

Alcohol Arrest Referral and the lessons being learnt from the Leeds programme



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Schemes funded by the Home Office:

- 1997 Gloucester
- 2007 Home Office Phase One –
Cheshire, Ealing, Manchester and
Liverpool
- 2008 (Nov) Bristol, Cleveland, Cumbria, NE Lincs,
Islington, Leicester, Northampton, Stoke and
Swindon
- 2009 (April) *YP Schemes*: Liverpool, Newcastle, East
Sussex, Blackpool, Stoke on Trent and
Lincolnshire



Aims of Alcohol Arrest Referral: (Home Office)

Primary Aim – Reduce alcohol re-offending among adults arrested for alcohol related offences

Secondary Aims:

- To establish what lessons can be learnt from the process of delivering AAR that will improve the client/practitioner experience and engagement with schemes
- To establish whether brief intervention sessions reduce levels of **harmful** and **hazardous** drinking among adults for alcohol related offences



Partner Engagement:

1. Police
2. NHS and or PCT
3. Qualified service providers skilled in custody alcohol arrest referral and alcohol based brief intervention techniques
4. CDRP partners (inc. Probation)
5. Criminal Justice partners including Courts and CPS



Clarify:

- Aims and objectives of ***your*** scheme
- Where your IBA will be delivered
- Harmful – Hazardous or Dependent drinkers
- All offences or selected triggers
- Age of client group
- Appetite from partners and what will they commit
- Information sharing
- Peak hours .v. staffing availability



Commitment

- Police custody staff – identify your champion
- Dedicated alcohol arrest referral workers funded through sources other than the Pooled Treatment Budget
- NHS/PCT funding to support an increase in Dependent drinkers seeking treatment
- An understanding that this is a long run with few quick wins



The Hook

- What options are available to secure client engagement
- Fixed Penalty Notice
- Conditional Bail
- Conditional Caution
- Acceptable Behaviour Contract
- Alcohol Treatment Requirement
- Drinks Banning Order??



The Leeds Scheme:

Why do we need it?

- 750,000+ population
- 70,000 students
- 621 city centre licensed premises
- 310 with late night licences-

Alcohol Arrest Referral



NWPHO states that Leeds is in the country's top ten for:

- Harmful drinkers
- Hazardous drinkers
- Binge drinkers
- Alcohol related hospital admissions

AND

- Violent Crime area



AND.....

- Previous Home Office bids for funding for Phase 1 and Phase 2 had failed
- NHS funding for alcohol treatment in Leeds is not meeting demand
- NTA had refused to flexible approach to arrest referral services



Is it working?

- Slow start, but for past 3 months.....
- Approx 80 referrals a month from a throughput of 220/240 prisoners over past 3 months
- Over 55% scored 20+ on AUDIT and referred for extended IBA, but...
- Only 24% turned up

BUT



The Future??.... where do we go from here

- Evaluation of the first 5 schemes early 2010
- Funding for alcohol where will it come from
- DIP and the NTA
- Effectiveness of voluntary programmes
- Future legislation