



## Minutes of a Devon Alcohol Strategy Group meeting held on 21 January 2010

**1 Welcome,**  
**Apologies received from:**  
CM; SV; SP;

**Present:** SR, F de A; TG; CL

### **2: Updates**

**2.1 CL-** Encourage Hard to reach groups to engage. No contact for KS. F de A asked about clinical involvement. CL said Linda Stapleton would be the point of contact.. F de A said there was a GP in Mid Devon who may be interested in the group, or young house doctors who might be interested.

#### **ACTION**

Ask SP to see if she can get a Doctor to contribute in some way. CL to ask Linda (DPT) and LH for advice. F de A said we need to be clear about the approach we are taking, our specific interest is in the difference between dependant drinkers and other drinkers to underage and hazardous drinking. A robust system of diagnosis and treatment for these need to be in place (TG) GPs need to take more of a role in improving treatment outcomes for dependant drinkers. It would improve the credibility of the group to have clinical involvement, a senior nurse would be as good, or a psychiatric diagnostic practitioner. SR - GPs don't carry out the treatment. TG said the GP would refer the person, having observed physical symptoms, moving on to psychological services.

**2.2 TG** has met with KT re the charity he is involved with, and wanted to make sure he was not getting an unfair benefit. CL said the guidance was whether he would be perceived as gaining a

pecuniary benefit as a result of the group, and that openness was the best policy. TG said he would send KT an email.

**2.3 CL update (cont)** Street Homeless Outreach Team have carried out a pilot for individual budgets. F de A said the stereotype of the street homeless person was not necessarily that of the alcoholic, the behaviour could be a form of self medication, especially for for dual diagnosis clients.

**2.4 Invites to focus groups;** LINK Devon has been asked to carry out some focus groups for their Putting people First information giving.

**2.5 Personal budget learning sessions.** CL has been to Devon County Council to see about getting some information sessions regarding personal budgets and how they will be administered and also the role of Fusion, the user led organisation for Devon, as this information would help LINK participants to make informed choices regarding service changes.

### **3 Discussion of SMART programme**

The meeting had been cancelled so the group was unable to comment directly, although some members had had a look at the website.

### **4. Signing off questions for Providers and Commissioners**

**4.1** F de A a benchmark is needed, how many were proposed and considered eligible got treatment and perhaps a breakdown of referral sources. What percentage of the overall available budget was used, and what is the individual average length of treatment episode? TG made alterations to the sheet of questions he had prepared. Money for brief interventions was seen as too little too late for many dependant drinkers. A discussion was had about options for treatment models, including the Minnesota method. F de A asked whether secondary residential treatment factored in to care pathways. TG said that personal choice was not relevant if people were receiving intensive treatment for dependency. CL asked what the intention and expectation was once these questions were answered, F de A suggested a statement of intention from the group. The groups' influence needed to be effective in decision making, CL said she would follow up opportunities for involvement.

**4.2** Re the questions, some were relevant to NHS Devon and some to DAAT. F de A said a covering letter and an open accountable approach was advisable when dealing with the two depts.

## **5 Tasks and Terms of Reference**

5.1 CL to liaise with DPT and NHS Devon to get the questions answered appropriately and in time for the next meeting. Once the TOR was agreed the group would be into a reporting period and would have to update the LINK Strategic Planning Group after three months.

## **6 AOB**

There was no AOB

**7 Date of Next Meeting 19<sup>th</sup> February 2010 5 - 7 pm at St Sidwell's Centre**