

# LONDON BOROUGH OF MERTON

## Review of Young People's Substance Misuse Services (September – October 2013)

### THE BRIEF

Substance misuse among young people can ruin lives and have major social and financial costs. Merton Council wanted to review its substance misuse services for young people to ensure they could provide a cost effective service that delivered positive outcomes now and in the future. The Council commissioned CPI to undertake the review, which had a number of elements, including:

- A review of existing service specifications, monitoring reports, reviews, needs assessments and evaluations
- Opportunities for integration with other services such as sexual health and CAMHS to engage the most vulnerable young people, including those with a dual diagnosis.
- Opportunities to strengthen partnerships, both within the Council and with external service providers and other organisations

### WHAT THEY SAID

"We had a very tight deadline and CPI didn't disappoint. They turned around the report very quickly and I had a lot of confidence in the team. We wanted an independent, objective review, which didn't just say what we wanted to hear and CPI delivered this. They have a lot of expertise in the field and are knowledgeable about best practice; their work has proven to be very useful in helping to develop our services and I would certainly recommend them."

**Barry Causer**, Public Health Commissioning Manager,  
London Borough of Merton

### WHAT WE DELIVERED

In just one month we engaged with all relevant internal and external stakeholders to understand the challenges and opportunities for the service going forward. As a result, we:

- Identified the range and breadth of evidence-based treatment interventions that could be offered by the service, along with appropriate delivery partners
- Developed innovative opportunities to increase the range of evidence-based preventative elements of service delivery e.g. IBA, effective screening tools, drug and alcohol education and family interventions
- Identified evidence-based options to support the transition between young people and adult substance misuse services

At the end of this period we produced a fully costed options paper, with recommendations on how the service could be taken forward. This report was delivered on time and set out a number of options for the commissioning of young people's substance misuse services.



CPI exists to help public and third sector organisations improve the lives of their clients.