There is more information in **'Training Transfer - Making staff training work for your staff and service users - A guide for supervisors'.**

This has been developed by The Training Exchange who are commissioned to deliver training for SDAP. This can be found on the SDAP website www.somersetdap.org.uk

For more information on any of the issues raised in this briefing contact:
Somerset Drug & Alcohol Partnership (SDAP)
Tel: 01823 357 111
Email: sdap@somerset.gov.uk
Web: www.somersetdap.org.uk

For more information about drugs and alcohol and services for young people, adults, families and carers, and contact details, go to the SDAP website:
www.somersetdap.org.uk

Drug and Alcohol Awareness & Young People Managers Briefing

A guide for supporting the implementation of Somerset Young People's Drug and Alcohol Screening Tool in your work setting

You are receiving this as you approved a member of your staff to attend the Drug and Alcohol Awareness and Young People - using the Somerset Screening Tool training recently. This guide aims to support you to help your staff member incorporate the training into their routine practice.

What is young people's drug and alcohol screening?

Screening is a relatively short and simple process that can be done by staff who are not drug and alcohol specialists. Doing this simple screening will help your staff:

- To be able to identify the early signs of drug and alcohol misuse in young people
- To be able to discuss drug and alcohol use with young people
- To be proactive and not wait for problems to escalate
- To know how to respond if a young person needs additional or specialist help

If the Screening Tool identifies a young person as medium risk, speak to someone in your agency about delivering Tier 2 interventions. Check out the pathway for who your Tier 2 trained person is.

Your agency's involvement in responding to young people's drug and alcohol use is vital.

The Training

All staff who have been trained will know:

- How to identify risk and resilience factors for young people's drug and alcohol misuse
- How to use the young people's drug and alcohol screening and assessment tools
- How to access a toolkit of resources for drug and alcohol interventions
- How and when to refer individuals to specialists

All staff will leave the training with a workbook which includes detailed information to increase knowledge and understanding of substances, their use and effects.

They will also receive a Guide to using the Somerset Drug and Alcohol Screening Tool and copies of all the relevant tools.

The Tools

There are three key tools required to carry out screening for drug and alcohol use with young people:

- The Screening Tool (parts 1, 2 and 3)
- AUDIT C (to further explore alcohol risks)
- CRAFFT (to further explore alcohol and drugs risks)

Copies of the tools can be downloaded from the SDAP website
www.somersetdap.org.uk

Workers will also need to have on hand drug and alcohol information leaflets, e.g.

- Look out 4UR M8s 'z' card
- The Truth about Drugs - Know the Score

These are available from the Somerset Health Promotion Resources Service free of charge – see website: www.hp.somerset.nhs.uk

Some Suggestions for Supporting Staff

As soon as possible after training

Make sure staff:

- read and become familiar with both the screening and assessment tool guides
- become familiar with the screening and assessment tools
- reflect on learning in the workbooks

Putting drug and alcohol responses into practice – what does that mean?

National research indicates that the risk of problematic drug and alcohol use is particularly high for vulnerable young people. Workers will have been trained to identify risk/vulnerability as well as protective/resilience factors.

Since the Health Advisory Service review 2001, responses to young people's drug and alcohol use has been defined by 4 Tiers, ranging from generic services working with young people (Tier 1) to very specialist young people's drugs services (Tier 4).

Your staff member has been trained and equipped to offer interventions at Tier 1. This means they are able to:

- screen using this tool
- offer advice, information and education about different substances
- signpost and refer for Tier 2 or Tier 3 interventions

It would not cover doing any further specific interventions around the young person's substance misuse, but could mean your staff continue to support the young person while they are seeing another more specialist worker about their substance misuse.

Targets

SDAP are keen to understand how much drug and alcohol work with young people is taking place across Somerset, so as staff are trained to use the Screening and Assessment Tools we would welcome a conversation about reporting activity. The more we know about what is going on and the outcomes that are achieved from this work, the better.

Supervision

During supervision, you might like to ask the following:

- What did staff learn on the training?
- How will it affect their practice?
- To what extent have staff had an opportunity to put the training into practice?
- How has this been?
- How could interventions be improved?
- What support might staff need to carry out drug and alcohol screening and assessment?

It may be helpful to attend the training yourself – to book a place go to the SDAP website: www.somersetdap.org.uk

Resource availability

Is there easy access to the tools and drug and alcohol information leaflets for all staff carrying out drug and alcohol screening and assessment?

Record keeping

Are staff clear about organisational procedures such as the confidentiality policy and how this relates to recording drug and alcohol screening and assessment?

Policies and procedures

Do you need to write a policy or procedure on drug and alcohol screening and assessment or do you need to add a specific reference to drug and alcohol screening and assessment in existing intervention policies?

Job descriptions

Now that staff deliver Tier 2 drug and alcohol screening, assessment and interventions – is this reflected in their job descriptions?