



Portsmouth Combating Drugs Partnership Annual Review October 2024

What is a Combating Drugs Partnership?

As part of the Government's 2021 10-year national drugs strategy 'From Harm to Hope', every local area across England was requested to form a Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP).

These partnerships bring together a range of local partners who deliver different strands of work to reduce drug related harm, including:

- Enforcement
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Recovery

The CDP provides a single co-ordinating forum for understanding and addressing shared challenges related to drug and alcohol related harm, based on the context and need in that local area.

Portsmouth Combating Drugs Partnership

Our CDP covers the city of Portsmouth. Members of our partnership include a mixture of statutory agencies, the community and voluntary sector, public representatives and people with a lived experience either as a drug or alcohol dependent person, or as a carer.

Members include:

- Lived experience representatives (Ambition Portsmouth and Rebound Carers Group)
- Portsmouth City Council (including Councillors, Public Health, Adult Social Care, Children's Services and Housing Services)
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Office of the Police Crime Commissioner
- National Probation Service
- NHS Hampshire & IOW
- Solent NHS Trust
- Society of St. James
- Healthwatch Portsmouth
- University of Portsmouth

Portsmouth Combating Drugs Partnership

The following leads support the work of the CDP:

Senior Responsible Officer: Helen Atkinson, Director of Public Health

Partnership Support Lead Officer: Alan Knobel, Public Health Principal

Public Engagement Lead: Katie Wood, Development Manager

Data and Information Lead: Sam Graves, Community Safety Researcher

For more information about the membership or lead officers please email : alan.knobel@portsmouthcc.gov.uk

Hampshire and Isle of Wight

The Portsmouth CDP works in close partnership with our neighbouring authorities, Southampton, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

The 4 areas are brought together, along with the Police & Crime Commissioner, Donna Jones, to co-ordinate priorities which require a pan-Hampshire approach. This forum also includes other criminal justice partners.

Needs Assessment

In December 2022 the CDP completed a thorough needs assessment, identifying the following key priorities:

1. Significant unmet physical health need.
2. Significant unmet mental health need.
3. Target resource to help reduce the high level of alcohol-related harm.
4. Implement measures to increase the proportion of successful completions for drug and alcohol treatment.
5. Increase the capacity of young people specialist treatment provision.
6. Move away from silo commissioning, working closely with other commissioners of services for people with multiple needs.

Our local plan

The needs assessment informed our new **Substance Misuse Plan for Portsmouth 2023-2026**, which the partnership approved in March 2023. The plan has 3 key 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 and alcohol.

Progress report

Each quarter the Portsmouth CDP receives a detailed report called the Monitoring Framework. This details progress against 35 different measures linked to our 3 priorities.

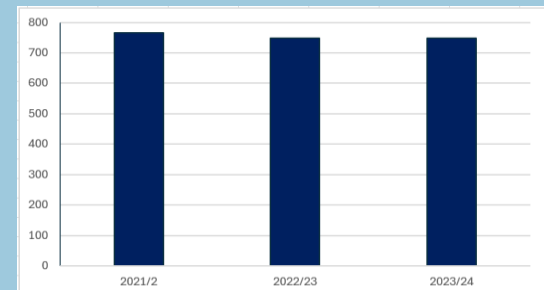
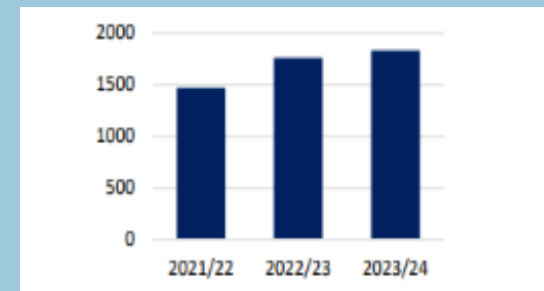
The following slides will provide a summary of progress over the past year.

Disrupt local drug supply chains and drug related crime

- Increase in the number of drug dealers arrested.
- An increase in seizures of heroin, crack and cocaine.
- Reduction in the number of active County Lines networks operating in Portsmouth.
- An increase in community intelligence reported to the police, with significantly more intelligence reported by partners in Portsmouth than anywhere else across Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

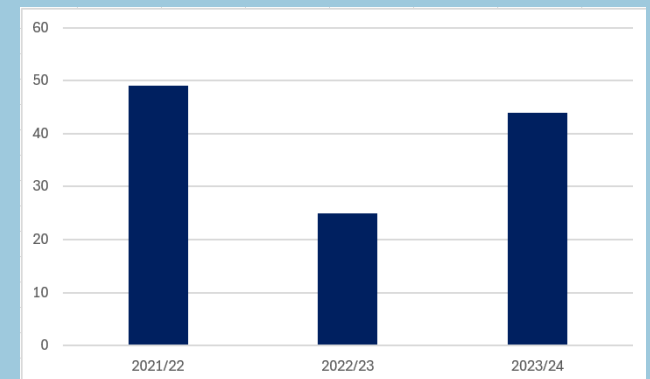
Improve the quality, capacity and outcomes of our drug & alcohol prevention and treatment services

- The number of drug related deaths reported by services increased.
- Increased number of people in treatment; increases were seen for people whose primary problem substance is either alcohol, crack or non-opiates.
- The number of opiate users in treatment remained the same over the past year, but is below the number 2 years ago.



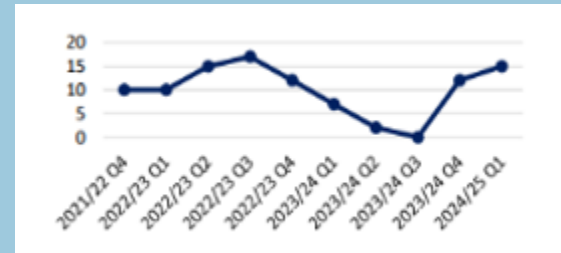
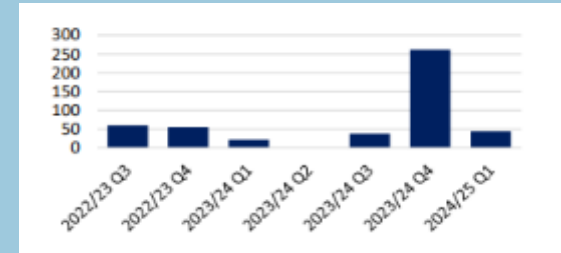
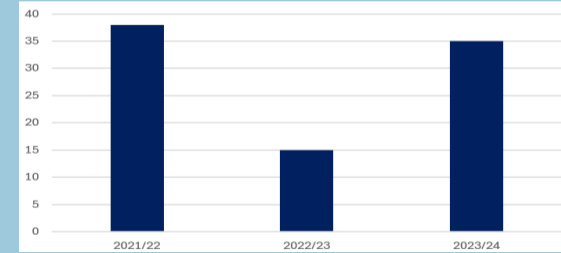
Improve the quality, capacity and outcomes of our drug & alcohol prevention and treatment services

- Successful completions of treatment have increased over the past 12 months for opiate, alcohol and non-opiate users.
- The percentage of prisoners engaging in community treatment after release remains below the England average.
- The number of residential rehabilitation placements has increased over the past 12 months, but is slightly lower than 2 years ago.



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

- The number of under 18s engaging in specialist treatment has increased significantly over the past 12 months, after falling the year before.
- Increasing number of the Children's workforce are receiving substance misuse awareness training.
- There has been an increase in specialist support for social workers and family workers to support young people on their caseload.
- There has been a reduction in suspensions from Portsmouth schools for incidents linked to drugs.



Public involvement

Our Combating Drugs Partnership is committed to supporting public involvement. We have the following groups represented:

- Elected councillors
- People with a lived experience of drug and alcohol dependency
- Carers
- Healthwatch Portsmouth, the independent champion for people who use health and social care services (www.healthwatchportsmouth.co.uk/)

In addition, we undertake surveys, research and public engagement events to seek a wide range of views.

Help and support

For adults over 25:

www.portsmouthrecovery.org

For under 25s :

[Drug and alcohol support service \(DASS\)](#)

For parents and carers:

[Parent Support Link \(pslcharity.org.uk\)](http://pslcharity.org.uk)

[Rebound Carers' Support Group](#)