

North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership

11 September 2008

**Report From: Dr. Peter Brambleby
Director of Public Health
North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust**

**Report Subject: North Yorkshire and York Alcohol Harm Reduction
Strategy**

1. Introduction

This report presents the North Yorkshire and York Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy from North Yorkshire and York Primary Care Trust's (PCT) perspective.

The PCT has worked closely with partners through the North Yorkshire and York Safer Communities Forum and the two Drug and Alcohol Action Teams in the county, to develop this countywide alcohol harm reduction strategy.

The interventions and priorities for action focus on four main areas: education and communication; health and treatment services; regulation and enforcement; and offending, resettlement and rehabilitation.

2. Health and Treatment Services

The main aims of the health and treatment services priority is 'to better identify and treat alcohol misuse by having in place a planned and integrated local treatment system for alcohol misusers, which will provide a range of evidence-based treatment interventions' and 'to increase the number of people drinking within the Government's sensible drinking guidelines'.

North Yorkshire and York PCT has responsibility for the commissioning of alcohol treatment services and agreed at their Board Meeting held on May 2008, to lead the health and treatment service's section of the strategy and will seek to commission new services within the context of financial recovery.

The extent of alcohol misuse in North Yorkshire and York is highlighted in the strategy. Using national estimates there are 110,956 (aged 16-64) hazardous or harmful drinkers and 18,460 (aged 16-64) dependent drinkers in the County.

In December 2007, the Department of Health issued a Public Service Agreement (PSA 25 – Reduce the harm caused by Alcohol and Drugs) requiring the PCT to report on the target 'a reduction in chronic and acute ill health caused by alcohol, to be measured by an annual 1% reduction in the trend for hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol-related harm'

The regional element of the national Darzi review of the NHS approach to 'Staying Healthy' identified alcohol as one of the three key lifestyle threats to the

sustainability of the NHS. The recommendations for the NHS include commissioning brief interventions training for healthcare workers in primary and secondary care and increase treatment and support services for people with alcohol problems

3. Progress

The PCT and North Yorkshire Strategic Partnership have agreed to jointly fund two Alcohol Project Officers, whose remit will include reviewing current provision for alcohol misuse services and work with stakeholders to implement the North Yorkshire and York Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy. These two posts are currently being recruited to and when appointed will be based at the Drug and Alcohol Action Team offices in Easingwold.

A key issue is to clarify which organisations in the County are funding alcohol misuse services and how much their investment is. It appears that in addition to the PCT, North Yorkshire County Council, District Councils, City of York Council, Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships, Probation and Police are funding some service provision.

The PCT's Commissioning Directorate will also be working with the Alcohol Project Officers in reviewing current service provision against the Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers' guidance. Priorities for investment will then be presented to the PCT Commissioning Executive for funding decisions.