

**TITLE OF REPORT: ASSET (Adult Assessment Support & Engagement Team)
Update****REPORT OF: Steph Downey**

Summary

Following the initial launch of ASSET in June 2021 with a soft launch in October 2021, a planned review was conducted, of the pathways into the service and relevant data was explored in October 2022. ASSET has a remit of providing an early signal driven intervention for residents experiencing chaotic lifestyles, multiple exclusions, and negative social outcomes. The focus of the team is to identify those at risk of entering Care Act arrangements at an earlier stage, whilst strengthening links with other agencies across Gateshead both statutory and non-statutory, as well as providing advice, information, and a higher level of signposting.

The ethos of the team is to provide an enabling, collaborative approach in which the person identified as needing support and those providing the support, work together to determine outcomes that draw on strengths and aspirations. This is relationship-based, solution focussed approach and co-ordinated with other parallel processes they may be involved in such as Safeguarding, ASB or other pathways. Colleagues in the service have a range of backgrounds including substance misuse, exploitation, mental health, and safeguarding.

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1. In the first 12 months the team have had 1896 referrals. Overarchingly ASSET have provided direct intervention in 1388 of their referrals, with the remainder being closed as inappropriate or reassigned to other LA functions. These interventions have ranged from providing direct advice and navigating to other external functions in the Gateshead system or may have resulted in the person being supported into a case management model. Within the service there are several joined up meetings with system partners, including the daily 'Pit Stop' meeting where new referrals are triaged and assigned through to a "complex case review". People being supported by the ASSET team may receive a range of interventions including (but not limited to):
 - Signposting
 - Supported signposting (where a worker may help to introduce the person to a service)
 - Navigation and advocacy (e.g. to support the person to access services they may be struggling to access)

- Direct support work by the ASSET member
- Multi agency support
- Capacity Assessments
- Safeguarding Support
- Care Act assessments

2. The main category of reason for referral is mental health (571), closely followed by substance misuse. There have been 414 referrals where substance misuse is the primary reason for the individuals coming to the attention of the referrer then subsequently Adult Social Care. These individuals may already be engaged with other services or require the support from ASSET to help them navigate and connect, while also considering some of their broader concerns in relation to their wellbeing and sometimes resistance to engage. We are seeing an increase of women under the age of 60, and men over the age of 50 presenting with these concerns.

3. We recognise the importance of collaborating with Public Health who take the lead on this area of work and are jointly working towards supporting the adoption and roll-out of “The Blue Light Project” following successful implementation in other parts of the region.
 The Blue Light Project is an initiative led by Alcohol Change UK. It focuses on vulnerable change resistant drinkers, who do not engage well with alcohol treatment services, and that are having a high impact on services such as health, ambulance, police, social care, safeguarding etc. In a population of 200k (coincidentally this is the population of Gateshead) there will be around 250 of these individuals that cost around £12-13 million per year. They are at high risk of poor health outcomes, other types of harms such as self-neglect and death. Within Gateshead we have a number of cases such as this currently being considered for “Serious Adult Reviews”, so are keen to adopt this approach and learn different ways in which to intervene.

4. Case Study – to be presented to demonstrate effective outcomes

Recommendations

The OSC are asked to:

- Note the contents of the report
- Comment on the ASSET service briefing & identify any areas for further scrutiny
- Identify any areas they would like to receive a further report on

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