

In looking at what areas are priorities for development there were many discussions around Brief Interventions.

I had some concern that this was immediately and solely aligned with treatment in the primary care setting. We are all aware of the increasing role of primary care across a whole range of care groups and service provision and feel that all additional requirements/developments in this area are carefully considered and clearly targeted.

I feel how and where Brief Interventions are delivered needs to be looked at innovatively and to draw more from the role of partnership working.

Ian Gilmore from the Royal College of Physicians, in opening the Health Workshop, pointed out that 90% of students in higher education will have abused alcohol and acknowledged the subsequent impact upon not only their health but their work performance. This would indicate that in looking at both Education and Brief Interventions, we have here a large key and vulnerable target audience in a single setting of Further Education.

Also, I noted that Education did not appear on the attendee list, yet Hazel Blears mentioned that £29.5 m had recently been invested into schools on substance misuse.

I hope this provides some food for thought and perhaps generate debate.

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