

Telford & Wrekin DAAT will take on the responsibilities and requirements of the National Alcohol Strategy in 2004, but in the interim period it is the intention of the DAAT to establish its own local Alcohol Strategy. Alcohol services in this area are less than the need demands. The main reason for this is resources. Alcohol seems to be the Cinderella of the Substance Misuse services, leading to a gap in provision. One provision "victim" resulting from this lack of resources is a lack of dedicated services for young people with alcohol issues.

Similarly as with drug misuse, there is a need for Day Care services to assist and support the recovery of alcoholics. There is also an absence of joined up working with the alcohol services and Primary Health Care, similarly with those suffering from mental health and alcohol problems.

A short fall in provision also results in poor or no services directed to BEM. Here in Telford & Wrekin, the employment of one Asian worker in an alcohol project resulted in a significant impact in the number of referrals from this sector.

If there was a national strategy, coupled with appropriate funding, it would enable us to include alcohol with the drug services both for adults and for young people. So many people with drug issues also have alcohol problems. We would also be able to include alcohol in our training programmes.

A higher profile and funding will also enable us to address the issues that cause people to abuse alcohol.

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