

County Durham LINK Alcohol Minutes
 Thursday 11th March 2010
 Bowburn Community Centre, Bowburn

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| 1. | <p>Present: Pam Spurrell, Robin Millerchip, Mary Mitchell, George Porter, Paul Jackson</p> <p>In Attendance: Clare Sandford</p> | |
| 2. | Apologies: None | |
| 3. | Minutes of the last meeting: Approved and agreed | |
| 4. | <p>Matters arising not on the agenda:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paul Jackson asked that he swaps from the Control group to the vacant position in Treatment. There were no objections from the members there so new LINK representation will be sought for Control and Prevention. | |
| 5 | <p>Prevention Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Robin and Pam reported back from a poorly attended meeting on 23rd February 2010. Only 7 out of a possible 25-30 people attended. Statutory bodies are not well represented. The meeting focussed on the Alcohol Prevention Action Plan, however the low attendance meant feedback on actions was limited and some areas still do not have a named responsible person. MM asked for a list of possible attendees which PS provided. MM to raise this issue at the Alcohol Harm reduction meeting. One piece of 'good news' was about an initiative between the police and fire brigade providing non alcohol based activities for young people in Darlington and Durham. This involved uniformed officers and a variety of venues used. A discussion took place about using licensed premises as a community venue – Weatherspoon's selling coffee and breakfast was used as an example. It was felt by both Robin and Pam that the initial enthusiasm for this group was waning and that representatives on the group weren't prepared to 'think out of the box'. | MM |
| 6. | <p>Treatment Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As there wasn't a representative or feedback report from the last meeting Mary mentioned some items relating to this | |

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| | <p>group from the last Alcohol Harm Reduction Meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 967 people have accessed the Community Alcohol service. The U-Turn project is to be evaluated and the report circulated. A service aimed at young people was launched on 21st January called 4Real. • A pilot was carried out in A&E departments. Uniformed police officers were stationed in the A&E dept's over Bank Holidays and the evaluation report is to be circulated once finished. | |
| 7. | <p>Control Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • George complained about the lateness of papers being sent out for this group. This seems to be a common theme with the working groups. CS to chase up with those responsible for circulating minutes and agendas. • At the last meeting there was a good turnout with 13 attendees. A presentation was given by Mandy English from DAAT about the U-Turn project. • Derwentside and Sedgfield seem to black spots within the county for alcohol related problems associated with women. Community Services and Neighbourhood Watch are to work together to help tackle this. • As the meeting over ran George had to leave before the end. | CS |
| 8. | <p>Alcohol Harm Reduction Meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mary reported back from the last Alcohol Harm Reduction meeting. • A Paramedic scheme to treat people in town centres had been piloted but in 13 weeks only 7 people were treated so it has been decided that this wasn't a cost effective idea. Police vans could be used instead to offer treatment. • The Best bar none scheme, that was successful in the Durham City area is to be trailed in Derwentside. • HM Customs are to work in partnership with the police to tackle problems in shops and off licences. • The Alcohol Commissioning group has been established and this is to be a lobbying group for alcohol issues. | |
| 9. | <p>Alcohol Event</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following attendance at the Drug & Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy meetings and it's working groups it has become apparent to the LINK Alcohol Sub Group that there is a lot of work currently being done in County Durham with regards to Alcohol. • The Sub Group members feel it would be appropriate to hold an awareness raising day for the wider LINK membership to showcase the work being done throughout the County. • Speakers will have a half hour slot to give an overview of | |

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| | <p>their project and then answer any questions. Robin suggested the Fire Brigade as a possible speaker as well as speakers from the voluntary sector like The Salvation Army and the Seaman's Mission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visual displays will highlight the work being done and also how County Durham LINK works with other agencies on this issue. Members of the LINK Alcohol Sub group will be on hand to discuss the work being carried out in their respective Working groups as well as at the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy meetings • LINK member organisations will be offered a display area if their work links in with Alcohol issues. • The event will finish with a buffet lunch, the chance to question further the speakers as well as provide the opportunity for networking. • The event will be in the latter half of May 2010. It was thought that midweek from 11am till 4pm (to include lunch) might be the best format. • Clare to take this suggestion to the LINK Management Committee on 15th March for approval | CS |
| 11 | <p>Any other business</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BALANCE has circulated a consultation about improving information on the labels of alcoholic drinks. Clare to ask if this is something the group can look at. | CS |
| | <p>Date of next meeting: Thursday 20th May 2010, 10am till 12noon, Bowburn Community Centre, Bowburn</p> | |