

Drug Use Screening Tool Training Evaluation

**Kent
Drug & Alcohol Action Team
(DAAT)**

April 2004 to March 2005

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Introduction

This document outlines the evaluation of training sessions for both professional and generic practitioners based within Kent on the Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST), provided by KCA (UK) during the period of April 2004 to March 2005.

Reducing drug use by young people, particularly the most vulnerable, is central to the governments updated drug strategy and the Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team's objective is to improve the ability of Tier 1 and 2 staff (i.e. personnel working with young people and who are not drug specialists) to screen, identify and, where appropriate, refer young people with potential drug problems to meet this strategic objective.

With this in mind Kent Drug and Alcohol Action Team commissioned KCA Training Consultancy and Workplace Services to deliver the Drug Use Screening Tool training to a range of workers across the locality by providing a comprehensive training programme which incorporated the following objectives:

- To increase participants knowledge of the purpose of screening and assessment.
- To increase participants understanding of drugs issues affecting young people, particularly vulnerable young people.
- To increase participants understanding of the purpose and methodology of the D.U.S.T. tool.
- To increase participants ability to use the D.U.S.T. tool.
- To increase participants' knowledge of the pattern of local services and where to refer young people who have substance misuse problems.

The overall aim being:

- To ensure that participants are confident in addressing drug issues with young people,
- To ensure that participants are aware of easily accessible advice and information drug services for young people.
- To ensure that participants are in a position to encourage prevention through education, and to feel confident in using the DUST Tool.

A designated trainer delivered the training from KCA Workplace Services, with input from a number of specialist Young Peoples Drugs Workers from KCA Young Persons Service.

The total numbers of training sessions completed for Kent DAAT was as follows:

- 17 Half-day sessions
- 45 Full-day sessions
- 3 16 Plus sessions
- 6 Connexions

Methodology

The evaluation uses a combination of pre and post measures of knowledge and attitudes towards the screening and referral of young people. Questionnaires were administered at the beginning and end of each training session. Although they were completed in the vicinity of the trainers, they were completed anonymously and did not include identifier information.

A Likert scale was utilised to assess whether the respondents strongly agreed or disagreed with the statements. Open questions were also included regarding the things that were most useful in the training and things that would have improved it. (See appendix 1)

The Training Sessions

Discussion took place with Kent DAAT to identify which particular organisations to prioritise. Based on this information, a strategy was developed to ensure that appropriate organisations were contacted and equality of access for all those agencies working with vulnerable young people was maintained.

Training sessions were offered to a variety of staff working with vulnerable young people across Kent.

Groups who received training included:

- Universal Sports Coaching
 - East Kent Cyrenians
 - Caldecott Community
 - Moving Forward
 - Southern Housing
 - St Paul's Community Trust
 - Southern Housing
 - Whitstable Community College
 - SureStart
 - Canterbury Community Development
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- Drug Advisory Team
 - Thanet Children's and Families
 - Oakwood house, Maidstone
 - Social services: Looked After Team
 - Wilmington Girls Grammar
 - Lynstead Children's Services
 - KCC Foster Carers
 - Thanet Leisure Force
 - Furness School
 - ARC
 - Northwood Centre PRU
 - Brent House Children's Home
 - Senacre Technology College
 - Challenger Project Centre PRU
 - Swan Valley Community School
 - Leigh City Technology School
 - Swale Volunteering Bureau
 - Brook Education Centre
 - Gravesend Boys Grammar School
 - Barn End Centre PRU
 - The Ramsgate School
 - The Phoenix Centre PRU
 - Sheppey Youth Action
 - Kent Safe Schools Youth Action Team
 - Gravesend Grammar School
 - HomeStart
 - Ashford Children and Families Team
 - Canterbury Housing Services
 - West Kent Hospital School
 - Canterbury College Project
 - Christ Church Youth Centre
 - English Churches Housing Group
 - Dover Housing Services and Housing Needs
 - Coast And Countryside Housing Group
 - Dover Children's and Families
 - Castle Homes
 - Key Training Services
 - Ripplevale School
 - GAPP Project
 - The Island Partnership
 - 16 Plus
 - Connexions
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Amalgamating Groups

For those organisations who required training for small numbers of employees, centrally located venues were booked and advertised to ensure equality of access across the county. These were well attended and it was acknowledged that mixing groups promoted opportunities to network and build on multi agency relationships.

On the basis of the success of this approach it is the intention to organise an increased number of this type of training session in 2005/2006

Results

Pre and post-training evaluation

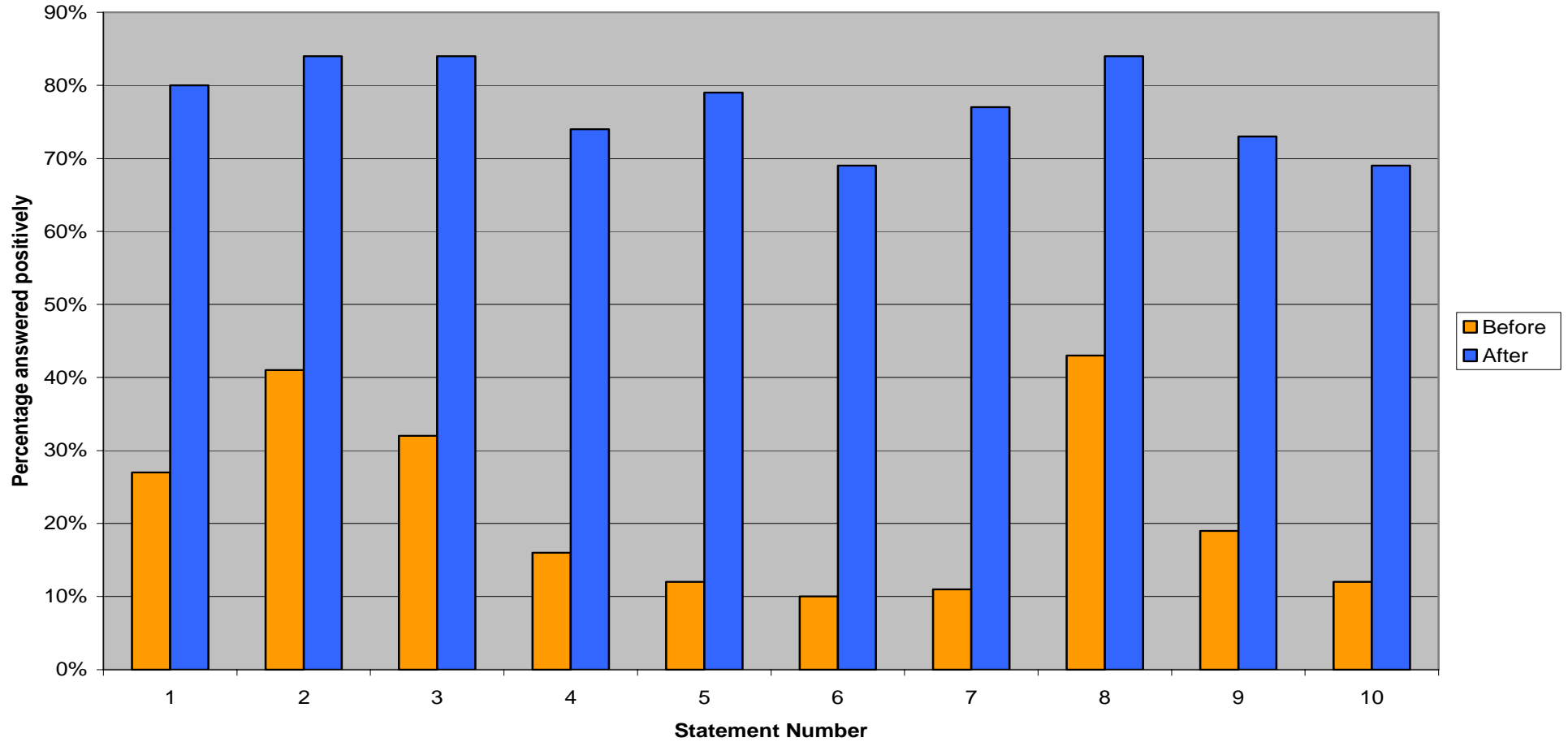
The main outcome evaluation measure used a 'before and after' design to compare knowledge and attitudes before and after the training. Responses were obtained from a number of items, scaled from 'strongly disagree' to 'strongly agree'.

The items were directly related to the training objectives in order to detect outcomes regarding:

- Self-assessed drug awareness,
- Knowledge of risk and protective factors,
- Ability to complete the DUST tool and refer people appropriately to local young person's drug services.

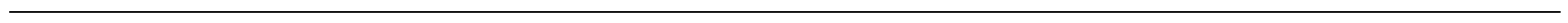
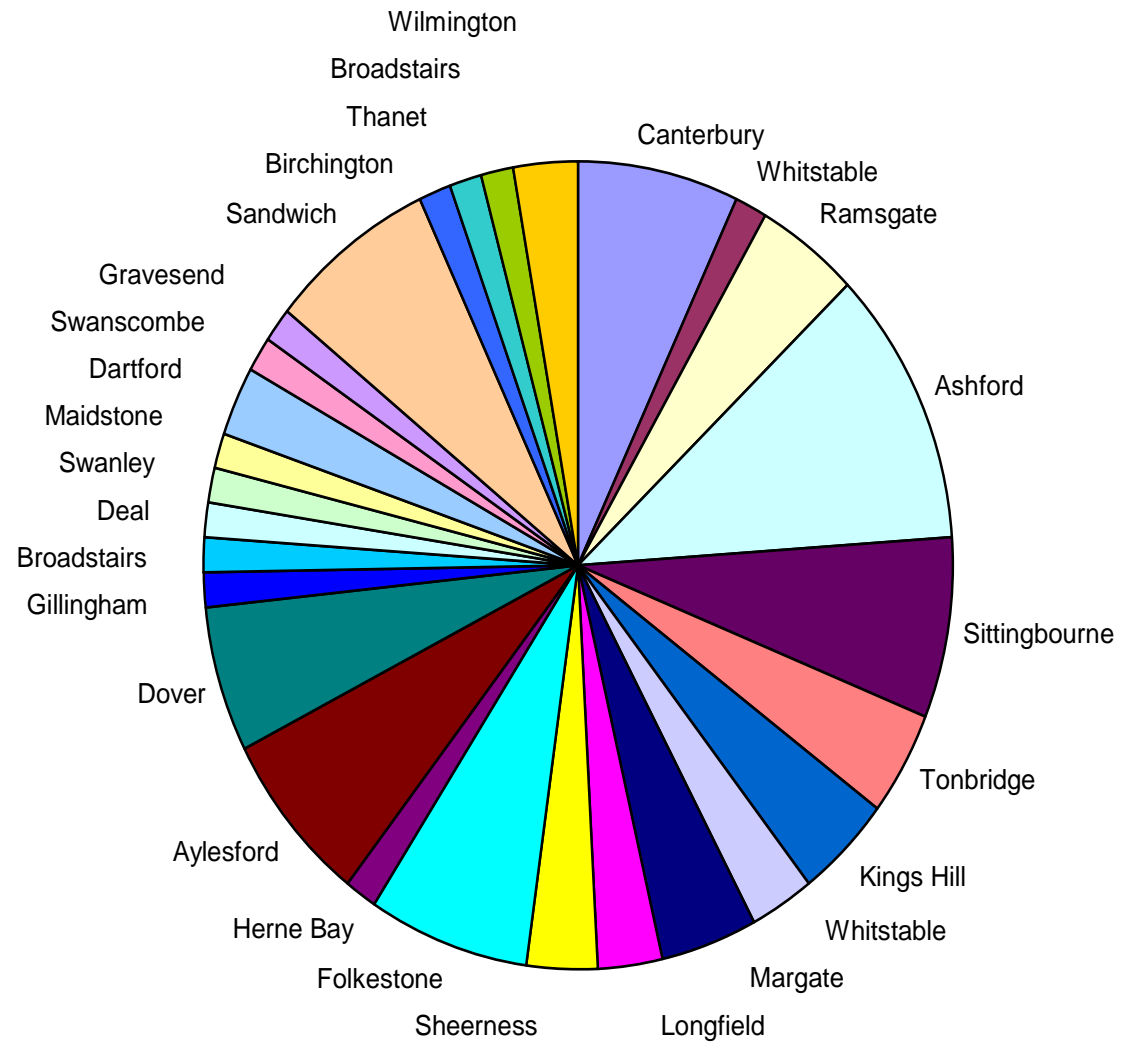
Each item was rated between 1 and 5 at the commencement of the training and at its conclusion, generating two scores. The pre and post responses were subsequently analysed to detect differences.

Overall Average Results for Kent DUST 04/05



The above table clearly represents a significant improvement following the training events. The average positive response to the pre training statements were 22.5% overall. The post training evaluation shows an overall positive response rate of 77.5%.

Geographical Area's Trained



Further investigation demonstrated a significant positive change in knowledge base.

Statement 1 (See appendix 2)

Evaluation of responses demonstrates a 53% increase in attendees understanding of the way different drugs work.

Statement 2 (See appendix 2)

Evaluation of responses demonstrates a 43% increase in attendees understanding of the reasons of why young people use drugs.

Statement 3 (See appendix 2)

Evaluation of responses demonstrates a 52% increase in attendees understanding of the factors that increase the risk of drug problems for a young person.

Statement 4 (See appendix 2)

Evaluation of responses demonstrates a 58% increase in attendees understanding of the factors that protect young people from developing drug problems

Statement 6 (See appendix 2)

Evaluation of responses demonstrates a 59% increase in attendees understanding of the issues of screening for young peoples drug use.

Statement 7 (See appendix 2)

Evaluation of responses demonstrates a 60% increase in people's confidence in completing the DUST form effectively following the training event.

Statement 8 (See appendix 2)

Evaluation of responses demonstrates a 41% increase in peoples understanding of the issues concerning "consent" and "confidentiality" when considering referring a young person to a specialist drug service.

Statement 9 (See appendix 2)

Evaluation of responses demonstrates a 54% increase in people's ability to make good quality decisions about when to refer young people to specialist drugs services.

Statement 10 (See appendix 2)

Evaluation of responses demonstrates a 57% increase in knowledge of specialist drugs services available for young people locally.

More importantly Statement 5 (See appendix 2)

Shows a marked increase of 71% in how to use the DUST tool within attendees own work environment

Conclusion

The training was widely advertised across the County by the dissemination of flyers, electronic mail and personal contact, and training was organised

However, some organisations who were interested, but for whom in-house training was not a financially viable option due to the fact that they employed small numbers of people, centrally located amalgamated training sessions were delivered with an excellent response rate.

Therefore training occurred within organisations who had adequate numbers of employees (minimum 10), as well as those centrally located which attracted workers from a range of diverse work backgrounds. This approach worked well for all organisations across the county.

Responses from participants indicated that the training was 'very relevant within their field of work' and the mixed groups indicated how much they valued the opportunity to "learn more about the diverse range of services to support young people across Kent".

Analysis of responses indicates an increase in participants understanding in all areas of training delivery with a notable 60% increase in peoples confidence in completing DUST, as well as a 71% increase in understanding how screening young people for drug / alcohol use sits within their work environment.

Trainers reported an enthusiastic response from all sessions and enjoyed the interactive nature of the training, which encouraged participants sharing of experience on a personal and professional level.

Suggestions from participants indicate that the DUST training has provided a basis for learning and 'follow-up courses which would provide more in-depth knowledge would be appreciated'.

APPENDIX 1

The main thing that would have improved the training was:

- Need follow up course for more in-depth knowledge, but the course today was extremely enjoyable and informative.
- More time.
- It was very well done and very informative.
- Learning about adults as well as under 19's.
- On going training.
- More of it.
- Nothing – very informative.
- See examples of the drugs.
- The legal side of finding drugs in your home.
- More play stories.
- More case histories.

The thing that I found most useful within the training was:

- The symptoms to look for.
 - Learning the different affects drugs have and how they are taken.
 - Some of the practices were very useful to put things into perspective.
 - Details that where given out and how to approach when received.
 - The DUST form and the practical exercise we did and how we would talk to them and learning about the signs and symptoms.
 - To make me aware of the different types of drugs and their affects.
 - Knowing names of drugs including slang terms.
 - The slides used to show about the symptoms of drugs.
 - The types and risk and signs off drug use.
 - An understanding of DUST process.
 - Information on drugs.
 - Being able to recognise possible signs of abuse.
 - Cause and effect.
 - Made me much more aware of the way young people use drugs. I though it was one of the most informative courses I have been on.
 - I found the training realistic and very helpful.
 - Some of the best training.
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APPENDIX 2

1. I have a good understanding of the way that different drugs work
 2. I have a good understanding of the reasons why young people use drugs
 3. I have a good understanding of the factors that increase the risk of drug problems for a young person
 4. I have a good understanding of the factors that protect young people from developing drug problems
 5. I have a good understanding of when and how I might use the Drug Use Screening Tool (DUST) within my own work
 6. I understand the issues of 'screening' with regard to young peoples drug use
 7. I would feel confident about completing the DUST form properly
 8. I understand the issues concerning 'consent' and 'confidentiality' when I am considering referring a young person to a specialist drugs service
 9. I am able to make good quality decisions about when to refer a young person for specialist drugs advice or treatment
 10. I have a good knowledge of the range of specialist drugs services for young people locally
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