

LONDON BOROUGH OF SOUTHWARK

Substance Misuse Needs Assessment
(April – December 2013)

THE BRIEF

Substance misuse can blight communities and have big financial and social costs. Southwark Council wanted to ensure that its substance misuse service was meeting the needs of its population – and would continue to do so as drug taking habits change over time. CPI has extensive experience of helping substance misuse services to improve, with a focus on improving outcomes for service users. Southwark commissioned CPI to:

- Identify the size and profile of current and emerging drug using populations
- Describe how current provision aligned with the needs of the emerging populations
- Identify any unmet needs and gaps in provision – and specify how the needs of emerging populations could be met.

WHAT THEY SAID

“CPI came with a very good reputation in this field and they assembled a really good team to work on our project, with the right expertise for the different tasks. I’m someone who likes to be kept up to date and informed and they were very responsive with good communication. The feedback we had about CPI from those involved in the consultation was all positive and the stakeholder event they ran for us was a big success. The final report was produced to a high standard and gave us the evidence we needed to develop our service. I would certainly recommend CPI to anyone who has a need for this kind of work.”

Rebecca Walker, DAAT and Commissioning Manager,
Southwark Treatment and Recovery Partnership

WHAT WE DELIVERED

We produced a needs assessment, which gave a thorough overview of the treatment system in Southwark and was able to make recommendations for the future. It also identified emerging drug users in addition to the opiate and crack cocaine users who have traditionally been the focus of this kind of work. This included other substances such as powder cocaine, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, over the counter (OTC) medicines and prescribed drugs as well as alcohol and emerging drugs.

We conducted a wide-ranging consultation, interviewed professionals and users in and out of treatment and analysed data. We set up a stakeholder event to share the findings and discuss our conclusions and recommendations. This event informed the final report, which set out a number of recommendations regarding the future configuration of drug treatment services in the borough.



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