Substance Misuse among Young People in Warwickshire
Disclaimer

This report has been prepared by the Warwickshire Observatory, Warwickshire County Council, with all reasonable skill, care, and diligence. We accept no responsibility of whatsoever nature to any third parties to whom this report, or any part thereof, is made known. Any such party relies on the report at their own risk.

Copyright Statement

The copyright for this publication rests with Warwickshire County Council. This publication may be used for research, private study or for internal circulation within an organisation. The report includes Crown copyright and OS copyright information, used with permission. Any material that is reproduced from this report must be quoted accurately and not used in a misleading context. The copyright must be acknowledged and the title of the publication specified.

Publication date: December 2013
Contact: Laura Payne
Telephone: 01926 418645
Email: laurapayne@warwickshire.gov.uk
Summary

The focus for all activity with young drug or alcohol misusers should be preventing the escalation of misuse and harm, including stopping young people from becoming drug or alcohol dependant adults.

Source: Drug Strategy, 2010

“Adequate investment in young people’s substance misuse services helps prevent today’s troubled young people becoming tomorrow’s dependant alcohol and drug users. Public Health England will continue to provide the best available data and evidence to support local commissioners in making their case for investment”.

Source: Public Health England

Introduction

Information and data used in this report has been taken from Compass, Warwickshire figures. Compass is a national leading provider, delivering services to young people in order to help tackle problem drug and alcohol use.

A report published by Public Health England was written, titled ‘Substance misuse among Young People in England 2012/13’. For the purpose of this report the intention was to follow a similar structure, focusing on young people in Warwickshire 2012/13 who accessed specialist treatment as a result of substance misuse.

Analysis taken from data produced by Compass, Warwickshire for the twelve month period April 2012 to March 2013 has been incorporated into this document to give an accurate overview of substance misuse among young people in Warwickshire.
The Key Statistics for 2012/13

- 161 young people received help for alcohol or drug problems in Warwickshire during the year
- 124 (77%) of the young people were new presentations during the year
- 87% had cannabis as their main drug
- Alcohol was the second substance that young people were being treated for in Warwickshire accounting for 34% of clients
- Over half (54%) of young people in treatment successfully completed their treatment
- 7% of young people who successfully completed their treatment represented within six months

Background Data

There is a perception that drink and drug use is a widespread problem among under 18’s in Warwickshire and more widespread. Any substance misuse is concerning and figures show that in Warwickshire, young people in treatment for an alcohol or drug problem has increased by 39% when compared to the previous twelve months 2011/12.

The chart below displays the number of young people in treatment for substance misuse from April 2012 to March 2013 (rolling trend).

![Community rolling 12 months (figures for the same time in 2011-12 shown by the grey line)](chart)

Source: Compass, Warwickshire
What this Reveals...

Cannabis remains the drug for which young people are most likely to be taking across Warwickshire and is also represented nationally. The next most popular substance misuse in young people is alcohol.

Almost one third (30%) of young people in Warwickshire who have reported a substance misuse were 15 years old and this was the most popular age. The chart below displays the number of young people in Warwickshire who reported having a substance misuse and their age in 2012/13.

Furthermore, the number of young people in treatment for substance misuse in Warwickshire increased from 113 clients at the beginning of the examined period, April 2012 to 161 clients in March 2013.
Substance Misuse among Young People in Warwickshire

Treatment

“Problematic drink and drug use among young people is often a symptom of wider issues that also need to be addressed. There is a continuing need for local areas to provide a full range of services for young people and to ensure those services work in a joined-up way”.

Source: Public Health England

Problematic drink and drug use among under 18’s rarely occurs in isolation and is frequently a symptom of wider problems. It often goes hand in hand with a range of other factors, such as offending or truancy from school.

The chart below displays the number of young people in Warwickshire receiving treatment for substance misuse.

Harm reduction treatment was the most common service utilised by young people across Warwickshire, followed by Counselling, Cognitive behavioural therapy (CBT) & MI.

Specialist substance misuse services for young people are distinct from adult services because young people’s alcohol and drug problems tend to be different to adults and need a different response. The role of specialist substance misuse services is to support young people to address their substance misuse, reduce the harm caused by it and prevent it from becoming a greater problem as they get older.

Number of Young People accessing each Treatment Service across Warwickshire in 2012/13

Source: Compass, Warwickshire
Referral Sources

Young people in Warwickshire accessing specialist services benefit from protective and supportive factors. Referrals into treatment for young people in Warwickshire in 2012/13 were through:

- Education Services – 46%
- Youth Justice Services – 18%
- Self, Family & Friends – 16%
- Children & Family Services – 9%
- Health & Mental Health – 5%
- Substance Misuse Services – 2%
- Other – 4%

Young people tend to respond well to the interventions they receive for alcohol and drug problems. Specialist services are responding to changing patterns of use among the under-18s.

Behaviours

Many of the young people receiving help from specialist services have a range of vulnerabilities. This may include misuse of a range of drugs at an early age or other risk factors such as offending, self-harm, sexual exploitation or unsafe sex.

Proportion of Young People in Warwickshire with a substance misuse and involved in ‘risky’ behaviour 2012/13

Source: Compass, Warwickshire