

Wakefield Alcohol Task Group Response to the National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy Consultation Document

The following points represent discussion from the last Alcohol Task Group (sub-group of the Wakefield DAT) meeting on the 5th December 2002.

- Turning Point nationally has already outlined where the strategy should focus:

Treatment in communities

Education, information and advice for young people

More investment to support the local delivery of services

Integrated solutions

The group felt that there was merit in this approach.

However agreed that vulnerability needs more determination.

- In a sense all of us are vulnerable and it was also suggested by the group that the strategy was aimed at everyone. The possibility of a zero tier was suggested.
- The group advocated a tiered approach.

The group also made the following points:

- Alcohol should be given the same status as drugs in terms of funding, commissioning and partnership working. A strategy must be resourced. (We were sure that other DAT's would be saying something similar!)
- There was little reference made to mental health and/or co-existing drug issues. The correlation between poor mental health and alcohol issues is well established. There is no sense of fit with NSF's or Tackling Drugs to Build a Better Britain.
- The health promotion approach was advocated combined with other positive messages about exercise and nutrition.
- The child protection/alcohol link should be developed further. The development and delivery of training would be an issue and would need to be considered.
- Capacity issues in primary care – as with many things, early recognition/intervention in primary care settings will either divert a problem or ensure a better referral. GP's and practices will need to be able to respond to presentation positively.
- Housing – some people may be at risk of eviction due to problematic alcohol use. The group felt that targeted intervention here would be of value.
- Question 61 – the group suggested reference to the Alcohol Concern document of 2001.
- The group was concerned regarding the power of the brewing and advertising industry.