

# **Isle of Wight JSNA Briefing Note: Alcohol Misuse – Young People**

## Alcohol Misuse among Young People

### Background

According to the latest national report on alcohol consumption among young people: *“Alcohol consumption, particularly among young people, is a particular concern for government. Children in England are more likely to drink alcohol than children in many other European countries. Drinking during childhood, particularly heavy drinking, is associated with a range of immediate and future harms including physical and mental health problems, alcohol-related accidents, violence, and anti-social behaviour.”*<sup>1</sup>

### Contents and Key Points

Key points from the data and charts shown below include the following:

#### **Alcohol Consumption: according to a survey of IW young people aged 10-16:**

- 44% had ‘ever had an alcoholic drink’.
- 17% had been drunk in the last 4 weeks.

#### **Alcohol-Specific Hospital Admissions (age under-18)** (all of these admissions are caused by alcohol consumption)

- The IW has had, over time, a very high comparative rate of alcohol-specific admissions among young people - one of the highest rates among Local Authority districts in England.
- This has partly been because St Mary’s Hospital has been, compared with mainland hospitals, more likely to admit young people, rather than to treat them in A&E without admitting them. Work has been done to address this issue, while continuing to ensure that young people are offered appropriate treatment.
- Local data shows that the number of hospital admissions fell from 51 in 2007-08 to 32 in 2010-11.
- Admissions data does not include young people who attend A&E as a result of alcohol misuse, but who are not then admitted.

<sup>1</sup> Information Centre for Health & Social Care (2011) *Smoking, drinking and drug use among young people in England (2010)*

## Alcohol Misuse among Young People

### Alcohol Consumption

#### Isle of Wight compared with England as measured by 'TellUs' Survey

Information on young people's alcohol consumption on the Island has been available from the national Ofsted 'TellUs' surveys of young people, although these have now been discontinued. These surveys were conducted among young people aged 10-16 in a sample of schools in each Local Authority in England. The most recent survey, 'Tell Us 4', was conducted in 2008-09.

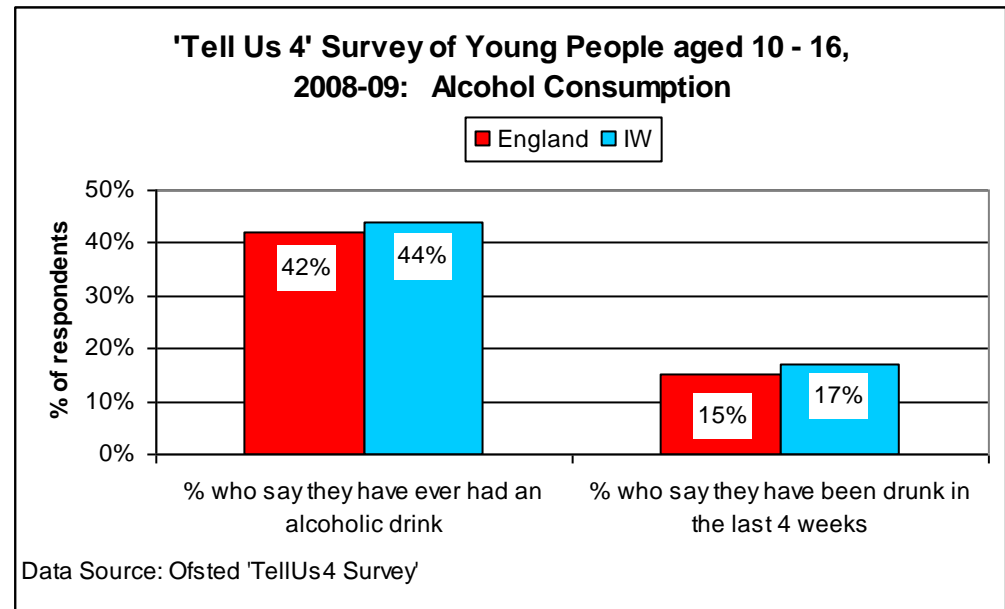
Local Authority findings are 'contextually weighted' so that the background characteristics of respondents (gender, age, ethnicity) more closely match those of children and young people nationally.

Data Source: Ofsted 'TellUs 4' Survey

#### Isle of Wight compared with England

The survey asked questions about alcohol consumption. The chart alongside shows findings for questions about whether respondents:

- Had ever had an alcoholic drink (a whole drink and not just a sip): **44% of IW respondents answered 'yes'** compared with 42% in England (no statistical difference between the 2 areas).
- Had been drunk in the last 4 weeks: **17% of IW respondents answered 'yes'** compared with 15% in England (no statistical difference between the 2 areas).



## Alcohol Misuse among Young People

### Alcohol-Specific Hospital Admissions among Young People (aged under 18): Number of Admissions

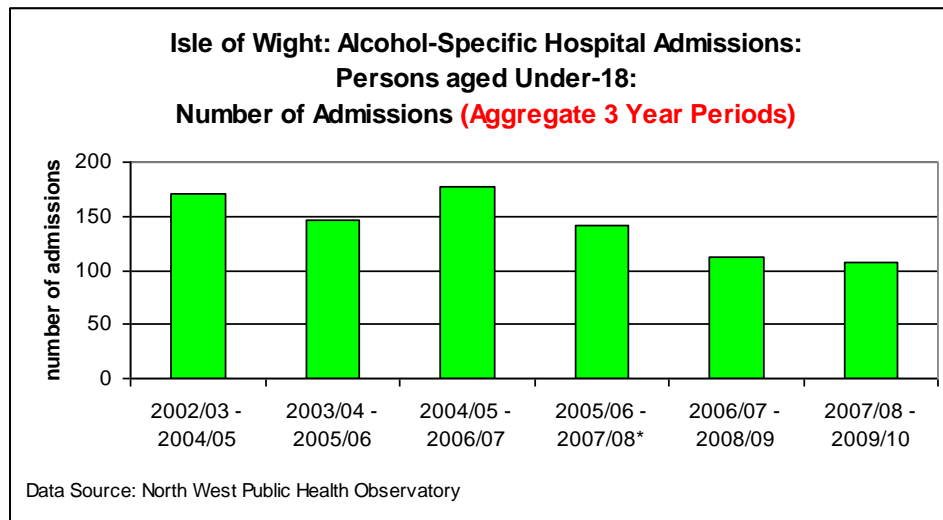
Analysis of numbers and comparative rates of hospital admissions for alcohol-specific causes among the under-18 age group, extracted from data published by the North West Public Health Observatory (NWPHO), are shown below. The data presented is the most recent available. NB: in any given period NWPHO only counts the first admission of each person admitted in the period, however many times they were admitted, so this analysis does not exactly match separate local analysis of such data (see below), which counts all admissions.

Data source: North West Public Health Observatory – Local Alcohol Profiles

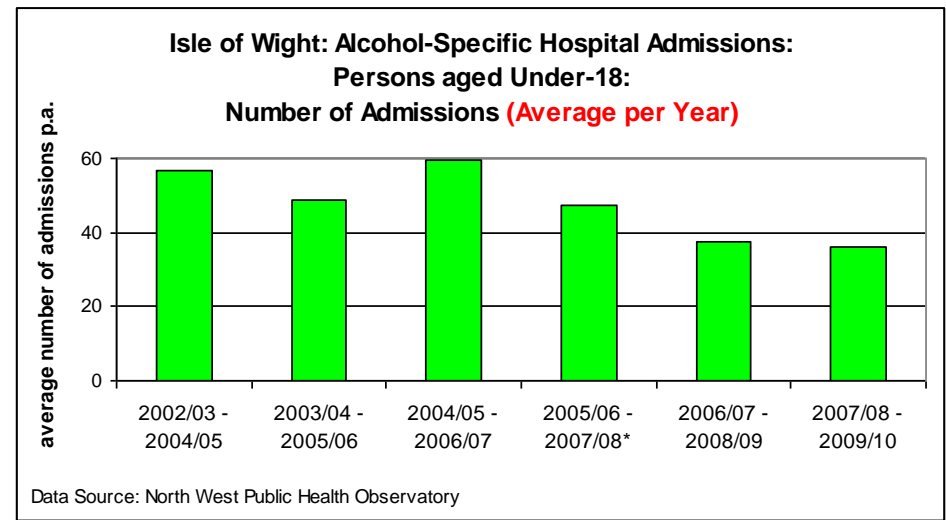
The charts below show (left) admissions for 3 year aggregated periods, in order to increase the robustness of the data. The data is also shown as (right) the average number of admissions per year over the periods shown.

The average number of admissions each year has fallen from 57 to 36 over this period. The majority of admissions were among females.

#### Number of Admissions – Aggregate 3 Year Periods



#### Number of Admissions – Average per Year



\* 2007-08 data shown here undercounts actual admissions due to a national under-extraction of IW data in Q4.

## Alcohol Misuse among Young People

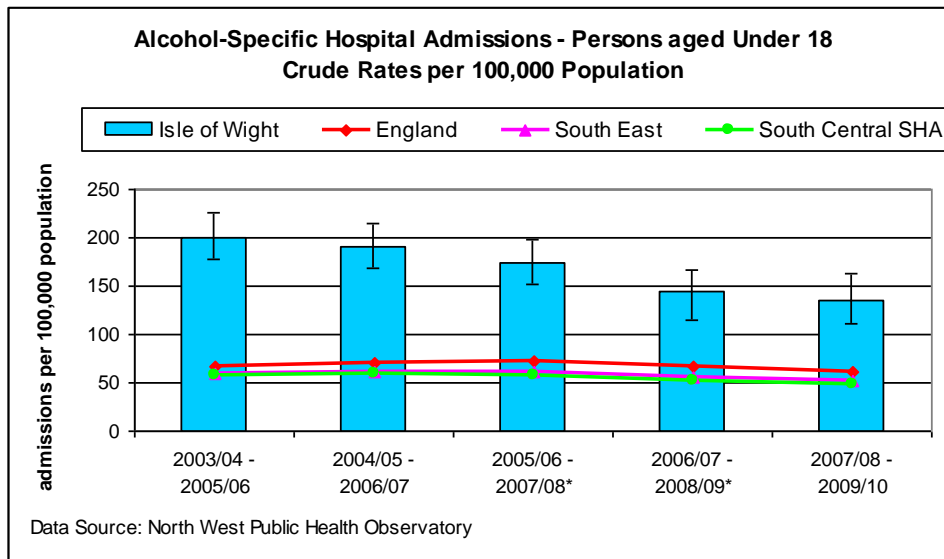
### Alcohol-Specific Hospital Admissions among Young People (aged under 18): Comparative Admission Rates

The charts below show comparative data over time and for the most recent available period, comparing the Isle of Wight with England, the South-East and South Central Strategic Health Authority. Over the whole period shown the IW's admission rate has been very significantly higher than these rates and among the highest in England.

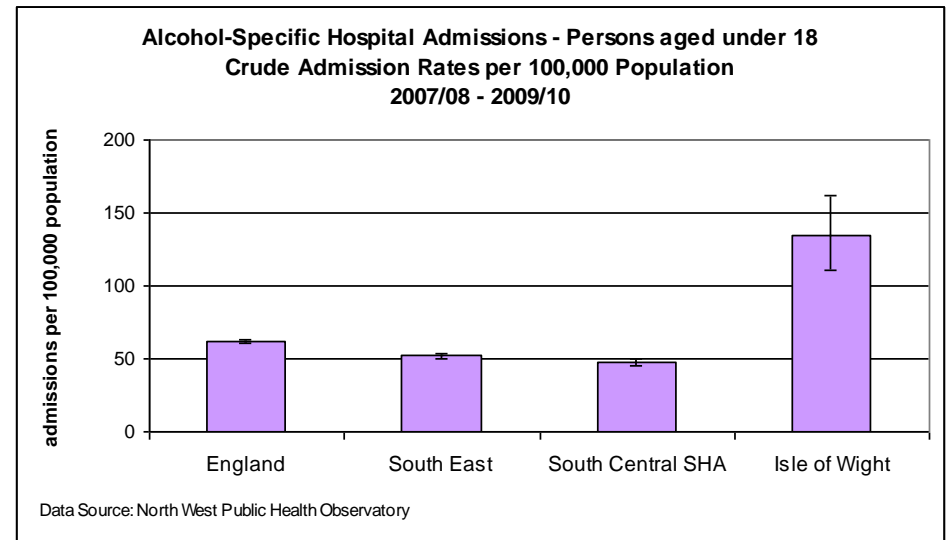
The Island's high comparative rates are believed partly to reflect a greater tendency by St Mary's Hospital compared with mainland units to admit children in general, rather than to treat them in A&E without admitting them. This issue has been addressed locally and the chart below (left) shows that admission rates have fallen since 2007-08. Local data (see page 6 below) shows a further reduction in 2010-11 which is not reflected below.

Data source: North West Public Health Observatory – Local Alcohol Profiles

#### Comparative Rates over Time



#### Comparative Rates: 2007/08 – 2009/10 Aggregated



\* 2007-08 data shown here undercounts actual admissions due to a national under-extraction of IW data in Q4.

## Alcohol Misuse among Young People

### Alcohol-Specific Hospital Admissions among Young People (aged under 18): Local Data

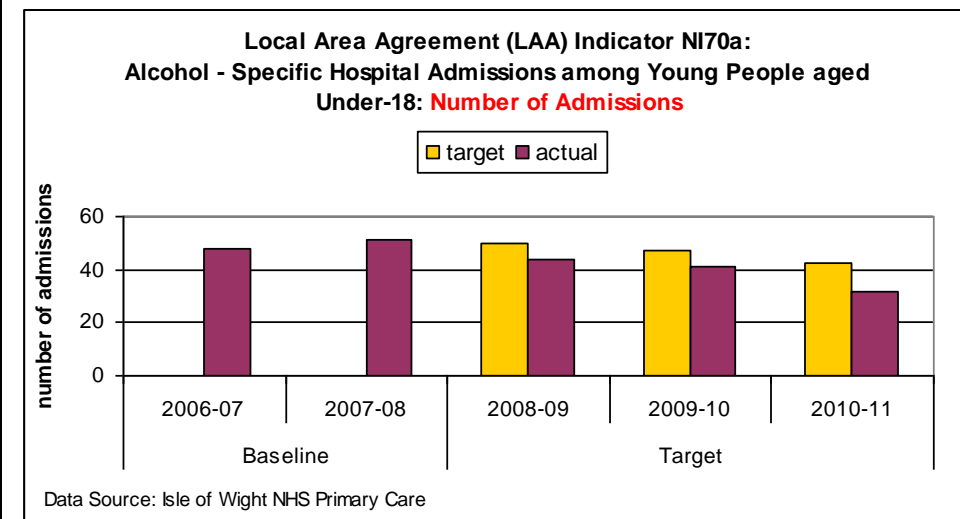
As a result of the IW's high comparative admission rate as shown above, the Island's Local Area Agreement set a local target to reduce this admission rate over the three-year LAA period (years 2008-09 – 2010-11). Performance against this target is shown below – target reductions have been achieved. The number of admissions fell from 51 in 2007-08 to 32 in 2010-11.

NB: this data is not directly comparable with the NWPCHO data shown above, since this data counts each person each time they are admitted. However the 2 datasets show the same broad trends.

Hospital admissions data does not include young people who attend the Accident and Emergency Department as a result of alcohol misuse, but who are not then admitted to hospital. It therefore does not represent a complete picture of young people's alcohol-related health harms which result in a need for hospital services.

Data source: Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust

#### Number of Admissions



#### Admission Rates (per 100,000 Population aged under-18)

