
To: Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee

Date: 14 March 2023

Title: Drugs and Alcohol Strategy Update

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee of progress being made on the local response to the National Drugs Strategy “From Harm to Hope” including the:
- Coventry needs assessment (Appendix 1)
 - Governance structures
 - Current service commissioning arrangements
 - Plans for development of a multi-agency Drugs and Alcohol Strategy for Coventry

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee is recommended to:
- 1) Note the requirements set out in the National Drugs Strategy
 - 2) Note the findings of the local needs assessment
 - 3) Note the regional and local governance structures
 - 4) Provide initial feedback for development of the local Drugs and Alcohol Strategy

3 Background Information

- 3.1 National substance misuse strategy
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 Successful delivery of the national strategy relies on co-ordinated action across a range of local partners including in enforcement, treatment, recovery and prevention.
- 3.5 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

5 Needs Assessment

- 5.1 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. 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. These will be considered as part of the local strategy development.
- 5.2 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.
- 5.3 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.

6 Governance structures

6.1 West Midlands Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (WMCDAP)

6.1.1 HM Government guidance for local delivery partners ([Drugs strategy guidance for local delivery partners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) 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

6.1.2 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.

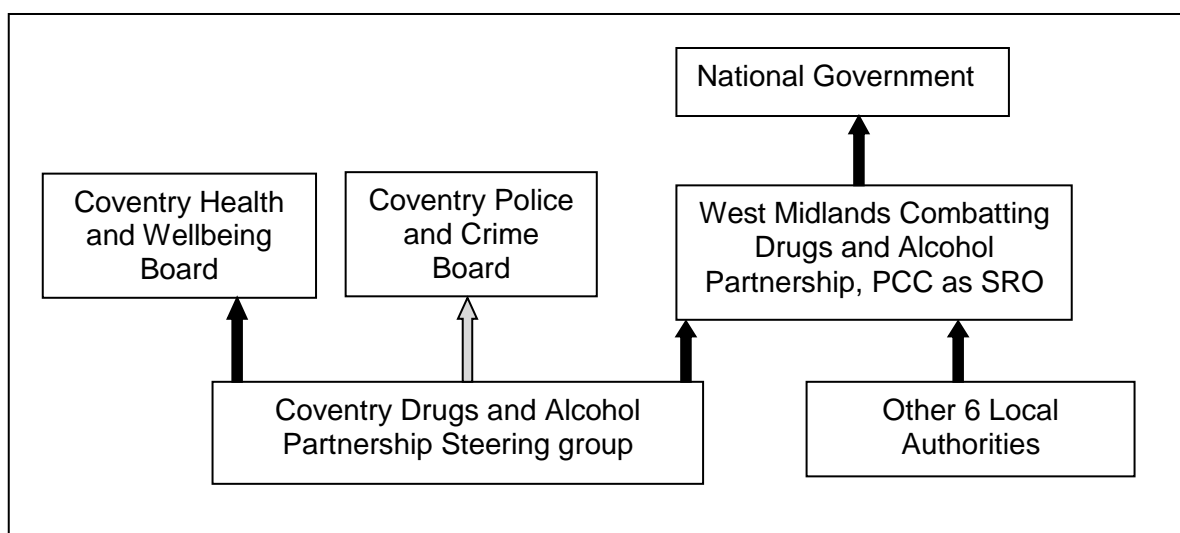
WMCDAP has representation from all 7 local authorities, for Coventry this is Allison Duggal (Director of Public Health) and Rachel Chapman (Consultant in Public Health). A high level needs assessment for the West Midlands has been completed and a strategy is being developed.

6.2 Coventry Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Steering Group

6.2.1 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
- Drug and Alcohol Service Providers
- CWPT NHS Trust
- Coventry and Warwickshire ICB
- Universities (Coventry and Warwick)
- UHCW NHS Trust

6.2.2 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:



6.2.3 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, Integrated Care Board, 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. The additional services commissioned in 2022/23 will be continued in 2023/24 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

6.2.4 Additional spend in 2024/25 will be informed by the needs assessment. Evaluation of the impact of the additional spend, and well as the wider services, is currently in progress. SCRUCO previously received a report and presentation on the Rough Sleeper Drugs and Alcohol Treatment Grant. This is a time-limited separate funding stream and work has started on how to integrate this work into wider treatment services.

6.3 Coventry Substance Misuse Strategy

6.3.1 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 with internal and external partners to start to inform the local priorities. Discussions and comments from SCRUCO members will be fed into developing the proposed priorities for the strategy, which will be brought back to a future SCRUCO meeting for further consideration and input.

6.4 One Coventry Plan

6.4.1 Our work to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol on our local communities and to improve the outcomes for those affected will contribute to the One Coventry Plan, specifically improving outcomes and tackling inequalities, but the work will have a wider impact for Coventry including contributing to economic prosperity. A One Coventry approach is being taken, with work across the Council and with Partners to join up efforts, plans and resources.

Appendix 1: Coventry Substance Misuse Needs Assessment - Draft

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