

REPROVISION OF SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE AGED UNDER 18 yrs

1.1	Details of the Policy, Strategy, Function, Project or Activity
	<p>Title of EqIA: ___ Reprovision of substance misuse services for young people under 18years old</p> <p>Date of EqIA:___ 24 February 2010_____</p> <p>State whether EqIA is on a Policy, Strategy, Function, Project or Activity (NB. Your EQIA may be a combination of these, in which case please state what it is exactly e.g. Policy/Strategy):_____Function_____</p> <p>Indicate whether it is a 'new' or an 'existing' Policy, Strategy, Function, Project or Activity (Mark with a 'X'): New [] Existing [X]</p>
1.2	Details of the person completing the EqIA
	<p>Full Name:___ Jacqueline Cave and Kelly Young_____</p> <p>Position: ___Young People's Coordinator/Service Development Manager__</p> <p>Directorate: ___DAAT _____</p> <p>Department: __DASH_____</p> <p>Full Contact Details: __kelly.young@croydon.gov.uk_____</p>
1.3	What is the aim and objective of the Policy, Strategy, Function, Project or Activity?
	<p>The Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) is undertaking a full re-commissioning programme for young people's substance misuse treatment services in line with commissioning best practice, and the findings of an independent sector wide review of young people's substance misuse services undertaken in 2009, which reviewed the effectiveness of the young people's substance misuse treatment services in the borough.</p> <p>The National Treatment Agency (NTA) had previously undertaken a London wide young people's assessment of treatment which notably illustrated young people's substance misuse services did not currently emphasis: likely need, unmet needs or gaps in treatment services. The independent review '<i>Review Of Young People's Substance Misuse Treatment System In Croydon</i>' mirrored these findings, and further highlighted the current 'virtual team' model has resulted in a young people's substance misuse treatment system with limited accessibility and that it did not fully meet the needs of <i>all</i> young people and their families.</p> <p>Specific local issues focused on:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low numbers of young people entering substance misuse services and limited referrals from key young people's services (specifically noting young people in the following categories: Looked After Children, Mental Health, Educational

Services (including excluded young people attending PRUs), safeguarding and targeted youth support services.)

- Limited service capacity to adequately support professionals in mainstream and targeted young people's services in identifying and responding to young people's substance misuse needs.
- Limited success in embedding substance misuse screening tools in key young people's services.

The review recommended the restructure of services from the current 'virtual' team¹ model into a 'real' substance misuse service², delivered by one provider (please see footnotes below for definitions of these service models).

The DAAT Partnership agreed to procure the new service via a restricted tender process at the DAAT Board meeting of November 2009 and formal Procurement authorisation (via the Procurement Board) was received in January 2010. This procurement programme is intended to be operational from the 2nd of August 2010.

The new '*real*' substance misuse service model the DAAT is now commissioning supports the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the National Treatment Agency's (NTA) goal that: "*every young person in England has access to high quality specialist substance misuse treatment provision when they need it*" (DCSF and NTA Memorandum of understanding, 2007-2011). The new service will have two key roles:

- To support and enable universal and targeted children's and youth services to respond to substance misuse issues.
- To provide specialist substance misuse treatment for local young people and their families.

The Vision

The DAAT's vision for the re-commissioned 'Young People's Substance Misuse Service' is: to provide a substance misuse service which is committed to ensuring services are extremely accessible and engaging, offers high quality information to the community, offers high quality support to universal and targeted young people's services and high quality substance misuse treatment services are available to **all** young people and their families who require these specialist interventions. Specific priorities include:-

- Better access into the specialist substance misuse treatment service for vulnerable young people and their families (which includes clearer referral pathways and better communication/promotion of the service)
- Integrated delivery by a whole team of substance misuse specialists working

¹ A 'virtual' team can be defined as a network of substance misuse specific practitioners, geographically dispersed and embedded within a range of generic and specialist young people's services, working to a number of agreed common policies and procedures, and coordinated by a team coordinator.

² A 'real' team can be defined as a multi-disciplinary substance misuse specific team, co-located in the same premises, in which staff work to common policies and procedures, and all of which are managed (and possibly employed) within a unified management structure within a single organisation.

together via the delivery of joint young people's services working with the Integrated Youth Support Services (enabling increased referrals and awareness of the substance misuse service offering and efficient/effective joint working practices)

- Increased capacity to train and deliver substance misuse screening to staff in mainstream and targeted children's services
- Ensure commissioned services have clear prioritised milestones for meeting the substance misuse treatment needs of **all** young people and their families and carers.

The re-commissioned service will also work with the borough's children and young people's '*Integrated Youth Support Strategy*' (IYSS). The IYSS sets out the vision for how services will work together to respond to the needs of all vulnerable young people and their families. It is anticipated that the inclusion of the young people's specialist substance misuse treatment service into the IYSS structure will bring significant benefits to young people, their families and professionals as it will increase the accessibility of the service. This is because the substance misuse service will be co-located with IYSS which should greatly assist with access to the service for vulnerable young people and their families engaged in IYSS, and professionals working with these young people.

By integrating the substance misuse service into IYSS this is expected to increase capacity to engage hard to reach groups which include youth sub-groups (i.e. BME) and young people already involved in Children and Family Social Services. These groups are currently under-represented in the young people's substance misuse treatment services and this is reflected in the current referral figures (including Looked After Children, mental health and referrals to adult substance misuse services).