

Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Subject: Combatting Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment and Plan

Date of meeting: 15th February 2023

Report by: Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health

Report Author: Alan Knobel, Public Health Principal

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWB) of the Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) needs assessment and Substance Misuse Plan for Portsmouth.
- 1.2 To seek approval from the HWB for the Substance Misuse Plan for Portsmouth.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board note the substance misuse needs assessment
- 2.2 The Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Substance Misuse Plan for Portsmouth 2023-2026

3. Background

- 3.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board received a report detailing the formation of the new Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP), its aims and objectives at their previous meeting on the 23rd November 2022.
- 3.2 This report highlighted a requirement of the local CDP to complete a comprehensive needs assessment and develop a local plan to reduce the harm caused by substance misuse.
- 3.3 The Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to review the needs assessment and plan at this meeting.

Reasons for Recommendations

4. Needs Assessment

4.1 A detailed substance misuse needs assessment (Appendix 1) was completed and presented to the CDP at the end of November 2022.

4.2 The needs assessment highlighted some key challenges in Portsmouth:

- Poor physical and mental health of substance misusers, with high levels of unmet need
- A high level of alcohol related harm
- Lack of capacity within our young people specialist substance misuse service
- A high number of people prescribed high doses of morphine within primary care and multiple items alongside morphine

4.3 The needs assessment makes 34 recommendations in total, however the key recommendations were:

- To develop access to primary care services and expand homeless health care provision to address the significant unmet physical health need.
- To improve mental health pathways, with increased provision of co-located posts including mental health workers within recovery services and vice versa to address the significant unmet mental health need.
- Target resources to help reduce the high level of alcohol-related harm in the city, deal with an increase in demand for treatment services and tackle the low proportion of alcohol successful completions via an expanded alcohol-specific team.
- Set up a task and finish group to investigate and implement measures to increase the proportion of successful alcohol and non-opiate treatment completions.
- Increase the capacity of provision for young people, considering standalone services as the needs of young people differ from that of adults (also 18-24years), and develop improved relationships with schools and services such as Portsmouth Youth Offending Team.
- Move away from Silo commissioning, for example, work closely with rough sleepers' commissioners to understand how resources can be utilised and funding complement existing workstreams without duplicating work.

5. Partnership Plan

5.1 In response to the need identified within the needs assessment a high level 3-year substance misuse plan has been developed (Appendix 2). This plan includes three priorities:

- 1. Disrupt local drug supply chains and drug related crime**
- 2. Improve the quality, capacity and outcomes of our drug & alcohol prevention and treatment services**

3. Reduce the misuse and harm caused to young people by drugs & alcohol

- 5.2 Each priority has an identified priority champion who will oversee delivery of that priority and report to the CDP.
- 5.3 Each priority has a number of objectives which will form part of a detailed delivery plan.
- 5.4 Each priority also has a number of measures, which will be included within a performance framework. This performance framework will provide quarterly tracking data to show the CDP the direction of travel, allowing the partnership to monitor performance.
- 5.5 The Director of Public Health will provide an annual report to the Health & Wellbeing Board on the progress against each priority and provide an annual performance framework.

6. Integrated impact assessment

There is no specific change to policy or delivery recommended in the report. Detailed impact assessments will be undertaken on particular policies and initiatives as they emerge from the work of the Combating Drugs Partnership.

7. Legal implications

The aim of the Report is in line with Government objectives and there are no legal issues regarding these recommendations.

8. Finance comments

There is no financial information presented in this report. Individual items within the plan need to be assessed on case by case basis.

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Signed by: Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health, Portsmouth City Council

Appendices

Appendix 1 Substance Misuse Needs Assessment 2022

Appendix 2 Substance Misuse Plan for Portsmouth 2023-2026