

7 September 2022**Agenda Item: 5**

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

THE NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COMBATING SUBSTANCE MISUSE PARTNERSHIP

Purpose of the Report

1. To inform the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board on the establishment of a Combating Substance Misuse Partnership Board to oversee local delivery of the national drugs strategy.

Information

Background

2. The Government's new Drugs Strategy: From Harm to Hope (FHTH) was published in December 2021. Its objective is to cut off the supply of drugs by criminal gangs and give people with a drug addiction a route to a productive and drug-free life. It is underpinned by investment of over £3 billion over the next three years. The three strategic priorities of the strategy are:
 - a. Break drug supply chains
 - b. Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system
 - c. Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs
3. Addressing the harms of substance misuse in Nottinghamshire is currently led by the Nottinghamshire Substance Misuse Strategy Group. The group reports to both the Safer Nottinghamshire Board and to the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board. It is chaired by Nottinghamshire County Council Director of Public Health and its workplan is set out in its Framework for Action 2017-2022.
4. Membership of the current group has comprised Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Nottinghamshire Police, Community Safety Partnerships, Probation, Trading Standards, Nottinghamshire County Council Children's Services, NHS England, Clinical Commissioning Group (formerly), Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue, Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (formerly Public Health England) and Change Grow Live (the provider of treatment and recovery which is commissioned by Nottinghamshire County Council), and representative of the Nottingham City Crime and Drugs Partnership (to maintain coordination across agendas of joint interest).

Requirement to establish partnership arrangements

5. The Combating Drugs Unit of the Home Office has also now published From Harm to Hope: Guidance for Local Delivery Partners. This guidance outlines how local areas in England should deliver the transformative ambition set out in the strategy and the mechanisms that central government will draw upon to track and support delivery. This requires changes to the existing governance arrangements for substance misuse in Nottinghamshire and the establishment of a new local Partnership for tackling substance misuse. This new partnership arrangement is referred to as the Combating Substance

Misuse Partnership (“the Partnership”). Local authority Chief Executives have been asked to ensure that these arrangements are established, noting that this will require work at pace given the short timescales.

6. The guidance indicates that the Partnership should be a multi-agency forum with accountability for delivering the following outcomes:
 - Reducing Drug Use
 - Reducing Drug- Related Crime
 - Reducing Drug-Related deaths and harm
7. It should provide a single setting for understanding and addressing shared challenges related to drug-related harm, based on our local context, and need. There is a nationally set Outcomes Framework to report back to OHID on progress.
8. The Partnership will cover a fourth priority, namely the Bigger Picture: Reducing Health Inequalities and Tackling Wider Determinants. This recognises the wider reasons for people misusing drugs and alcohol. The Partnership will also place an equal focus on alcohol as well as drugs, recognising the greater level of alcohol abuse in the County and that it is a priority for the [Nottinghamshire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy](#) and the [ICS Health Inequalities Strategy](#).
9. The Partnership should have a named Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) who will report to central government and hold delivery partners to account. The SRO will be 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. It is proposed that the Nottinghamshire Director of Public Health (DPH) will serve as interim SRO and Chair of the Partnership until a mutually agreed SRO and Chair is designated.
10. Key membership of the group includes elected members, local authority officials, NHS, Job Centre Plus, substance misuse treatment providers, police, PCC, National Probation Service, people affected by substance misuse harm and prisons.
11. By the 1 August local areas had to confirm the geographical footprint of their partnership, who will undertake the role of Senior Responsible Officer and Chair, and who will be members of the partnership board. Local areas were expected to secure agreement from a number of stakeholders whom the Home Office identify to be key partners, including the County Council Chief Executive, the Director of Public Health, the Integrated Care Board Chief Executive, The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Regional Probation Director. In addition, the Home Office required confirmation of who will undertake the roles of Partnership Lead, Public Involvement Lead and Data & Digital Lead.

Early Priorities for the Partnership

12. Subsequent to 1 August, local areas should also agree terms of reference, making clear the scope of activity to be overseen by the partnership and its decision-making powers and responsibilities.
13. By November the Partnership will be required to involve all relevant parties in completing an assessment of need across all three ambitions of the strategy. By December, the new Partnership will have agreed a local drugs strategy delivery plan and performance framework to reflect the national strategic priorities.

14. The timescales set out for these actions are as follows:

Action	Timeframe
Form the local drugs strategy partnership	By 1 st August
Confirm the footprint for the partnership	By 1 st August
Nomination and formal agreement of the (interim) SRO by the Elected Local Authority Leader, Police and Crime Commissioner, Local Authority Chief Executive, Director of Public Health, Regional Probation Director, Integrated Care Board Chief Executive to	By 1 st August
Identify and confirm for the local drugs strategy partnership a partnership lead, a public involvement lead and a data and digital lead	By 1 st August
Agree terms of reference for the partnership and governance structure	By September
Conduct a health needs assessment across all three ambitions of the strategy	By November
Agree local drug strategy delivery plan	By December
Agree local performance framework	By December
Report on progress to OHID	By April

Confirmations so far regarding the Partnership

15. It has been agreed by The Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council and The Leader of the Council that the Director of Public Health will be designated SRO on an interim basis.
16. The geographical footprint of the Partnership will be Nottinghamshire County as this will enable to the challenges and opportunities of From Harm to Hope to be quickly addressed. As part of early discussion, a number of areas have been identified that will benefit from a joint approach on a Nottinghamshire-wide footprint (e.g. alcohol harm reduction, drug-related deaths, criminal justice pathways, dual diagnosis arrangements).
17. In anticipation of the work that is required to develop suitable terms of reference for the new Partnership, it is proposed that **the scope of should explicitly include the impacts of alcohol misuse on crime and safety and health and wellbeing**. This is because these harms represent a significant burden. As the guidance makes clear, “drug related harm should not be driven down at the expense of increasing alcohol-related harm”. It goes on to propose that areas may address this by ensuring the partnership covers both alcohol and other drugs.

Other Options Considered

18. The recommendations are based on the current evidence available and will be used to inform decision making processes.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

19. The newly published Guidance for Local Delivery Partners outlined the responsibilities for local Combating Substance Misuse Partnerships.

Statutory and Policy Implications

20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

21. There are none arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked-

- 1) To endorse the arrangements for the Nottinghamshire Combating Substance Misuse Partnership.

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Constitutional Comments (LW 23/08/22)

22. The recommendation falls within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board by virtue of its terms of reference.

Financial Comments (DG 15/08/22)

23. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All