon Drug Action Team member said:

The young people had the chance to offer their views on the following questions:

- What do schools need to do to help prevent drug use? Would more use of role models help?
- What support do families need to prevent their children having drug problems?
- Is there a problem with gangs and drugs in your area?
- What are the best forms of support for young people to help them avoiding illegal substances?

The Home Office is consulting the public on the best way forward on tackling drugs through "Drugs: Our Community, Your Say". The current ten year strategy, which was launched in 1998, has helped cut drug use, drug related crime and drug related harm in recent years.

The consultation features 52 questions on how the effort to reduce the harm caused by drugs can be enhanced. This consultation process is being complemented by a series of private regional drug workshops attended by professionals and organised by Ipsos MORI.

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## A DAY IN THE LIFE....

### DAY IN THE LIFE-----

**Don Mulvey**- Substance Misuse Team Nurse-  
Croydon Substance Misuse Team

South London & Maudsley NHS Trust



I have now been working as a Substance Misuse Nurse in Croydon for just over one year and come from a varied background in health. I started my nursing career in the Army back in 1980 and have qualified in both general and psychiatric nursing. I worked in Mental Health since 1990 and until recently I was working as a Community Psychiatric Nurse in Croydon. I also work part time for the Terrence Higgins Trust, the HIV and sexual health charity in Outreach and Health Promotion.

I start my day at Crosfield House by cycling to work, good for the environment and good for your health! And no parking problems.

The Team meets every morning at 09:15 and this gently eases us all in to our day and a good opportunity to discuss any treatment issues with clients and maybe even a bit of gossip and humour which is very important in this line of work.

My caseload comprises of roughly fifteen clients with heroin misuse problems and fifteen clients with alcohol problems.

My day is generally varied and today I have two new clients presenting with alcohol problems. One has turned up for their appointment and the other one has failed to attend.

We discuss various treatment options and the client is also breathalysed. We discuss their physical needs and I take their blood pressure, weight and bloods for a liver function test, which is a good indicator of the damage the alcohol is doing to their body.

The client is physically dependent on alcohol and we discuss a possible admission for medically assisted detoxification. I have asked the client to think about this and to complete some drink diaries.

I quickly prepare to facilitate the **Alcohol Group and today the topic is Relapse Prevention, New Ways of Enjoying Life**. The group is well attended; there are four people who have attended today. They are all breathalysed and one client is positive and is referred to their key worker for a review. The group runs well and its now time to grab some lunch, just before attending the Alcohol Review Meeting at about 13:30.

There are quite a few alcohol referrals to discuss this afternoon and we try to prioritise those most in need. It is also a good opportunity to review those existing clients in the multidisciplinary team and possible discharges. I have been allocated two new alcohol clients and after the meeting I grab a cup of tea and try to catch up with all my admin.

I finish my day by reviewing the leaflets in the waiting room and tidying the treatment rooms.

Time to cycle home.

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**IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO SUBMIT 'A DAY IN THE LIFE...' ARTICLE THEN PLEASE EMAIL THE DAAT - [Karen.handy@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:Karen.handy@croydon.gov.uk)**

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## **RESEARCH ON YOUNG PEOPLE'S HEAVY CANNABIS USE**

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation is publishing the results of a research study entitled *The impact of heavy cannabis use on young people's lives: Vulnerability and youth transitions*.

Researchers at the University of Bedfordshire carried out 100 interviews with 16 - 25 year olds who were selected because they had been using cannabis on a daily basis for the past six months. Most young people questioned had been using skunk.

Key findings from the report include:

- the negative effects of cannabis use described by some young people included impacts on physical and mental health, academic attainment and personal relationships and the possibility of getting a criminal record;
- heavy cannabis use among vulnerable young people can exacerbate existing social problems such as low educational attainment, homelessness and unemployment;
- those young people who experienced the greatest number of social problems (including homelessness, family problems and unemployment) tended to smoke higher quantities of cannabis than those in more socially secure situations;
- heavy cannabis use seemed to worsen the social situation of the young people experiencing the greatest number of social problems still further;
- however, young people who were engaged in further or higher education and who were leading relatively stable lives seemed able to manage their cannabis use with fewer negative effects. Their cannabis use did not seem to interfere greatly with their studies or with personal relationships.

The report's author, Dr Margaret Melrose, said:

"Young people may not be aware of the extent to which cannabis use might exacerbate their existing social problems, and professionals who have had experience of cannabis users in the past may assume the effects are relatively harmless if they take young people's assessment of the impact of cannabis use in their lives at face value. More probing may be required in order to explore the level and nature of cannabis use and how this may be adding to a young person's problems."

Martin Barnes, chief executive of DrugScope, welcomed the report:

"The findings help us understand the reasons behind the heavy cannabis use of some young people. The negative effects of cannabis use - not just on mental and physical health but also academic achievement and personal relationships - seem to relate closely to pre-existing personal and social problems. Heavy cannabis use can exacerbate these difficulties still further.

"Tackling cannabis use, particularly heavy use, among young people is a priority but we need to do so effectively. This research suggests that responses to cannabis use should focus on the young person, not just on the drug. Interventions should enable young people to explore why they are using cannabis and how it is affecting their ability to achieve their goals, as well as offering help and support to manage their problems."

(copied from Drugscope website)

<http://www.drugscope.org.uk/newsandevents/currentnewspages/JRF-impact-cannabis-yp.htm>

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## EVENTS/ CAMPAIGNS/ PUBLICATIONS

Black History Month - information/display at Crosfield House.



### **Cannabis Campaign**

The Young People's Virtual Team of specialist substance misuse services recently delivered a Cannabis Campaign in Croydon. This was held at Croydon Town Centre and Croydon College on 27<sup>th</sup> September. The aim of the event was to provide young people with advice and information on cannabis and included mental health risks and legal advice. Young people were trained and supported to deliver the campaign to their peers, with drug workers available to give specialist advice where needed. During the campaign, 247 young people in the Croydon Town Centre and 79 young people in Croydon College were seen. Feedback has been positive and it is hoped that similar campaigns can be delivered in the future. There will be more details in the next newsletter.

### **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)

## MOVERS AND SHAKERS

### **New Appointments:**

Joyann Clarke - temp DAAT Office Manager

**Leavers:** Stephen Christian - DIP Data Co-ordinator in the DAAT

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