

People Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Monday, 28 November 2016

REPORT TITLE:	Review of Services provided by Change, Grow, Live (CGL)
REPORT OF:	Director for Health and Wellbeing

REPORT SUMMARY

Every death in Wirral relating to drugs or alcohol misuse is a tragedy, particularly for the families and friends of the person who has died. Addiction creates an increased chance of death and poor health in any individual, and as a local authority we commission services to try and support people who are addicted and who want to make a positive change to their lives.

The attached report has been written in response to concerns raised through an Elected Member regarding the number of deaths in service in the drugs and alcohol service managed by Change, Grow, Live (known as CGL). The concerns were reported to the Director of Public Health (now Director of Health & Wellbeing) on 2nd August 2016. The particular concern raised was that since the new service had taken over from the previous NHS service there were significantly more deaths in service.

As a result of the concern raised, a review of all deaths in service has taken place to understand whether there is any reason to believe that the service is unsafe, and whether Wirral is unusual in the numbers of deaths relating to drugs and alcohol misuse. The attached report describes the findings of the review.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. The People Overview & Scrutiny Committee considers the report and confirms its agreement to and support for the recommendations detailed within it.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

The findings of the review have led to the recommendations identified in section 6 of the attached report.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

n/a

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This report has been written to respond to a specific concern raised with an elected member, and against a backdrop of increasing deaths from alcohol and substance misuse nationally. In writing the report, the public health team have been supported by Public Health England, and have received the full cooperation of CGL.

The report sets out the background to drugs and alcohol issues on the Wirral, especially in relation to the heroin epidemic of the 1980s; together with a review of the patterns of deaths from alcohol and drugs, and the demographics of the cohort of people in services. It also notes national best practice, and includes an assessment of the services against that guidance.

We have drawn on national expertise and evidence in writing this report, and we are appreciative of the support provided by staff in Public Health England in undertaking this review.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no legal implications arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

No resources are required.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There are no significant risks associated with the publication of this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

This report is going to the People Overview and Scrutiny Committee as it related to a concern raised about a service commissioned by the Council. There is no requirement for formal consultation on the content of the report.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

The report relates to adults who are vulnerable and who need services in relation to drugs and alcohol addiction. The services are required to meet the needs of people with protected characteristics including age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, and sex.

REPORT AUTHOR: *Fiona Johnstone*
Director of Health and Wellbeing
telephone: (0151 691 8210)
email: fionajohnstone@wirral.gov.uk

APPENDICES

Appendix A: Review of Deaths in service for CGL Drugs and Alcohol Services

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
None	