



## **Substance Misuse Service**

**Annual Report 2018-19**

## 1. Introduction

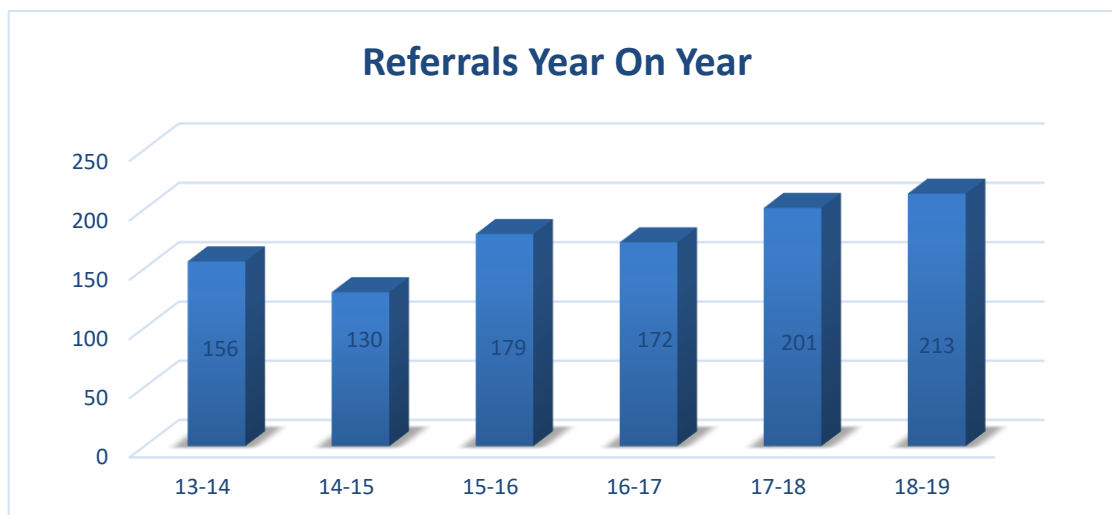
This report is a summary report of the activity of the Carmarthenshire County Council Substance Misuse Team. The team are part of the Mental Health & Learning Disabilities division within Communities and also receive grant funding from the Area Planning Board.

The substance misuse team are a team of social workers, trained and experienced in working with people affected by their own or someone else's drug and alcohol use. The team undertake assessments and care and support planning under the Social Services and Wellbeing (Wales) Act 2014. This can include the provision of support in the community and access to specialist residential and accommodation based services, including residential rehabilitation. An additional aim for the team is to provide advice, information and training in relation to drug and alcohol misuse to other teams within social services.

We deliver a '**Hidden Harm Service**' which works with parents with drug and alcohol problems. The service prioritises cases where substance misuse is the primary factor in children becoming 'looked after' or placed at risk by their parent substance misuse. We work in partnership with our young carer's service to provide direct support to children.

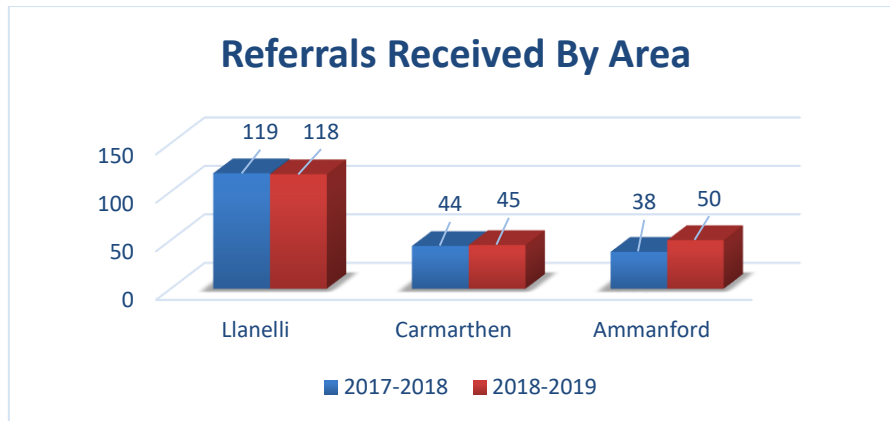
This year the team implemented a new structure which includes a Team Manager, A Consultant Social Worker and 4 Social Workers. This provides the capacity to meet the key aims of the team. The team are based in Ty Elwyn in Llanelli, co-located with Hywel Dda Health Board's specialist substance misuse team. This has allowed them to develop strong partnerships with a range of teams.

## 2. Total Number of Referrals Received each year.



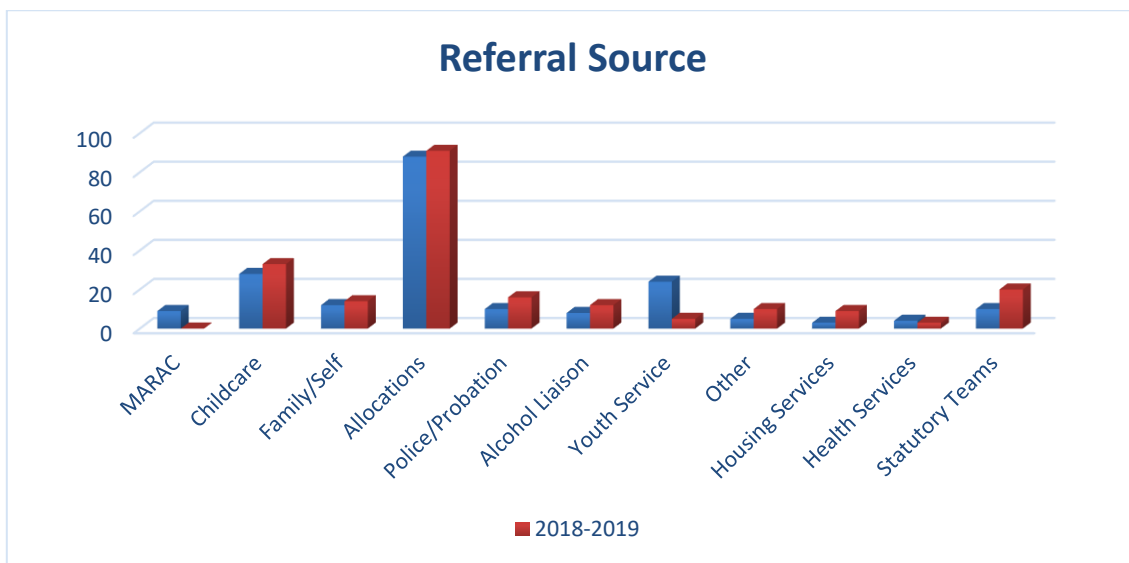
The team received 213 referrals during 2018-2019. There has been a consistent demand for the service, with a slight increase in demand for assessment since the introduction of the Social Service and Wellbeing Wales Act in 2016.

### 3. Referrals by Area



The above graph illustrates a consistent pattern of referral to the team from 3 main localities in Carmarthenshire. This reflects the same pattern of demand experienced by other services. This is a consistent pattern with the Llanelli area accounting for the greatest demand.

### 4. Referrals by source

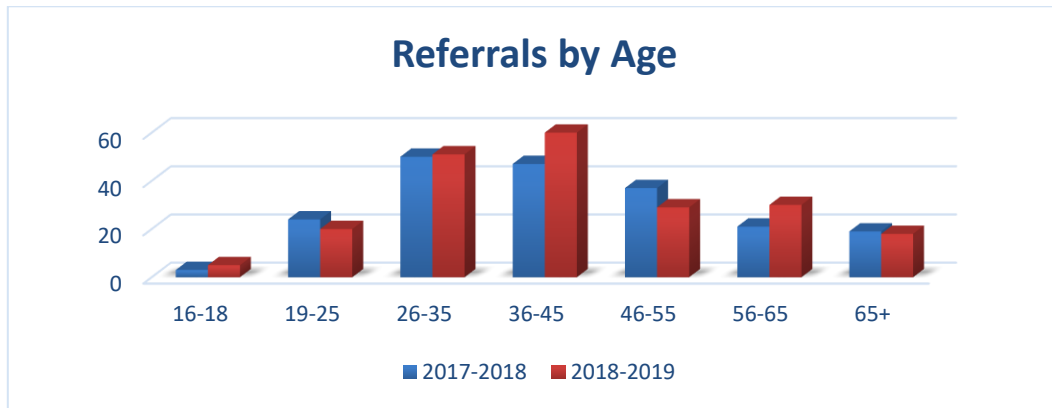


The above graph illustrates a consistent pattern of referrals to the team. This is not changed in the past 2 years.

The majority of referrals to the team (91) come via our partners: Dyfed Drug & Alcohol Service (DDAS) and the Community Drug & Alcohol Team (CDAT). We meet every week to discuss cases to ensure they receive the right help at the right time. This is a long established arrangement where we take a collaborative approach to the management of risk and avoid duplication.

We have received 53 referrals from other Social Work Teams (Child Care 33 & Adult Teams 20). This illustrates our role in providing support within the Communities and Children’s services departments where there are risks associated with drug and alcohol use.

## 5. Referrals by Age

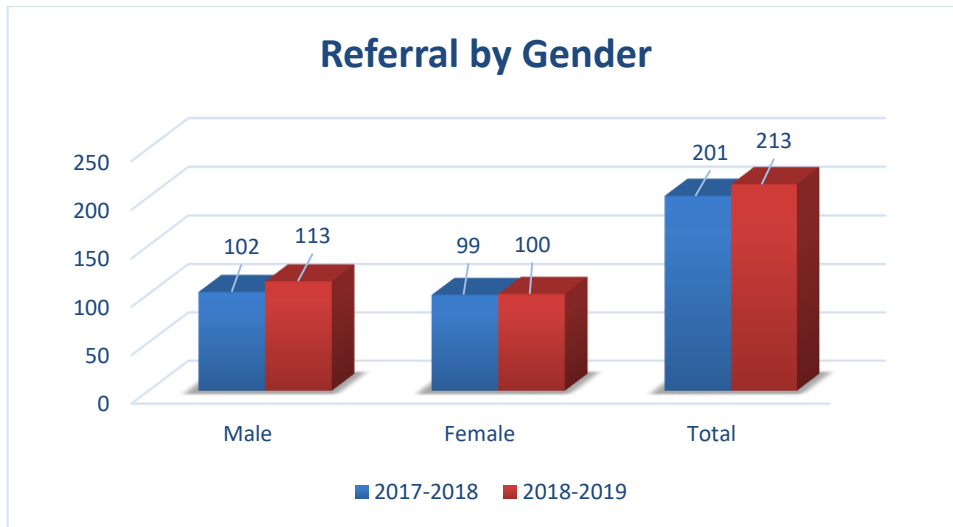


**The above graph illustrates a consistent pattern of referral by age over the past 2 years. There has been a slight increase in referrals to the team for people aged 56 and over.**

We work with a small number of young people approaching adulthood and aim to ensure a smooth transition into adult services. The average age for referrals into our team is 42.

It is notable that the team received 48 referrals for people aged 56 and over, this accounts for 22% of our referrals.

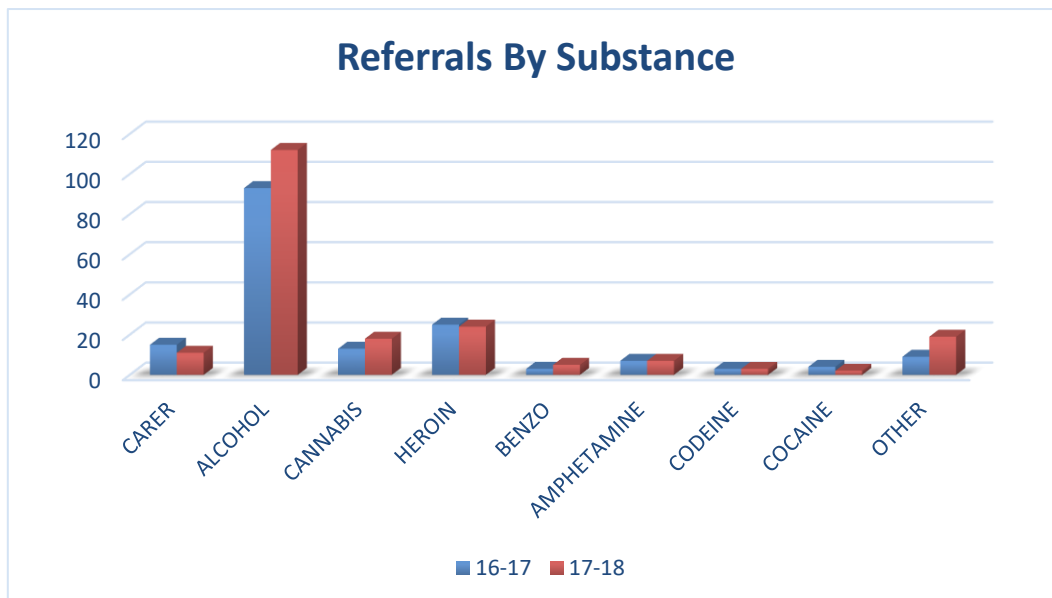
## 6. Gender



The above graph illustrates a consistent trend for referrals for men and women over the past 2 years, with men and women accounting for approximately 50% each.

This is different to referral rates to other services where men account for 63% of Alcohol assessments 71% of drug assessments. This reflects the role of the team in working with Children's services where the mother may be the main carer.

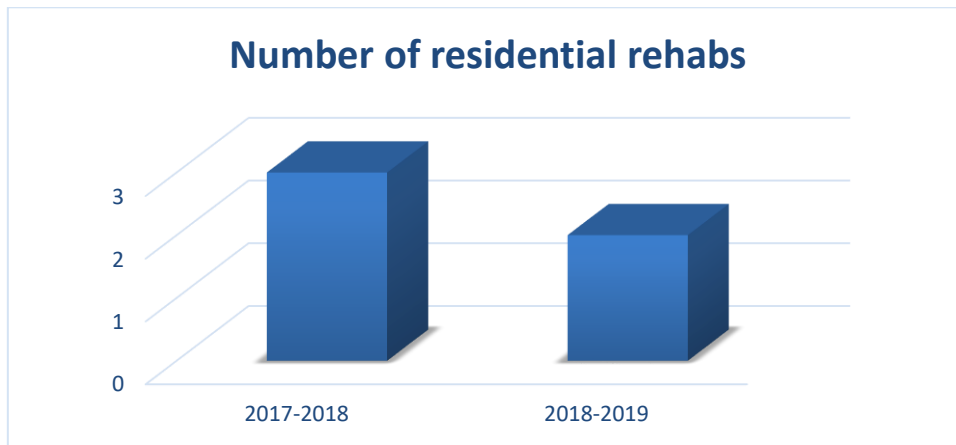
## 7. Substance Used



The above graph illustrates a consistent pattern of referral by substance to the team over the past 2 years. Alcohol is the main substance identified accounting for almost 60% of all referrals.

The figures for carers do not record the substance used. There saw a slight decrease from 15 to 11 referrals for carer's assessment last year which may reflect the greater investment by the Area Planning Board in service for 'concerned others'

## 8. Residential Rehabilitation



The above illustrates a small decline from 3 people in 17-18 to 2 in 18-19 who were funded by Carmarthenshire County Council to attend Residential Rehabilitation.

The total cost of both residential rehabs were £27,200. There has been a steady reduction in the use of residential rehabilitation in recent years with a greater focus upon supporting people in their communities and a greater investment in community services.

## 9. Working with the Older Adult

**Drink Wise, Age Well** is a National project and aims to help people make healthier choices about their alcohol use as they age. One way they do this is by supporting those working in our communities and health and social care providers to better recognise and respond to people whose drinking may be causing them harm.

The team have 'adapted' this training and piloted it this year, training 40 people targeting staff in our community resource teams. This has helped in developing working links across teams and raising awareness of the impact of alcohol use in older people and staff.

## **10.What will we do this Year?**

This year we will build on our working links with partnership agencies in the following areas;

- Improve our care management practice to become 'paperless' and ensure our performance continues to meet key performance measures at a time of increased demand.
- Improve the capability of Children & Adult Services staff to recognise and respond to substance misuse through training and direct work.
- Work with partner organisations, in particular Hywel Dda Health Board and Housing services to develop supported accommodation for Older Adults with substance misuse issues.
- Monitor emerging trends and quickly respond to risks to safeguard vulnerable adults, children and families.
- Continue to use research and evidence based practice to inform our working practice.
- Further develop the specification of our supported accommodation project at Derwen Newydd in order to provide a safe and protected environment.

**Gary James Team Manager 2019**

