

# Communities & Neighbourhoods Committee

10.00am, Tuesday 10 February 2015

## Prevention & Early Intervention through Partnership - Alcohol Awareness Pilot - Western Edinburgh & Almond Neighbourhood Partnerships

Item number	7.2
Report number	
Executive/routine	Executive
Wards	All

### Executive summary

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The Almond and Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnerships support a joint Health and Community Care Sub-Group. This Sub-Group has identified Almond and Western Edinburgh as having both a higher complement of elderly residents and concerns about the levels of alcohol-related harm amongst their residents.

The Sub-Group, in partnership with NHS Lothian's Health Promotion Alcohol Brief Intervention (ABI) hosted two pilot ABI training events for front line Council staff. This led to the development of an Alcohol Information Toolkit, designed to enable staff to raise and discuss confidently alcohol issues with clients.

This report highlights that the pilot training was very well received by Council employees and confirms that areas of the wider local workforce are keen to access further training. This report, which complements the BOLD Team's Strengthening Localities work and follows the principles of the Chief Executive's Organise to Deliver Report, highlights the potential for this successful pilot to be rolled out across all 12 Neighbourhood Partnerships (NPs).

### Links

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Coalition pledges	<a href="#">P33</a>
Council outcomes	<a href="#">CO23</a> , <a href="#">CO24</a>
Single Outcome Agreement	<a href="#">SO1</a> , <a href="#">SO2</a> , <a href="#">SO3</a> , <a href="#">SO4</a>

## **Prevention & Early Intervention through Partnership - Alcohol Awareness Pilot - Western Edinburgh & Almond Neighbourhood Partnerships**

### **Recommendations**

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It is recommended that the Communities and Neighbourhoods Committee:

- 1.1 Notes the progress made in taking forward this collaborative pilot; and
- 1.2 Refers this report for consideration to the 12 Neighbourhood Partnerships.

### **Background**

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- 2.1 The 2011 Population Census was used to create Neighbourhood Partnership Area Profiles which indicate that approximately 20% of residents in the Western Edinburgh NP area were aged 65 and over. This figure was the highest in the city, closely followed by the Almond NP area.
- 2.2 In February 2014, the joint Almond & Western Edinburgh NP Health & Community Care Sub-Group raised concerns about the level of alcohol-related harm within these two areas. This view was supported by NHS Lothian, health care partners and local GPs within the Group, and was re-emphasised by a local GP who stated that, from his experience, alcohol-related problems among the elderly was a significant issue in the Almond and Western Edinburgh areas.
- 2.3 It was agreed at this meeting to form a working party to explore the issue of alcohol issues among the elderly and report back to the joint Sub-Group. In March 2014, the working party met and agreed to focus on an achievable and local approach within West Edinburgh which would work towards increasing the awareness of the risks of alcohol abuse among the elderly.
- 2.4 The West Neighbourhood Team discussed with Health & Social Care's Drugs and Alcohol Unit the possibility of developing a pilot initiative in west Edinburgh. The Drugs and Alcohol Unit provided initial guidance and recommended a specialist contact within NHS Lothian who could assist in taking this forward. Subsequently this contact was invited to join the joint Almond & Western Edinburgh Health & Community Care Sub-Group.
- 2.5 In May 2014, the working party reported back to the Sub-Group. It was agreed that the Sub-Group would take forward an alcohol awareness pilot over the next six months within West Edinburgh. This would focus on prevention and early intervention among the elderly, through partnership working.

- 2.6 The Sub-Group established a collaborative work plan in summer 2014, with NHS Lothian, Fire & Rescue Scotland, Local Opportunities for Older People (LOOPS) and EVOC. The collaborative plan is based on the key principles of prevention and early intervention and aims to raise awareness of the risks of alcohol consumption among elderly people in West Edinburgh.
- 2.7 In summer 2014, the Sub-Group agreed to pilot an Alcohol Brief Intervention training package and process with Council staff, before rolling this out to local partners. An Alcohol Brief Intervention (ABI) is intended to raise awareness of alcohol consumption, intervening at the earliest opportunity to prevent further harm to an elderly person.

## Main report

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- 3.1 The joint Sub-Group identified the following key objectives for the Alcohol Awareness Pilot:
- Prepare an alcohol awareness training presentation to be rolled out to Western Edinburgh and Almond NP partners, staff and the local community.
  - Design a resource pack for multi-agency staff and local residents to enhance awareness of the risks of alcohol abuse amongst the target age group.
  - Develop a pathway to enable a range of partners to signpost individuals, as early as possible, to appropriate services in the community network.
  - Work within the LOOPS framework to identify potential issues in the community and to enhance local intelligence.
- 3.2 In October 2014, NHS Lothian, in consultation with the Sub-Group and its partners, delivered an ABI programme of awareness-raising training sessions. These were attended by various West Neighbourhood staff and feedback was very positive, with staff commenting that the session was of great benefit to them, not only in a professional capacity, but also on a personal level.
- 3.3 The interactive part of the session asked participants to gauge measures of spirits and wine. Staff confirmed that this exercise had a huge impact on them, and that they would feel happy to share this information with friends and family of all ages.
- 3.4 The ABI Toolkit, which was available for participants to take away with them, includes a measure glass, information leaflets and contact telephone numbers. It provides advice on alcohol awareness and alcohol abuse, and can also be adapted to suit all ages. Participants confirmed that they could adapt the information provided in the toolkit to individual client needs.
- 3.5 The Neighbourhood Support Service's Registered Manager for West & South West was very impressed with the Pilot and ABI Toolkit and will promote this training to NSS teams in other neighbourhoods. NSS Managers meet regularly and the alcohol awareness and early intervention training will be on

their agenda for discussion in early 2015. The NSS Manager for West/South West has also been liaising with the Sub-Group to facilitate a more advanced training session for her team.

- 3.6 LOOPS has requested copies of the ABI toolkit and agreed to distribute these throughout its network and to advertise this programme in its newsletter. NHS Lothian will provide LOOPS with information which can be used to provide a blog for their newsletter.
- 3.7 The success of these training sessions and ABI Toolkit has resulted in both Fire & Rescue Scotland and Police Scotland liaising with NHS Lothian with a view to rolling out this training to their staff over the next six months. This will involve formal presentations and the subsequent issue of the ABI Toolkit.
- 3.8 EVOC has advised that it could deliver this training as part of the EVOC Learning Programme and will investigate further the possibility of rolling this training out to the wide range of partners who provide older people's services, throughout the city and across all the Neighbourhood Partnerships.
- 3.9 Copies of the ABI toolkit are now available in each of the West Neighbourhood's four local Libraries; South Queensferry, Kirkliston, Corstorphine and the Drumbrae Hub.

### **Next Phase**

- 3.10 The joint Almond and Western NP Health & Community Care Sub-Group will:
  - Continue to promote this multi-agency model with a supported and collaborative approach.
  - Roll out the training programme to Third Sector partners, Equality Groups, local businesses and young people, over the next six months.
  - Deliver a number of awareness-raising sessions over the next six months in local pharmacies, libraries, GP practices and shopping forecourts.
  - Consider hospital discharge processes with NHS Lothian to determine if this approach could assist in early intervention work. Occupational Therapists at the Western General are already proactive in this area.
  - Liaise with Children & Families and Community Learning & Development colleagues to ensure that this collaborative approach ties into the school curriculum and Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC) models.
  - Create a basic online survey to raise awareness on alcohol-related issues, asking elderly groups to trial the survey, linking it into libraries work and using Twitter and Facebook to target a wider audience.
  - Identify other local issues that would benefit from a similar *prevention and early intervention through partnership* approach. These could include crime prevention, youth justice and effective support for people suffering from mental health illness.

## **Measures of success**

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- 4.1 The Alcohol Awareness pilot was instigated due to perceived concerns of local practitioners and local carers and as a consequence there is no baseline

comparison. However, it is hoped that by continuing to promote effective prevention and early intervention through partnership, peoples' attitudes to alcohol will gradually change. As the pilot aims to change peoples' attitude towards drinking, rather than asking people to stop drinking, a more qualitative measure is required in determining its long-term success e.g. has the perception of local practitioners and local carers changed?

4.2 The success of the Almond and Western Edinburgh Neighbourhood Partnerships' Alcohol Awareness Pilot will be measured through:

- Addressing the training needs of the NP partners, staff and local community partners.
- Increasing alcohol awareness and achieving the NPs' priorities to improve health and wellbeing and build healthier communities.
- Strengthening locality working by promoting effective prevention and early intervention through partnership.

### **Financial impact**

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5.1 The costs associated with the Alcohol Awareness Pilot have been met within existing budgets.

### **Risk, policy, compliance and governance impact**

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6.1 There are no significant risk, policy, compliance and governance implications arising out of this report

### **Equalities impact**

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7.1 An Equalities and Rights Impact Assessment (ERIA) has been carried out and identifies evidence gathered in the development of the Pilot. This demonstrates that the implementation of the Pilot enhances rights for individuals, as well as for local and wider communities. Rights where positive enhancements have been identified include; the right to live in a safe environment; and the right to health, education and learning.

7.2 The ERIA demonstrates that the Alcohol Awareness Pilot does not have any negative equalities impacts.

### **Sustainability impact**

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8.1 There are no adverse environmental implications arising from this report.

### **Consultation and engagement**

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9.1 There has been ongoing consultation with partners of the joint Almond and Western Edinburgh Health and Community Care Sub-Group.

9.2 As a partnership approach, the joint Almond and Western Edinburgh NPs Health and Community Care Sub-Group has actively engaged with various stakeholders at a local level.

## Background reading / external references

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None.

### John Bury

Acting Director of Services for Communities

Contact: Henry Coyle, West Neighbourhood Manager

E-mail: [henry.coyle@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:henry.coyle@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 469 5198

Contact: Audrey Primrose, Partnership Development Officer, West Neighbourhood Team

E-mail: [audrey.primrose@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:audrey.primrose@edinburgh.gov.uk) | Tel: 0131 529 3585

## Links

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<b>Coalition pledges</b>	<a href="#">P33</a> – Strengthen Neighbourhood Partnerships and further involve local people in decisions on how Council resources are used
<b>Council outcomes</b>	<a href="#">CO23</a> – Well engaged and well informed – Communities and individuals are empowered and supported to improve local outcomes and foster a sense of community. <a href="#">CO24</a> – The Council communicates effectively internally and externally and has an excellent reputation for customer care.
<b>Single Outcome Agreement</b>	<a href="#">SO1</a> – Edinburgh’s economy delivers increased investment, jobs and opportunities for all <a href="#">SO2</a> – Edinburgh’s citizens experience improved health and wellbeing, with reduced inequalities in health <a href="#">SO3</a> – Edinburgh’s children and young people enjoy their childhood and fulfil their potential <a href="#">SO4</a> – Edinburgh’s communities are safer and have improved physical and social fabric
<b>Appendices</b>	None.