

Substance Misuse

In October 2008 the Welsh Assembly Government released 'Working Together to Reduce Harm' this is 10 year strategy for tackling the harms associated with the misuse of alcohol, drugs and other substances in Wales. People who misuse drugs, alcohol or other substances cause considerable harm to themselves and to society. This includes harm to their own physical and mental health and well being, and possibly to their ability to support themselves. They may harm their families' lives by damaging the health and well being of their children and place a burden of care on other relatives (including their children). There is also harm to the communities in which they live through the crime, disorder and anti-social behaviour associated with substance misuse.

The strategy describes how the actions we will take are underpinned by four key aims:

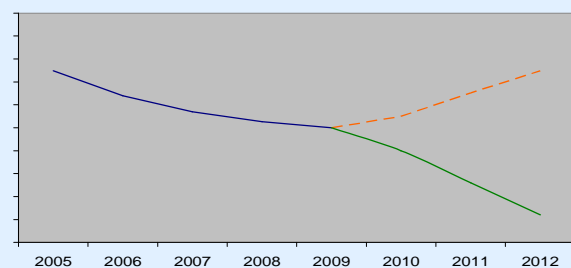
1. Reducing the harm to individuals (particularly children and young people), their families and wider communities from the misuse of drugs and alcohol, whilst not stigmatising substance misuse.
2. Improving the availability and quality of education, prevention and treatment services and related support, with a greater priority given than under the previous strategy to those related to alcohol.
3. Making better use of resources - supporting evidenced based decision making, improving treatment outcomes, and developing the skills base of partners and service providers by giving a greater focus to workforce development.
4. Embedding the core Welsh Assembly Government values of sustainability, equality and diversity, support for the Welsh language and developing user focused services and a rights basis for children and young people in both the development and delivery of the strategy.

One of the strands of the Welsh Assembly Government's strategy for substance misuse 'Working Together to Reduce Harm' is that CSP's and other agencies involved in tackling and reducing the harms associated with substance misuse should do more to plan treatment services and to pool resources at a regional level (Cardiff & Vale) where appropriate.

Headline Indicators and how are we doing?

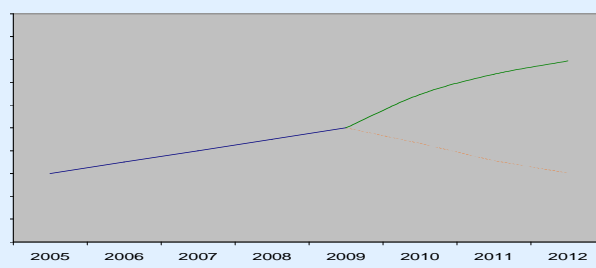
Number & % of Acquisitive Crime attributed to substance misuse

(Speculative data)



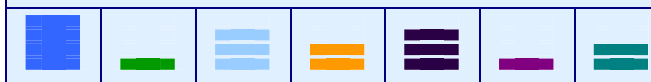
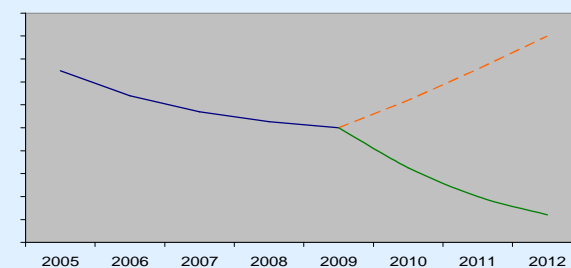
Equality of access to substance misuse services

(Speculative data)

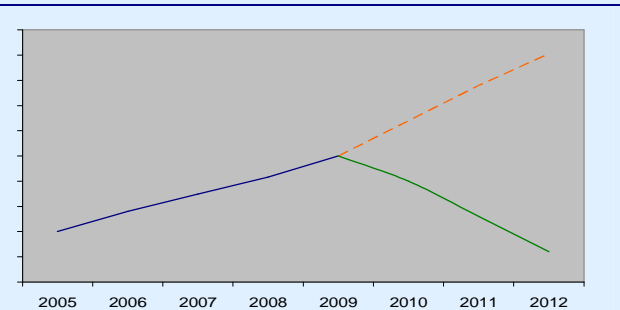


Numbers & % of unplanned exits from a substance misuse service

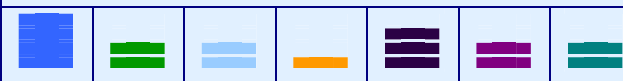
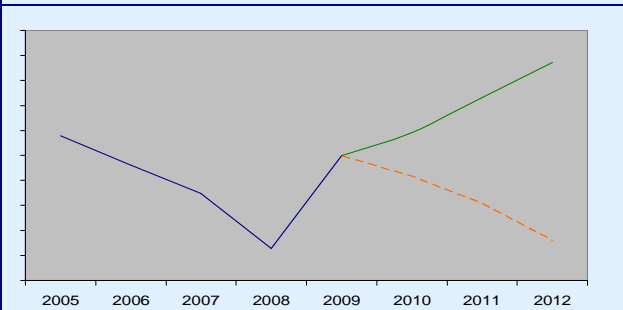
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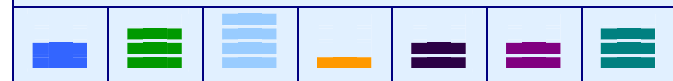
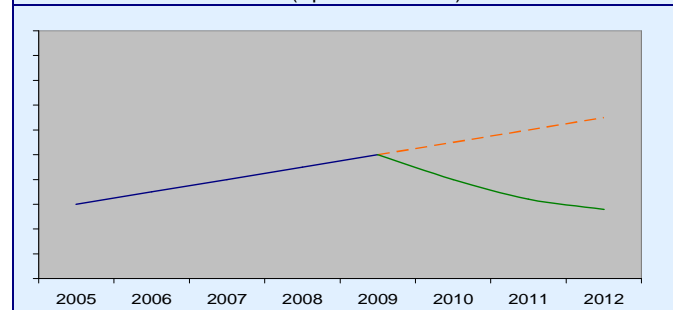
Numbers & % of injecting drug users with Hepatitis C
(Speculative data)



Numbers & % of people accessing treatment within 20 working days of referral
(Speculative data)



Number & % of under 18's on the Child protection register because of their parents substance misuse (Speculative data)



Key:
 - - - - - The route we will take if we do nothing
 ——— The curve we want to turn

The bars under each graph represent how the indicator impacts on the seven Cardiff outcomes for the city as seen below:

Healthy	Environment	Safe	Thriving & Prosperous	Full Potential	Live, Work & Play	Fair, Just, & Inclusive
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Data Development:

- Improvement in the reporting of TOPS data.
- Number of children in social services as a result of their substance misuse

Story behind the baselines

- **Number & % of Acquisitive Crime attributed to substance misuse:** Drug Testing on Charge and Drug Testing on Arrest policies have identified substance misusers who have committed serious acquisitive crimes. These substance misusers have then been fast tracked into the Drug Intervention Programme.
- **Equality of access to substance misuse services:** Improving the knowledge of both services and the community has lead to an increase in equality in relation to substance misuse services.
- **Numbers & % of unplanned exits from a substance misuse service:** Better joint working, reporting and information sharing between agencies has lead to a decrease in exits from substance misuse services.
- **Numbers & % of injecting drug users with Hepatitis C:** Better access to services, screenings and an increase in awareness has lead to a slight increase.
- **Numbers & % of people accessing treatment within 20 working days of referral:** Fewer people have access because of waiting times and waiting lists. This has recently improved because of a change in working practises.
- **Number & % of under 18's on the Child protection register because of their parents substance misuse:** Better reporting and greater awareness has lead to a slight increase.

Partners with a role to play

- Cardiff & Vale University Health Board
- Local Authorities (Cardiff Council & Vale of Glamorgan)
- Criminal Justice Services
- Local Further Education establishments
- Service users
- Families/Carers
- Public Health Wales
- Community Groups
- Fire Service
- Third Sector
- Welsh Assembly Government
- Cardiff Health Alliance
- Children & Young People's Partnership
- Community Safety Partnership

What are we going to do?

- Continue to work with colleagues to provide Drug Testing on Arrest and Drug Intervention Programs.
- Link into Integrated Offender Management.
- Review geographical distribution of community based services.
- Ensure all substance misuse services are culturally and gender aware.
- Ensure that service users access most appropriate services in a timely fashion.
- Use service user groups and feedback from service users to ensure services are fit for purpose.
- Promote harm reduction messages to our injecting drug user population.
- Review needle exchange services in relation to the Needle Exchange Database.
- Develop a single point of engagement for adult substance misuse services.
- Develop an integrated care pathway for adult substance misuse services.
- Develop family support services linked to the implementation of the Integrated Family Support Team.
- Develop a substance misuse pathway for under 18's with additional monies from the Substance Misuse Action Fund.