

Our free monthly update with the latest comment, reports, resources, policy and parliamentary news on families, drugs and alcohol.

POLICY BRIEFING

April 2016

Contents

[Editorial](#).....

[Parliamentary roundup](#).....

[Consultations](#).....

[Resources](#).....

IN FOCUS

[Housing and Recovery](#).....

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Editorial

Some of you may now that Adfam has sadly said goodbye to Anna Kasmir our Regional Development Coordinator for the East and West Midlands and the South West.

Anna's project may have come to an end but here at Adfam we remain committed to our regional networks. Over the years we've found the two-way 'hub and spokes' model very successful: the Regional Development Coordinators share emerging good practice and information with the Policy and Communications team to inform policy work and campaigns, and the central Adfam office supports the Coordinators in their strategic work with local decision-makers and development work with the many family support groups around the country.

I thought it might be useful to provide a quick overview of what's happening with our regional networks, and who's involved.

Some of you may remember Kate Peake – one of the very first people at team Adfam to work on building our regional networks. Well, Kate is back! She's going to be working with us in a freelance basis by running the East Midlands forum.

[Rebekah Allon-Smith](#), whom a lot of you will know, is focused on the North East and East of England regions, and also oversees a twice-yearly forum in the North West.

[Bex Peters](#) is our Family Support Development Coordinator for Greenwich, and also runs our London regional forum.

In the South West and West Midlands region Adfam, with support from Public Health England, will continue to facilitate vital discussion and dialogue around the needs of families and carers affected by substance use. We are currently developing our plans for these two regions.

Yorkshire and Humber, and the South East are the two regions in which are links are least developed – so if you're from either part of the county and have ideas to share please do [let us know](#).

As ever, we are committed to amplifying the voices of both family members and the practitioners supporting them – ensuring both they are heard on their own merits and used to inform strategy and decision-making.

Oliver Standing
Director of Policy and Communications

Parliamentary roundup

[Liz McInnes MP](#), Shadow Communities and Local Government Minister, asked about the government's drugs advice service, FRANK, and what steps the government is taking to provide harm reduction information to young people and parents. Jane Ellison MP, Public Health Minister, replied mentioning several advice and prevention efforts including Mentor UK's ADEPIS project.

[James Morris MP](#) tabled a Westminster Hall debate on the subject of the recent NHS England report on mental health, the Five Year Forward View. Discussion included substance misuse, including the report's finding that nine out of 10 people in prison have mental health, drug or alcohol issues.

Consultations

[How can we improve support for carers?](#) – Department of Health

This important consultation, which closes on 30 June 2016, will inform a proposed new strategy for supporting carers, and is asking for responses from carers, people who are cared for, and any professionals who work with carers.

Resources

[Modern Crime Prevention Strategy](#) (pdf) – Home Office

This report from the Home Office explores the changing face of modern crime and details the efforts the government will take to combat new and emerging crime trends. There are six key drivers of crime identified in the report, of which one is drugs and one is alcohol.

[Strategic plan for the next four years: Better outcomes by 2020](#) (pdf) – Public Health England

Public Health England's new strategic plan explains how they will 'protect and improve the public's health and reduce inequalities' up to 2020, with reducing alcohol related health harms a key contribution. The report notes that health issues contributed to by alcohol and drug use make up 6% of the entire total disease burden in England.

[A World of Good: The challenge of being young in modern Britain](#) (pdf) – Central YMCA

Central YMCA examine the main challenges facing young people today, through a survey of over 1,600 young people as well as the practitioners who work to support them. The research ranks substance use as the fifth most serious challenge facing young people, just behind family breakdown.

[Police and Crime Commissioners Generation 2.0 \(pdf\)](#) – Revolving Doors and Clinks

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) elections are taking place soon, and this briefing from Revolving Doors and Clinks calls on candidates to take the lead in engaging the voluntary sector. Among the recommendations are that PCCs exemplify best practice in commissioning, support people with multiple and complex needs, and listen and respond to people with lived experience.

In Focus

[Housing and Recovery](#) – Adfam on behalf of the Recovery Partnership

The Recovery Partnership has highlighted innovative practice relating to a broad range of issues in treatment and recovery by running a series of roundtable events around the country. These have been attended by commissioners, practitioners, service managers, service users, policy-makers and researchers.

The Recovery Partnership held a roundtable discussion on housing and recovery in Newcastle, with participants representing substance use and housing related services in the North East of England. This paper begins with an overview of the topic, examines the relevant policy context, and presents quotes, key themes and issues discussed at the roundtable, along with information and commentary from research literature. Two case studies from North East projects working in the field detail their innovative approaches - Fulfilling Lives Newcastle Gateshead and Housing First England at Homeless Link.

Topics covered include: regional variation in housing availability and needs across the country, the importance of psychologically-informed environments and trauma, complex needs and how to get services working together, and the role of housing in the early stages of recovery.

“There is actually an opportunity in the cuts to get services to work together – the motivation may be cost savings but if housing workers are also doing substance misuse and mental health then that can be a good thing.” – Roundtable Participant