

Report sponsor: Andy Smith Strategic Director
Report author: Richard Martin Assistant Director

Derby and Derbyshire Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership

Purpose

- 1.1 To inform Cabinet about the government's New Drug Strategy – *Harm to Hope*, and the requirement to form a local dedicated Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership.
- 1.2 To request Cabinet approval to enter into a county-wide strategic partnership to tackle drug and alcohol related harm.

Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 To agree to enter into the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership
- 2.2 To delegate authority to the Strategic Director of People Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults and Health to finalise the terms of a partnership agreement with the County Council and other key stakeholder and to determine the Council's appointments to the partnership as appropriate

Reason(s)

- 3.1 The newly formed government Combating Drugs Unit – as part of its 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives – has requested that local areas on a county-wide level establish a dedicated strategic partnership to oversee the national drug strategy at a local level.
- 3.2 Representation on the partnership needs executive approval for administrative purposes.

Supporting information

- 4.1 Illegal drugs cause far-reaching and devastating harm. Drug misuse currently costs society over £19 billion a year. Drug and harmful alcohol use drives crime, damages people's health, puts children and families at risk and reduces productivity – it impacts all of the country, with the most deprived areas facing the greatest burden. Problematic alcohol use creates an even larger burden with an estimated 10.4 million adults drinking at levels that increase their risk of health harm. The detrimental costs of alcohol to UK society are estimated to be in excess of £21 billion per year.

- 4.2 In 2021 Dame Carol Black published an independent review into drug and alcohol harm prompted by years of disinvestment in treatment and increasing deaths caused by problematic drug and alcohol use. She recommended a new long-term approach, with large-scale investment and changes to oversight and accountability. The benefits to society of investment in high-quality drug treatment and recovery, and the recognition that organised criminality is behind the drugs trade making neighbourhoods less safe, led the government to publish in December 2021 *‘From harm to hope’ – a 10-year plan to cut drug crime and save lives*.
- 4.3 The new drug and alcohol strategy provides the foundations for work at both a local and national level to deliver the following strategic priorities:
- Break drug supply chains (Home Office and Ministry of Justice) – target organised crime at an international, national and local policing level
 - Deliver a world class treatment and recovery system (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities) – with treatment being commissioned from a range of providers by local authority public health teams
 - Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs – wider ranging interdepartmental approaches to early intervention, education, prevention and research
- 4.4 By the end of 2024/25 local areas are expected to have contributed to the national ambition of:
- prevented nearly 1,000 drug and alcohol deaths
 - delivered a phased expansion of treatment capacity with at least 54,500 new high-quality treatment places – an increase of 20% – including:
 - 21,000 new places for opiate and crack users, delivering 53% of opiate and crack users in treatment
 - at least 7,500 more treatment places for people who are either rough sleeping or at immediate risk of rough sleeping – a 33% increase on the current numbers
 - a treatment place for every offender with an addiction
 - contributed to the prevention of three-quarters of a million crimes including 140,000 neighbourhood crimes through the increases in drug treatment
 - closed over 2,000 more county lines through our relentless and robust action to break the model and bring down the gangs running these illegal lines
 - delivered 6,400 major and moderate disruptions – a 20% increase – against activities of organised criminals, including arresting influential suppliers, targeting their finances and dismantling supply chains
 - significantly increase our denial of criminal assets, taking cash, crypto-currency and other assets from the hands of criminals involved in drug trafficking and supply.

- 4.5 Guidance published by the National Combating Drugs Unit in June 2022 asks local areas to form a clearly defined strategic partnership structure based on a geographical area – ideally a county or larger - that is logical to local residents and is consistent with existing relevant planning arrangements, structures and delivery organisations. The local area should select a Senior Responsible Owner 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. Many local areas have nominated one of the Directors of Public Health as the SRO.
- 4.6 Members of the dedicated drug and alcohol strategic partnership will be accountable for delivery of the outcomes in the locality and membership should comprise of key stakeholders who are able to make recommendations and hold each other to account. Constituent member organisations will use their own formal governance arrangements to ratify these recommendations into decisions as the partnership will have no formal or legislative powers.
- 4.7 It is recommended that the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership has the following representatives – although this isn't an exhaustive list:
- elected members – that can represent the views of all tiers of authority
 - senior local authority leaders (for example executive directors of adult social care or deputy chief executives)
 - local authority officials (including directors of public health and others with expertise in relevant areas such as substance misuse)
 - NHS – senior leaders of Integrated Care Boards (including strategic and mental health provider representation)
 - senior police leaders
 - police and crime commissioners
 - regional directors of National Probation Service
- 4.8 Local arrangements should also include sub-groups of the strategic partnership – such as dedicated 'place-based' groups that deliver the aims of the strategic partnership at a place level. Derby City and Derbyshire County would each have a respective place-based delivery group to translate the strategic intentions of the partnership. Each group would be supported by a designated partnership place lead, and adequate capacity for public involvement and data, knowledge and intelligence capability.
- 4.9 This report specifically seeks approval from Cabinet to enter into a Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership with Derbyshire County Council, Derby and Derbyshire [NHS] Integrated Care Board, Derbyshire Constabulary and the National Probation service. The partnership agreement will detail the terms of reference for the group and specify who the Council's representation on the partnership will be.
- 4.10 Derby and Derbyshire Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership will monitor progress on the implementation of the National Drug strategy at a local level. Its overall aim will be to reduce drug-related crime, harm, overall use, supply, and to increase engagement in treatment and improve long-term recovery.

- 4.11 The partnership will be advisory in its remit with the aim of informing executive decision making. Any policy approvals or spending decisions will need to be undertaken by respective Cabinets or using key stakeholder's own governance arrangements. Such decisions will then be reported back to the partnership.

Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 A wide array of key stakeholders were consulted in the process to agree on the most appropriate geographical partnership footprint; in electing a notional SRO; and reporting back to government on suggestions in respect of membership of a local strategic partnership.
- 5.2 Once cabinet sanctions the council entering into the strategic partnership it is proposed that an inaugural strategic partnership meeting is held in October 2022.

Other options

- 6.1 There would be a possibility of using an established strategic board or partnership to oversee the delivery of the local drug strategy. The National Combating Drugs Unit have however advised against this, and have indicated that they would require partners to explain to government why they have opted to disregard national advice on creating a dedicated strategic structure to tackle drug and alcohol harm. Co-opting the drug and alcohol agenda into another group is not therefore recommended.

Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None – arising from this report

Legal implications

- 8.1 The Council will be entering into an arrangement which shall require Council staff to use their best endeavours to comply with the values and principles outlined in the national drug strategy and its associated guidance.
- 8.2 Membership of the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership has no other bearing on the statutory responsibilities of the Council in relation to health and care – other than those already defined in the Health and Social Care Act 2012

Climate implications

- 9.1 None

Other significant implications

- 10.1 Staff working on the Public Health and the Community Safety agendas will need to collaborate and co-operate with colleagues in other organisations who have similarly

agreed to work to the spirit and direction of the Drug and Alcohol Strategic Partnership

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal	Olu Idowu	19.8.22
Finance	Janice Hadfield	19.8.22
Service Director(s)	Dr Robyn Dewis	8.9.22
Report sponsor	Andy Smith	17.8.22
Other(s)		

Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	None