

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment



Quarterly Newsletter / Issue 16

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Do you want to know more about substance misuse in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames?

Read on for more information about work to prevent and reduce substance misuse

Welcome to the sixteenth issue of the JSNA Newsletter - a rolling publication produced by Public Health that describes the health, social care and wellbeing of local residents. In this issue we give an update on substance misuse, including drugs and alcohol, for young people and adults in Richmond.

The Council has a lead responsibility for the prevention and treatment of substance misuse, which involves services working closely across the council and also with partners including the Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), GP practices, community pharmacies and other health services, specialist providers of drug and alcohol services, the police, criminal justice services, voluntary bodies and Public Health England. Substance misuse is an important part of the Public Health remit as well as an important aspect of Community Safety.

The harm and associated costs caused by misuse of alcohol and drugs to individuals, families and communities is substantial.

Treatment that is recovery focused for those misusing substances is highly cost effective. Investment in treatment services can avoid substantial costs relating to crime, antisocial behaviour and use of health services as well as achieving benefits for the individual by improving their health and their life as a whole.

If you would like to contribute to future editions of this JSNA newsletter please get in touch with us at jsna@richmond.gov.uk. We will gladly receive and consider your feedback, data, information and intelligence for future newsletter publications. The next newsletter will have a focus on safeguarding.

Dr Dagmar Zeuner

Director of Public Health

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

National and local strategies

The importance of supporting the prevention of substance misuse in Richmond upon Thames has been acknowledged in influential national and local strategic documents, including:

National

- *The Government's alcohol strategy (2012)*
- *The Government's drug strategy (2010)*

Local

- *The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health (2014-15)*
- *Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2013-16)*
- *Richmond upon Thames Community Safety Partnership Plan (2014-17)*

Richmond's approach to prevent and reduce substance misuse

The Prevention of Substance Misuse Strategy is a joint strategy between the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames and the Richmond Clinical Commissioning Group. It sets out a comprehensive programme of actions to prevent and reduce substance misuse and related harm. It aims to achieve the following outcomes:

- More people access and benefit from alcohol and drug prevention and early intervention services
- More people successfully recover from drug and alcohol problems and are engaged in education and employment and are not offending
- Fewer people admitted to hospital with alcohol and drug related conditions
- More children and young people are protected from the harm related to parental substance misuse, including domestic violence
- Fewer young people report drinking alcohol or using illicit drugs
- Fewer people engage in alcohol and drug related antisocial behaviour and crime

This newsletter provides a snapshot of selected information on substance misuse in Richmond upon Thames.

Selected snapshots

Local figures – alcohol (adults)

Significant numbers of Richmond residents are drinking at levels potentially harmful to health. Around 28,000 people within the borough are estimated to consume alcohol at levels of 'increasing risk' to their health, and over 10,000 people are estimated to be 'higher risk' drinkers. Below are selected facts that demonstrate the harm to health:

- Alcohol specific mortality is significantly higher in Richmond (12.5 per 100,000) compared with London (9.0 per 100,000), however similar to the national value (11.9 per 100,000) (2011-13),
- Mortality from chronic liver disease in males has increased in Richmond and is now at 20 per 100,000 for 2011-13 period compared with 14.2 in 2010-12. This value is higher than both London (14.4) and England (15.5 per 100,000) (2011-13).

Substance misuse services in Richmond

Richmond offers a comprehensive range of prevention and treatment services. The main elements are:

- **Alcohol screening** in Primary Care – using AUDIT-C screening tool followed by appropriate brief intervention
- **Richmond Integrated Recovery Service (RIRS)** – a holistic, community-based treatment service, which is tailored to meet both the substance misuse need and wider recovery needs (e.g. employment) of the individual
- **In-patient detoxification** – hospital based service, offered for adults who are unsuitable for community treatment service.
- **Needle exchange** – in pharmacy and RIRS
- **Young People Substance Misuse Service** – run by Achieving for Children and provides a range of support and treatment service for young people who misuse alcohol or drugs
- **Test on Arrest** – police testing for opiates, crack or cocaine on arrest for specific offences and engaging with treatment services forms part of bail/release conditions.

Local figures – substance misuse in children and young people (YP)

- 27% of year 10 pupils (aged 14-15 years old) in Richmond reported that they had been offered illegal substances and 12% had taken drugs. Cannabis is the most commonly reported drug that had been taken in the last year by year 10 pupils (2014),
 - Alcohol-specific hospital admissions for under 18 year olds is 39 per 100,000 (which equates to 16 individuals) compared with London (29) and England (43 per 100,000). This is decreasing in Richmond, which is similar to the national picture (over 2011-13),
 - 89 per 100,000 15-24 year olds (which equates to 46 individuals) were admitted to hospital for drug related disorder compared to London (65) and England (81) (2011-14).
- The number of Richmond YP in treatment was 39 (2014-15).
- 62% of YP in treatment services have used alcohol in last 12 months, which is an increase from 35% in 2013-14,
 - 90% of young people in the local treatment service have used cannabis. Other than alcohol the next most common substances used by those in treatment are ecstasy (13%) and cocaine (10%),
- Those in treatment are vulnerable young people. The most common specific vulnerabilities recorded for young people accessing treatment include mental health problems, antisocial and criminal behaviour, NEET and self-harm.

Local figures – adult substance misuse treatment

Data is reported for adults in treatment services around 4 treatment categories: Opiate, non-opiate, alcohol and alcohol & non-opiate.

- The latest numbers for adults in treatment for substance misuse are 783 (Q1 2015) of which, 36% opiates, 11% non-opiate, 37% alcohol and 16% alcohol and non-opiate,
- Parental substance misuse has significant impact on child development. 27% of those in treatment live with children under 18. RIRS is working with Achieving for Children to identify families that need additional support (July 2014- June 2015).

Wider vulnerabilities

- Criminal Justice remains the most common source of drug referrals 41% (2013-14),
- Over half of adults new to treatment are in receipt of benefits (60% for drug treatment, 57% alcohol).

What next?

JSNA Seminar

We are pleased to invite you to attend the Second Richmond JSNA Stakeholder Seminar on 17th September 2015. The seminar will run from 11:00-14:00 with light refreshments provided in the Clarendon Hall, York House, Richmond Road, Twickenham, TW1 3AA. For more details and to book a place, RSVP to jsna@richmond.gov.uk, agenda to follow.

The report and slides for the First JSNA seminar, held in January, can be accessed here: www.datarich.info/jsna/seminar20150119

Future needs assessments

Throughout the year short topic-based reports are published on the Local Authority's website, enabling key messages to be shared with local partners. Topics that are planned for future JSNA reports and newsletters include:

- *Child sexual exploitation*
- *Health and wellbeing of children*
- *Mental health and wellbeing*
- *Obesity (adults)*
- *Special Educational Needs and Disabilities*
- *Urgent care (children age 0-5)*

Look out for our newsletters and have a look at some of the resources we have highlighted below. All health needs assessments and quarterly newsletters are available via: www.richmond.gov.uk/jsna.

Further resources

- *The Annual Report of the Director of Public Health*
www.richmond.gov.uk/annual_public_health_report
- *Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-16*
www.richmond.gov.uk/joint_health_and_wellbeing_strategy
- *Richmond Young People's Survey 2014*
www.richmond.gov.uk/richmond_young_peoples_survey
- *Public Health Outcomes Framework*
<http://www.phoutcomes.info/>

Contact us

If you have any topics or issues you think the JSNA team could analyse, or if you would like to get involved in any of the work currently underway, please email us at: jsna@richmond.gov.uk