

COUNTY COUNCIL

1 NOVEMBER 2017

QUESTIONS FROM AREA ACTION PARTNERSHIPS

Derwent Valley AAP

Drug misuse can take an enormous toll on sections of our communities and commit a significant amount of time from our public services, including the Police. Can you tell us the strategies Durham Council is deploying on drug misuse and what progress is being made so far to address it?

Response

The Council are totally committed to working with our partners, including the police to reduce the harms caused by drug misuse on individuals, young people, families and wider communities. The publication of the new national Drug Strategy highlights measures to be taken to help reduce the supply and demand for illicit substances and actively engage those suffering from addiction into recovery services. This work is overseen by the Safer Durham Partnership and actioned through the Alcohol and Drugs Harm Reduction Group.

The work includes population based approaches to raise awareness of the consequences of drug and alcohol misuse including work in schools, training for professionals through the Making Every Contact Count programme, Council and police liaison via the police's Harm Reduction Unit, referrals from custody suites through the Checkpoint Scheme and wider partners and the provision of comprehensive packages of care through the County Durham Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service.

This activity has resulted in the highest number of opiate users ever engaged in treatment in County Durham, equating to approximately 70% of all heroin and crack users presenting to local support services.

The Council has recently undertaken a comprehensive consultation process with service users, families of service users, recovery service staff, primary care, the hospital, social services, police, probation, the youth offending service, schools and young people on how we best address the needs for people affected by substance misuse. This has resulted in a procurement process for a new community outreach model for the County Durham Drug and Alcohol Service which will commence on 1st February 2018.

Spennymoor AAP

With the recently publicised push by the Government to increase the number of GPs in NHS England, how are Durham County Council working with partners to ensure essential services, such as GPs, are adequately provided, particularly in areas that are outlined for increased housing allocations e.g. Spennymoor?

Response

Durham County Council works closely with our two CCGs, NHS North Durham and NHS Durham, Dales Easington and Sedgefield to ensure that there are adequate services such as GP's to meet local need, including in areas that are outlined for increased housing.

A wide range of work is underway to ensure that essential GP services are adequately provided. This includes a recruitment drive to attract more GPs to the area, additional appointments including some evenings and weekends and training of reception staff as care navigators.

Both CCGs are supported by NHS Property Services to look at any large scale housing development and meet with the County Council to appraise any impact on General Practice and other community services. This assessment takes into account any future housing developments and is informed by the planning process at both the strategic level through the local plan as well as through consultation on individual applications as received.

The CCG will be giving a presentation at Spennymoor AAP on 16th November to outline current plans on workforce.

Durham County Council, on behalf of the Health and Wellbeing Board, also collaborates with NHS England to assess provision of community pharmacy services. It does this through the development of a Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment or PNA. This looks at the whole of County Durham and makes a judgement of whether there is adequate provision in all areas. This then informs NHS England's decision to procure more local services if needed.