

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board

12 September 2014



## County Durham Drug Strategy 2014-2017

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### Report of Anna Lynch, Director of Public Health, County Durham

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#### Purpose of the Report

1. This report presents for comment the first County Durham Drug Strategy 2014-2017 (Appendix 2).

#### Background

2. The Government's Drug Strategy *Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting people to live a drug free life* was published in 2010. It focusses on three themes:
  - *Reducing Demand* – creating an environment where the vast majority of people who have never taken drugs continue to resist any pressures to do so;
  - *Restricting Supply* – making the UK an unattractive destination for drug traffickers by attacking their profits and driving up their risks; and
  - *Building Recovery in Communities* – build on the investment that has been made into treatment to ensure more people are tackling their dependency and recovering fully.
3. A multi-agency Strategic Drug Strategy Group was established to develop and drive forward its implementation. A stakeholder event was held in January 2014 with professionals, council members, service users and carers to identify priorities for 2014-2015. Stakeholders provided feedback on the draft objectives and identified areas for action for the forthcoming year. The final draft was circulated for consultation and comment and the organisations involved are detailed in Appendix 3 of the strategy.
4. The aim of the Strategy is *to prevent harm, restrict supply and sustain a future for individuals to live a drug free and healthy life, whilst minimising the impact on communities and families.*
5. The Strategy has 6 strategic objectives under the three themes of the Strategy:

#### Theme: Preventing Harm

#### Strategic objectives:

- Increase awareness and understanding of drugs in order to reduce drug misuse across the population
- Have fewer people taking up drug use and to break the inter-generational path to drug misuse and dependency

### **Theme: Restricting Supply**

#### **Strategic objective**

- Reduce the supply of drugs and number of drug related incidents impacting upon families and communities.

### **Theme: Building Recovery**

#### **Strategic objective**

- Ensure recovery is understood and visible in the community.
  - Support people to successfully recover from their dependency, addressing both their health and social needs arising from their drug use.
  - Involve and support families and carers living with drug related issues.
6. The Drug Strategy is underpinned by an action plan and performance framework. It is important to note that as this is the first County Durham drugs strategy a number of key performance indicators will need to be developed. The group will consider a quarterly performance report as well as monitor progress against the action plan. Any key issues will be escalated to the Safe Durham Partnership, Health and Wellbeing Board and/or Children and Families Partnership as appropriate.
7. An overview presentation of the strategy will be provided at the Board's meeting and Members are invited to provide a response to Public Health by the 30<sup>th</sup> September. In addition, outcomes within the Strategy are linked to the Council's Safer and Stronger Communities, Economy and Enterprise, Children and Young People and Adults, Wellbeing and Health Overview and Scrutiny Committees and this report has been shared with Members of those committees to contribute to the Board's response. The Strategy is scheduled to be presented to the Health & Wellbeing Board for final sign off in November 2014.

### **Recommendations**

8. That the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider information within the County Durham Drugs Strategy 2014-2017, the presentation to the Board's meeting and together with any comments from Overview and Scrutiny Committees provide a response to Public Health by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2014.

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Finance**

No additional financial implications as a result of the implementation of the strategy.

### **Staffing**

Existing staffing already members of the strategy group to be involved with the implementation of the strategy.

### **Risk**

No risk identified in implementing the strategy.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

People with drug issues and their families are often identified as priority groups for support.

### **Accommodation**

No implications.

### **Crime and Disorder**

A key strand of the strategy is to tackle the supply of drugs, this is already led by Durham Constabulary.

### **Human Rights**

None identified.

### **Consultation**

The strategy was developed by a range of stakeholders and multi-agency consultation events were held which included service users as well as partner organisations.

### **Procurement**

No additional procurement issues as a result of the strategy.

### **Disability Issues**

Some people with drug issues also have mental health issues (referred as dual diagnosis). These individuals are identified as a priority group in the strategy.

### **Legal Implications**

There are no legal implications.