

Westminster 

Primary Care Trust

**What does alcohol mean to me.....as
a commissioner?**

Paul Jenkins



The National Context

- Alcohol occupies an important place in British society - part of the social and cultural life of the country
- For many of the 90% of adults in the UK who drink, alcohol is enjoyable and pleasurable
- The UK alcohol industry is valued at more than £30 billion per annum. It employs around one million people and contributes £7 billion in taxes

National Costs

- Around a third of British people drink in excess of the recommended daily allowance
- Studies suggest over 8 million people are dealing with an alcohol problem with 1 million dependent
- The cost to our economy is more than £18bn a year in health care and lost productivity with just £95m expenditure on specialist alcohol treatment

National Costs

- Over 30,000 hospital admissions
- Up to 22,000 premature deaths
- High use of A&E services
- Up to 1,000 related suicides
- 360,000 incidents of domestic violence
- Increasing fear of crime and anti-social behaviour

The Westminster Context

- Significant levels of deprivation and dense areas of pubs and clubs with 1m daily population
- 2,300 ambulance call outs associated with alcohol – West End & St James
- More than 26% of men and 20% of women exceed recommended weekly consumption
- High levels of mortality rates from alcohol related causes

National Policy Framework

- Government wants to play a role to reduce the harm associated with alcohol misuse
- National Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy recognises the complex nature of the problems caused by alcohol misuse
- Models of care for Alcohol Abuse
- Choosing Health, making healthier choices easier

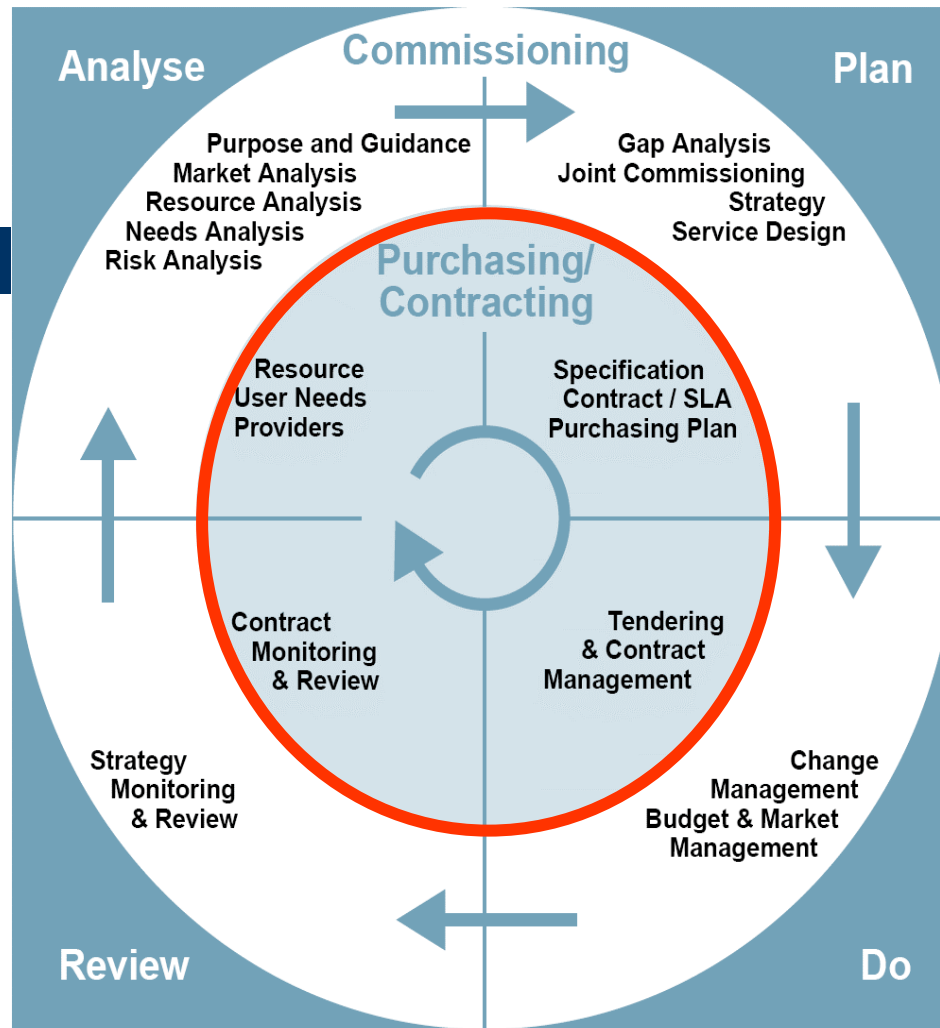
Commissioning issues

- Across London the commissioning resource for alcohol services is inadequate, uncoordinated and restrictive
- Most alcohol-specific services are provided by voluntary organisations
- The funding of alcohol services is dwarfed by the resources channelled into tackling drug problems

Westminster PCT's Role

- Westminster Primary Care Trust (PCT) is responsible for commissioning all healthcare for the registered and transient population
- We commission a wide range of alcohol prevention and treatment services from statutory and third sector providers as part of DAAT
- The PCT is committed to improving services for people experiencing difficulties with alcohol misuse

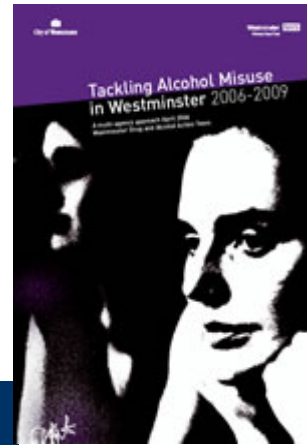
Commissioning Process



Innovation in Commissioning

- Brief intervention in an A&E setting
- Brief intervention in a primary care setting

Tackling Alcohol Misuse in Westminster 2006 - 2009



- Westminster Drug and Alcohol Action Team (DAAT) has published an alcohol strategy in response to the national Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy
- Highlights the need for a partnership approach and was developed with the local authority, local mental health and acute trusts, third sector provider and the metropolitan police

Aims of Our Alcohol Strategy

- To reduce alcohol related harm by encouraging responsible attitudes to drinking
- To protect individuals and communities from alcohol related criminal and anti-social behaviour
- To improve treatment and support those affected by the problems of alcohol misuse

Principles of Delivery

- Collective action/partnership working
- Personal skills and responsibility
- Environments
- Equity
- Cultural appropriateness
- Evidenced based decision making
- Effectiveness
- Integration
- Anticipate and respond to change

Gains for Stakeholders and Partners

- Maximise the involvement of key stakeholders in service planning and development and commissioning
- Ensure that systems are in place to encourage and enable service users, carers, families and advocates to participate in the process

Commissioning Services in the future

- Alcohol can no longer remain the forgotten substance
- Seize the public health agenda
- Information, education & prevention
- Client focussed & targeted to local need
- Evidenced based treatment with measurable outcomes

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