

Health and Wellbeing Board

17 November 2016

County Durham Drug Strategy Action Plan 2014/2017



Report of Gill O'Neill, Interim Director of Public Health, Adult and Health Services, Durham County Council

Purpose of the Report

- 1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an update on the County Durham Drugs Strategy 2014-17.

Background

- 2 In line with the Government's *Drug Strategy (2010) Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People to Live a Drug Free Life*. The County Durham Drug Strategy provides a framework from which all partners can work together to prevent harm, restrict supply and sustain a future for individuals to live a drug free and healthy life.
- 3 The vision for the Drug Strategy in County Durham is to recognise the impact of substance misuse on individuals, families and communities whilst appreciating that it is crucial to treat drug misuse and place recovery at the heart of its focus.
- 4 Public Health England has indicated that the publication of the new National Drug Strategy was autumn 2015, but this has not occurred. Public Health England is unable to give any further updates at this point in time.

Strategy Update

- 5 The term for the County Durham Drugs Strategy is from 2014 to 2017. When the new national Drug Strategy is published the Durham County Council Public Health team will engage with partners to refresh the local strategy, aligning with national priorities, whilst also focusing on the delivery for local need.
- 6 The Drug Strategy Action Plan was refreshed in June 2016 and continues to be monitored on a quarterly basis. A copy of the Drug Strategy Action Plan is available on request.

7 From the objective set, the outcomes from each work stream are:

Table 1: Drug Strategy Action Plan Performance Outcomes

Area of activity	Total number of objectives	Progress year to date.
Objective 1: To increase awareness and understanding of drugs in order to reduce drug misuse across the population	14	13 Green 1 Amber
Objective 2: To have fewer people taking up drug use and break the inter-generational path to drug misuse and dependency	8	4 - Green 4 –Amber
Objective 3: To reduce the supply of drugs and number of drug related incidents impacting upon communities and families	7	6- Green 1 – Amber
Objective 4: To ensure recovery is understood and visible in the community	8	8 - Green
Objective 5: To support people to successfully recover from their dependency, addressing both their health and social needs arising from their drug misuse	12	10 - Green 2- Amber
Objective 6: To involve and support families and carers living with drug related issues	2	1 – Green 1 – Amber

8 New actions introduced into the objectives set within the Drug Strategy Action Plan for 2016/17 include:

- **Objective 1** – to promote awareness of the new legislation regarding novel psychoactive substances across County Durham.
- **Objective 1** - Refresh of partnership approaches to reduce young people’s alcohol seizures by targeting schools.
- **Objective 1** – Identifying the need to integrate alcohol and drug services into the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hubs and One Point hubs to help manage substance misuse within the family.
- **Objective 2** – integrating the drugs and alcohol agenda into the DCC Early Intervention Strategy for Children and Young People Services.

9 Discussions have been initiated to explore opportunities for the merger of the Drug Strategy (2014-17) with the Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy (2017-20) to develop a holistic approach to substance misuse. There are six associated action plans for substance misuse within Durham County Council:

- **Drug Strategy** – Drug Strategy Action Plan
- **Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy** – Altogether Stronger, Altogether Healthier, Altogether Wealthier, Altogether Greener, Altogether Better for Children and Young People Action Plans.

- 10 The merger of the drug and alcohol strategies would provide an opportunity to scope out a wider 'addictions prevention and treatment strategy'. This could also include tobacco as many of the illegal sales, licencing and tackling social norms have similar objectives and partners involved.

Future considerations

- 11 The timeframe for the publication of the national Drugs Strategy will require monitoring to ensure any local strategy refreshed in 2017 is aligned with national priorities.

Recommendations

- 12 The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:
- Note the content of the report and associated action plan performance outcomes.
 - Agree the merger of the drug and alcohol strategies.
 - Agree the development of an addictions prevention and treatment strategy. This will also be discussed at the Safe Durham Partnership

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Appendix 1: Implications

Finance and Governance

Drug and Alcohol budget needs to contribute £1.3 m to the Public Health budget reduction programme for 2017/18; this may reduce capacity in some area of delivery indicated by any new local Drug Strategy.

Staffing

N/A

Risk

There may be a reduction in performance in any provider capacity as a direct result of budget reductions. This may have direct implications for the achievement of annual targets if set at current levels of activity.

Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty

Public health aims to reduce inequalities and improve health outcomes by reviewing PH outcomes data and developing relevant policies, strategies and intentions as appropriate.

Accommodation

N/A

Crime and Disorder

A reducing numbers of clients accessing support in the area in which services have been reconfigured may have a direct impact on increased rates of crime and disorder in that area.

Human Rights

None

Consultation

Any requirement for a new drug strategy will require a full consultation with the Drug Strategy Group.

Procurement

N/A

Disability Issues

None

Legal Implications

N/A