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**To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023**

**From: Allison Duggal, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing**

**Title: Drugs and Alcohol update**

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## **1 Purpose**

To inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of progress being made on the local response to the National Drugs Strategy “From Harm to Hope” including the:

- West Midlands drugs and alcohol governance structure and the
- Coventry partnership steering group
- Coventry needs assessment and strategic framework outline

## **2 Recommendations**

Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note the requirements set out in the National Drugs Strategy
- Note the regional and local governance structures
- Note local progress
- Support attendance at the Coventry Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Steering Group from all identified partners.

## **3 Background Information**

### **3.1 National substance misuse strategy**

The government’s new 10-year drug strategy ‘From Harm to Hope’ sets out an ambition to address substance misuse by:

- breaking drug supply chains
- delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system
- and achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs.

The strategy is based on the findings of the independent review of drug misuse carried out by Dame Carol Black. While the strategy has been developed in response to drug misuse it is intended that it covers broader substance misuse including alcohol.

### **3.2 Successful delivery of the national strategy relies on co-ordinated action across a range of local partners including in enforcement, treatment, recovery and prevention.**

### **3.3 A National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework has been developed. This provides a single mechanism for monitoring progress across central government and in local areas**

towards delivery of the commitments and ambitions of the drugs strategy. There are six overarching outcomes, which also apply to alcohol misuse:

- Reduce drug and alcohol-related crime
- Reduce drug and alcohol use
- Reduce drug and alcohol-related deaths and harm
- Reduce supply
- Increase engagement in treatment services
- Improve long term recovery

## **4 Progress to date**

### 4.1 Governance structures

#### 4.1.1 West Midlands Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (WMCDAP)

HM Government guidance for local delivery partners ([Drugs strategy guidance for local delivery partners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/drugs-strategy-guidance-for-local-delivery-partners)) set out the requirements for local partnerships. Local areas were asked to:

- form a clearly defined partnership structure based on a geographical extent that is logical to local residents and consistent with existing relevant arrangements
- select a Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) who can represent the partnership nationally, reporting to central government regarding its performance, and who can offer challenge and support to local partners to drive improvement and unblock issues when necessary
- involve all those people and organisations affected by drugs in developing joint solutions to these issues

For the West Midlands Metropolitan area it was agreed that the SRO would be the Police and Crime Commissioner as this would support strong engagement of the police and criminal justice partners in delivery of the strategy, as well as joined up working across the area. The role of the SRO is as the key local “system integrator” responsible for ensuring the right local partners come together, building strong collective engagement, and designing a shared local plan to deliver against the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework.

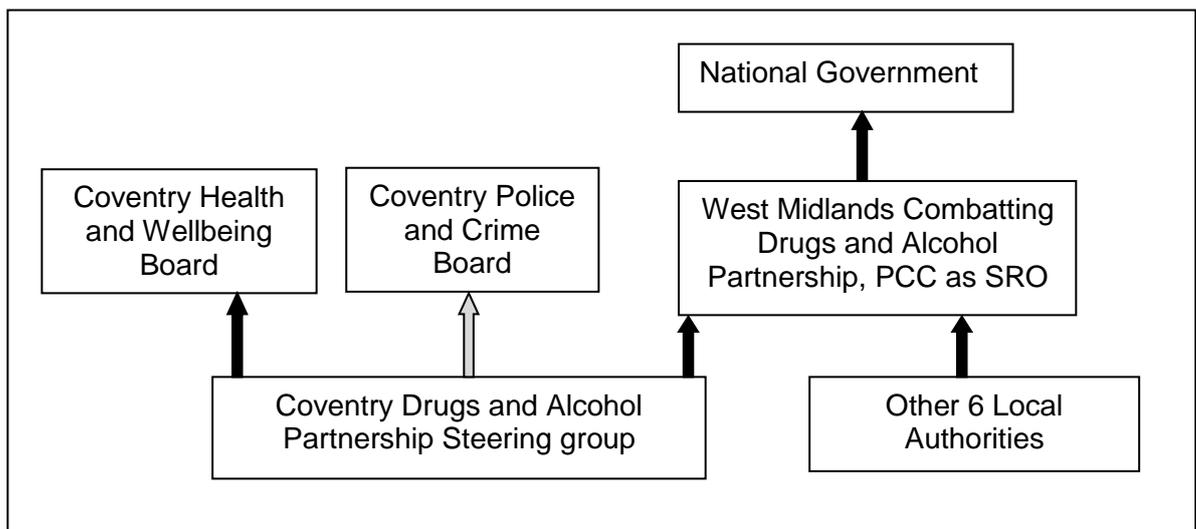
WMCDAP has representation from all 7 local authorities, for Coventry this is Allison Duggal (Director of Public Health) and Rachel Chapman (Consultant in Public Health). A high level needs assessment for the West Midlands has been completed and a strategy is being developed.

#### 4.1.2 Coventry Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Steering Group

As part of the West Midlands arrangements each local authority will also have a multi-agency locality sub-group which will develop a local drug and alcohol strategy, a delivery/commissioning plan, and a local outcomes framework, to ensure the needs of the local population are met. In Coventry we have set up the Coventry Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Steering Group with membership from:

- Coventry City Council (Public Health, Adult Social Care, Children’s Services, Community Safety, Education, Safeguarding, Housing)
- Police (local NPU and PCC)
- DWP
- Criminal Justice system
- Providers
- CWPT NHS Trust
- Coventry and Warwickshire ICB
- Universities (Coventry and Warwick)
- UHCW NHS Trust

The Partnership Steering Group is chaired by Allison Duggal (Director of Public Health) and will report into and be accountable to the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board. The group will also report to the Police and Crime Board. Substance misuse impacts on many other priority areas of work in Coventry including domestic abuse, sexual violence, serious violence, homelessness, mental health etc. Links with relevant groups and boards will continue to be built and strengthened. A summary of the governance structure is shown in the box below:



#### 4.2 Coventry Needs Assessment

A drugs and alcohol needs assessment has been carried out for Coventry. The local needs assessment has had a particular focus on prevention, harm reduction, treatment and recovery as these are the areas that we have the most influence over and commission services for. The draft summary of the needs assessment is attached as appendix 1. A series of recommendations have been made based on the findings of the needs assessment.

#### 4.3 Coventry Substance Misuse Strategy

A substance misuse strategy is being developed for Coventry, using the findings of the needs assessment and the six overarching outcomes from the national outcomes framework (section 3.3). The strategy will take a life course approach and will cover all ages. Task and Finish groups for each of the outcomes are taking place during January, partners have been invited to these groups to contribute to developing strategic objectives

for each outcome. The draft strategy will be discussed at the Coventry Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Steering Group in March 2023

#### 4.4 Public and service user engagement

A full stakeholder engagement took place as part of the local needs assessment. Both group discussions and 'one to one' interviews with staff across the key service areas were conducted.

In addition to this, several service user focus groups and interviews also took place. This included engaging with those currently in drug and alcohol treatment and those that are not currently accessing support.

The findings from this work has been included in the needs assessment. A number of areas were identified that will require further consideration and exploration as part of the development of the strategy delivery plan.

A community survey was also conducted to try to engage the views of the wider community around the subject of drugs and alcohol but received a low response rate. There has been learning around this and one of the recommendations of the local needs assessment is to develop an ongoing programme of meaningful community engagement.

#### 4.5 Commissioning drugs and alcohol services

Responsibility for commissioning health-based services which support the reduction of harm caused by drug and alcohol is spread across a number of agencies including the City Council, ICS, NHSE/I and the Police and Crime Commissioner. The City Council funds local services for adults and children affected by substance misuse and, under the national strategy, will receive additional funds to 'rebuild' the treatment system, increase the number of people accessing treatment and improve continuity of care for offenders released from prison. It is anticipated that this additional grant in 2023/24 will be £0.7m, rising to £1.2m in 2024/25. The spend in 2023/24 will continue to fund additional services commissioned in 2022/23 including:

- Additional capacity and specific support for offenders affected by drug misuse
- Specialist workers embedded into the Caludon Centre
- Specialist staff to develop and embed the prescribing of Opiate Substitute Therapy within UHCW
- Additional capacity to support people misusing drugs or alcohol and experiencing domestic abuse
- Widening of treatment options to include occupational therapy
- Additional capacity for young people's specialist services

Additional spend in 2024/25 will be informed by the needs assessment.

## 5 Recommendations

Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- Note the requirements set out in the National Drugs Strategy, including the national outcomes framework
- Note the formation of WMCDAP with the regional governance structure with PCC as SRO.
- Note the formation of the local Coventry Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Steering Group with reporting to Health and Wellbeing Board

- Note local progress on the needs assessment and development of the strategy
- Support attendance at the Coventry Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Steering Group from all identified partners.

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