



To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date 26th July 2023

From: Allison Duggal, Director of Public Health and Wellbeing

Title: Drugs and Alcohol Strategy

1 Purpose

To present our local response to the National Drugs Strategy “From Harm to Hope” including the:

- Background and connections with West Midlands Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership
- How the Strategy was developed
- Final Draft of the Coventry Drug and Alcohol Strategy

2 Recommendations

Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Note the steps taken in the development of the strategy, in particular the level of engagement that has taken part with partners and stakeholders across the system at all stages of strategy development
2. Continue to support attendance at the Coventry Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Steering Group from all identified partners.
3. Agree and sign off Coventry Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2023-2033

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.

4 Governance and Accountability

4.1 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 Wellbeing) 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.

4.2 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 strategic groups and boards will continue to be built and strengthened and has been considered as workstreams and subgroups are identified.

5. Development of Coventry's Drug and Alcohol Strategy

5.1 Summary of the steps taken to develop the strategy:

- **Local Needs Assessment** - 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**
- **Governance** – Governance structures were agreed and connections with West Midlands Combating Drugs Partnership documented.
- **Local Partnership Steering Group** – Steering Group was formed and ToR and membership across the system agreed
- **Initial focus Groups** – Steering group members were invited to attend focus group sessions under each of the 6 outcome areas:
 - Reduce crime
 - Reduce supply
 - Reduce use
 - Reduce Harm and Death
 - Increase engagement in treatment
 - Improve long-term recovery

The purpose of the meetings was to understand the relevant recommendations from the needs assessment, share how each members role relates to the strategy aims and agree local priorities under each of the outcome areas

- **Agree Local Priorities** – feedback from the initial focus groups was collated and shared back with the Partnership Steering Group to confirm and agree our local priority actions.
- **Policy Forum** – Local priorities and actions presented at Coventry City Council Policy Forum – feedback was gathered and reflected in the strategy.
- **Scrutiny Committee** – In March 2023 Local priorities and actions were taken to Scrutiny Coordination Committee for consultation and feedback
- **Draft Strategy** – shared with all partners and members of the Partnership Steering Group in June 2023 for comments and feedback which have now been reflected in the Final Draft 'Coventry Drug and Alcohol Strategy' and is attached as **Appendix 2**.
- **Year 1 Action Plan** – this has been developed to support delivery of the Strategy and to help to prioritise workload and workstreams and is attached as **Appendix 3**

- **Consultation and engagement with the Partnership** – consultation with and feedback from the partnership steering group has taken place at each stage of the development of the strategy
- **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.

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