

Community Care and Development

Assessment 2

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Introduction

This report analyses a selected community from London, by looking at the community characteristics and by evaluating main health and social care needs. Based on the analysis it is intended to develop a specific initiative which will help the selected community.

One of the most concerning issue is the drug misuse in adults. Drugs are affecting more and more the population and drugs affect the physical and mental health. The impact on the individual depends on the type of drugs, frequency of use and environment. It can also affect the family wellbeing. Haringey borough is one of London's area that has been selected for this research as official reports show that the prevalence and mortality rate due to drug misuse in adults is very high, especially in the east part of the borough with higher rates than averages in England (London World, 2022).

The approach proposed for this report is related to the identified needs of the selected community and is a practical approach. It will have the purpose of prevention, rather than treatment of drug misuse. It will be more beneficial for the community to have a concrete initiative, which is what the community needs to be involved and to develop relationships and trust in the system and health and social care. It will be a symbiose of service provision, integrating several needs such as wellbeing and good mental health.

Haringey: Demographics

The selected community to be researched for this report is Haringey. Haringey is a district in north London which was created from three former boroughs in 1965 and includes Enfield, Waltham Forest, Hackney, Camden, Islington and Barnet. Is quite a large area of more than 11 square miles. Although it has a young population, the number of the older people is increasing and the total number of the population is over 200000 residents, 24% are formed of young population age interval between 0 and 19 years old and more than 60% are aged between 20 years old and 64 years old. Only around 8% are people who are over 65 years old. The Ethnicity reports show that more than 60% of the population are non white British ethnic groups, with 20% other white non British ethnic groups and less than 10% black ethnic groups (Haringey GOV, 2023).

Main characteristics

The main characteristics of the borough relate to the diversity of the population, different ethnicities, different age segments, different economical development. The number of the spoken languages surpasses 150. Haringey is the 4th most deprived borough in London. According to Haringey Gov (2023) “the life expectancy is similar to London and other regions, but the gap in healthy life expectancy between the richest and poorest areas is 15 years for men and 17 years for women”. The diversity of the borough emphasizes the prosperous areas in west and less prosperous and rather deprived in east. Despite that, the borough is fast-changing and the borough is working towards their problems (Britannica, 2023).

Health and Social Care needs

The leadership acknowledges the challenges that the residents are currently facing, regarding the health and social care and is a top priority for them. According to the borough's website (2023) there are registered higher rates of serious mental illness than other boroughs from London. There are low levels of stable housing for the residents with mental illnesses or who have different learning difficulties, as well as low employment rates. This leads to various problems and a percentage of 31.8% of older residents the segments of 60 years old are facing income deprivation and 29% of residents over 50 years old live alone. A percentage of 21.3% of children are in low income families. The high number of low income families is an impacting factor for the community with a third of school children over 10 years old being overweight. Domestic abuse with injury is also very high, being among the highest levels in London and a concerning percentage of 30% of youth offenders had been part of violent environment in their own homes by the age of 7. Further that it has been observed low educational attainment and residents from more deprived areas to have a very unhealthy lifestyle, poor diet, using drugs, drinking and smoking, having a sedentary life and general poor health. The considerable health inequalities in the borough are represented by Tottenham, which is considered one of the most deprived areas in the country (National Treatment Agency, 2011).

The drug misuse is a current problem of the modern society and Haringey is facing this problem like other boroughs in London are facing too. The problematic misuse of drugs is more prominent in the East part of Haringey, where other elements of the community generate prevalence such as lower socio-economic status, unemployment, homeless and mental ill health issues. Drug misuse

creates other major problems such as physical and mental health harms and are in the need of drug treatment. In Haringey the most common used drugs along alcohol are crack cocaine or heroin. The estimated figures for drug use for crack cocaine and opiate users is over 2400 and registers a higher rate than London and England of 14.96 per 1000 population (NTA, 2011).

However the diversity is considered to be a strength and the borough aims to implement more initiatives that involve the community for the reported issues and attains the common goals. With the help of a dedicated health and care workforce and a strong community with high levels of voluntary involvement it manages and addresses them (Minutes Haringey Gov, 2023).

Legislation and policies on drug misuse

The legislation on the Drug Misuse has initially been developed in 1971 through the Misuse of Drugs 1971 which has created the legal base for prevention of misuse of controlled drugs and has declared illegal the drug possession, the manufacturing and the supplying. Further that it is been developed another key legislation Drugs Act 2005 and in 2016 it has been looked at psychoactive substances through the 2016 Psychoactive Substances Act (Transform Drug Policy Foundation, 2023). The Drugs Act 2005 has had to regulate the control of drug trafficking and is very important because “Under the Drugs Act 2005, which came into effect in the UK on 1 January 2006, drug dealers who target schools or get children to act as couriers will face stiffer jail terms” (HRB National Drugs Library, 2006). The legislation also allows police to hold suspects of carrying drugs and imposes tougher measures to clampdown drug sellers in the United Kingdom (Legislation GOV, 2005).

One distinct approach and initiative

As debated above the wellbeing of the community is in direct correlation with problematic drug misuse. Besides that, it is very important that the community to be benefiting of developing experiences and life opportunities. An initiative towards improving wellbeing will better the community on personal and social levels and will generate positive outcomes. This will aim to reduce negative outcomes and harm of drug misuse. This can be realised by improving access and support of professionals and healthcare services, improving housing, increasing the employment rates and overall promotion of wellbeing and good mental health.

As a distinctive approach it is considered that young population is the most vulnerable as assessed above and the initiative should focus on this segment of the community. Developing a multi agency to provide early help for children and young people is a priority to be considered and which will prevent many problems from the borough such as the drug misuse. This agency will be community based and will focus on providing early help and to meet families needs at the earliest opportunity. As part of the proposed multi agency, the local council can partner with local schools, local faith communities. It is intended to build a youth centre where young residents can register to free courses, can benefit of support and counselling, can develop skills and pursue their hobbies. It would be an interactive project, based on the community needs.

Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

This theoretical model analysis the needs of individuals by five levels which are organised in a pyramid from basic needs such as physiological and safety needs to more deep needs such as love and belonging, esteem and self actualisation which are on the highest levels of the pyramid. By applying this theoretical model it is intended to fulfil the needs of the selected segment of the community. The proposed project, the youth centre for the community from the East part of Haringey, will be a place where the children can feel safe and secure. It will be a place where their work will be appreciated and valued. It will be a place where their ideas are listened to grow self esteem and that will contribute to self-actualisation needs. It will be a good start for their life by using the empowerment principles and working and learning together.

Stakeholders

The initiative will be led by the council, but it will be in constant communication with the community representatives, with faith centres who want to get involved, with local schools and parents associations and in partnership with volunteers from the community. Part of the funding for the project will be realised from Governmental funds and private sponsorship and donations. For this purpose is crucial to ensure control systems are put in place and careful tracing is being realised having more parties involved. The timeline of the project is intended to be realised over a period of 2 years. The local council and health care providers will have the main role in managing the project, but because is a long term initiative the roles may vary. If the youth centre is very popular within

the community and community shows high levels of interest than similar project can be developed for other areas of the borough.

The aim of this initiative is to help and educate and maintain high levels of wellbeing. It can be also an instrument of information relating the concerning problem of drug misuse. Addressing the issue of drugs will be through prevention and education. The youth centre will provide health and social care from professionals in a more welcoming and attractive environment. This way the children would focused on their talent, on their skills, would feel inclined to talk about their problems rather than becoming a part of the problem and being more vulnerable to drug misuse. The building will be realised in the east part of the borough, which has been recognised as the most deprived area and in need of change. The youth centre will help the children within the age segment 10 to 16 years old.

Communication

The most challenging journey will be to keep the youth centre relevant to the young generations, to attract them by engaging them intellectually, educating and offering counselling. Therefore on long term the purpose of this project will prevent drug misuse, but will also contribute towards other concerning issues from the borough such as mental health and general wellbeing.

Digitalisation will be an integrated part of the initiative, especially because of the targeted segment of age of the population and to ensure effective communication. The youth centre will have a main website that will display the objectives of the centre, the health services provided, the courses and activities that can be undertaken by the young residents from the east part of Haringey.

Community will be kept informed through formal communications such as the proposed website, but will also make use of social media which is a more direct platform for the community and young generations. The importance of social media has grown lately as part of the technological development and the internet becoming a commodity. Majority of households have now at least one device that can use for accessing internet and usage of smartphones is very common.

Conclusion

The youth centre will be an instrument of the multi agency to improve general health and wellbeing for the community, by addressing a specific age segment of young residents between age 10 and 16

years old. Is a segment that can be more vulnerable to the toxic and negative influences of inappropriate environment. It will have the purposes of informing, educating and counselling young community members.

Digitalisation is an important part of the initiative as it will ensure effective communication with the community and develop strong base for feedback too. The approach is considered to benefit the community on long term, is a specific project that although requires a higher amount of resources it has great potential to address the community needs. It can change the statistics for drug misuse as it will create a positive environment for development, it will address the issues and challenges by providing specialised care and counselling and will create the support that the community needs. It can be an open door to the community towards health and social care services, without formal and restrictive systems that could put pressure on the families and children and their perception over the targeted problems.

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