



DUNDRY VIEW NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

15th December 2014

Report of: Developing Health and Independence (DHI)

Title: Tackling stigma around drugs, alcohol and its effect on families

Officer presenting report: Mike Strathee

Recommendation:

- a) To **note** contents of the report.
- b) To consider which services are required in Dundry View

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1.1 DHI is part of the ROADS (Recovery orientated alcohol and drug service) multi agency partnership commissioned by Safer Bristol to provide the full range of drug and alcohol services in Bristol. As part of Roads, we are commissioned specifically to (1) tackle stigma in the community, (2) support those recovering from problematic drug and alcohol use to help those not so far along the recovery route (we call them Peer Supporters) and (3) support families affected by someone's alcohol/drug use.

1.2 As part of that commission we aim to help dispel myths surrounding drug and alcohol issues and create opportunities, particularly:

To encourage families, who often feel stigmatised, to come forward for professional support for them and to help a loved one into recovery. Addiction recovery rates are significantly improved when the family is involved quite apart from the benefits to all the other family members

To dispel a commonly held view that those who have had drug or alcohol issues are not reliable. This entails encouraging the community - including local organisations, employers and community services – to offer support, whether through the way services are delivered or through providing opportunities through voluntary and paid work, to these recoverers and thereby help them get back on their feet again and become valued contributing members of the community

- 2 To further these aims DHI is working with all neighbourhood partnerships by offering community awareness sessions. These can be tailored to each locality's needs for example we arranged for Somali speakers to address the Neighbourhood forums at both the Ashley and the Easton and Lawrence Hill forums.
- 2.1 We train individuals affected by their own or somebody else's drug or alcohol use to tell their story which helps to inform opinion and change attitudes. This can be done in a variety of settings including forums or other community groups. In addition we can arrange to facilitate groups in your locality (subject to availability of a venue), which will include some of our recoverer speakers, to share experiences as both an informative and enlightening experience.
- 3 The purpose of this report is therefore to offer and identify awareness opportunities as outlined above.