

Under18, The Matthew Project @ OPEN
20 Bank Plain, Norwich, NR2 4SF



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Helpline: 0800 970 4866



Thursday, 1 October 2009

Dear Colleague

Changes in Young People's Substance Misuse Services in Norfolk

As of 1st October 2009 The Matthew Project's Under18 Service has taken over the provision of drug and alcohol services for young people in Norfolk. As well as providing advice, support and treatment for young people using substances and whose family members use substances, the new service also support parents, carers and professionals who work with young people.

The service comprises of young people's substance misuse workers and counsellors from The Matthew Project, nurses and a consultant from Trust Alcohol and Drug Service (TADS) and a social worker with specialist drug and alcohol knowledge from Children's Services.

The new service provides a full range of interventions and support including:

- Lessons and assemblies focused on drugs and alcohol in schools and other settings
- Informal education and targeted outreach on The Matthew Project Voicebox caravan
- Advice and information
- One to one support and brief interventions
- Comprehensive assessment and regular support or counselling with a care plan
- Harm reduction including blood borne virus testing and vaccinations
- Community Prescribing, family interventions and access to residential treatment
- Support for young people affected by someone else's substance misuse
- Support for parents and carers including drug and alcohol awareness sessions

Professionals working with young people should call the Under18 service on **01603 774360** if they would like to book an education or outreach session, have a consultation about a substance misuse related issue or receive advice or information about making a referral.

SID (Support and Information on Drugs) is a tool to support professionals in identifying young people's substance misuse related needs via screening and/or Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment and in accessing appropriate substance misuse services. For more information and a copy of the tool, please go to www.nordat.org.uk

Young people can be referred to the Under18 Service via the following routes:

1. Common Assessment Framework (CAF) assessment identifies unmet needs that require a multi agency response including substance misuse needs – send a copy of the CAF assessment form by post or fax to the Under18 office and call the office to invite a worker to a multi-agency meeting with the intention of creating a ‘team around the child’.
2. CAF assessment identifies unmet substance misuse related needs that require a single agency response - make a referral to the Under18 service by sending a completed CAF assessment form by post or fax to the Under18 office.

CAF assessment forms can be sent: by post to Under18, The Matthew Project @ OPEN, 20 Bank Plain, Norwich, NR2 4SF in an envelope marked ‘Confidential - Addressee only’; or by fax to 01603 614953 – please call and check that a worker is available to receive the fax. Please go to www.everynorfolkchildmatters.org for more information about Norfolk’s CAF process.

The Under18 service comprises of three teams based in King’s Lynn (West), Norwich (Central and North) and Great Yarmouth (East and South) with workers also based in the North and South of the county. Each area has a designated manager or lead worker who will liaise with agencies and integrate the Under18 service into the five area partnerships:

Manager for East – Derek Hewis	derek@matthewproject.org
Lead Worker for South – Eve Hart	eve@matthewproject.org
Manager for North – to be confirmed	
Lead Worker for Central – Melanie Long	mel@matthewproject.org
Manager for West – Freya Fletcher	freya@matthewproject.org
Service Manager – Graeme Stewart	graeme@matthewproject.org

The Under18 service has a 24 hour helpline for young people and their parents or carers on 0800 970 4866 or 01603 774355. The Matthew Project 24 hour helpline for adults aged 18 and over remains 0800 764754. Professionals working with young people should always call the Under18 office on **01603 774360** for information and advice.

Additional leaflets about the Under18 service (A5 flyer and Helpline Card for young people and Service Leaflet for professionals) can be requested from our main office at OPEN.

The Matthew Project **Youth Team** continues to deliver a range of projects including club work, street outreach, youth engagement projects, coaching and alcohol work with young people. Please contact Sophie Neech, the Youth Team leader, for information about these projects on 0845 868 8172 or email sophie@matthewproject.org

We will keep you informed of ongoing developments within the Under18 service over the coming months. In the meantime, please feel free to contact us on **01603 774360** for further information.

Graeme Stewart
Under18 Service Manager