

REPORT TO: Health & Wellbeing Board
DATE: 12 October 2022
REPORTING OFFICER: Director of Public Health
PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Combating Drugs Partnership

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To inform the Board of the establishment of the Halton Combating Drugs Partnership, its governance and remit.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board

- 1) Note the purpose of the combating drugs partnership; and its intended reporting structure; and
- 2) Note the brief update on the recent meeting.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 Halton Combating Drugs Partnership (HCDP) is a strategic, multi-agency partnership established to support the delivery of the ambitions as set out in "From Harm to Hope: A 10 year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives". The focus is on preventing harm from drugs.

3.2 Broadly there are three priority ambitions

- breaking drug supply chains
- providing a world class treatment and recovery offer
- reducing demand for drugs

3.3 The national strategy identifies a framework that will provide a single mechanism for monitoring progress and impacts across local areas, delivering on commitments and ambitions.

3.4 The partnership is required to deliver a focussed agenda against the framework including:-

- Develop a joint strategic assessment of local drug data
- Agree data sharing protocols
- Develop local combating drugs delivery plan
- Develop performance framework
- Monitor local outcomes

- Review progress against plan

3.5 The national strategy sets out three key areas to address harm and criminality from drugs and drug use. These will form the basis of action for the work of the HCDP, the scope of the partnership will therefore include:

3.6 **Break drug supply chains**

Reducing the ability for organised crime groups (OCGs) to operate; reducing supply of the most harmful drugs, attacking all stages of the supply chain, reducing the associated violence and exploitation, and protecting prisons from being academies of crime.

3.7 **Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system**

The national aspiration is to deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system in England within a decade. Halton Combating Drugs Partnership will reflect this aspiration to treat addiction as a chronic health condition, breaking down stigma, saving lives, and substantially breaking the cycle of crime that addiction can drive. Plans will recognise alcohol dependence and wider alcohol-related harms, considering the multiple complex needs

3.8 **Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs**

Address societal attitudes around the perceived acceptability of illegal drug use, delivering tougher consequences, delivering education, prevention and early intervention across settings and supporting those most at risk of the harms of substance misuse.

4.0 **Governance and reporting procedure**

4.1 The Halton Combating Drugs Partnership will act as an Independent Body.

4.2 The Halton Combating Drugs Partnership is not a legally incorporated body. It has no formal powers of authority. The partnership has a role in influencing the activity of other partners.

4.3 The Halton Combating Drugs Partnership will oversee the delivery and achievement against the National Combating Drugs outcome framework. Performance in association with the developing action plans will be reported through the governance structure to the appropriate bodies.

4.4 When reports and actions are required that need to be considered by the partners; such reports will be formally considered by the appropriate executive boards of other partners/agencies. Key Boards include One Halton Place and Halton Health and Wellbeing Board. Key Partnerships include the Safer Halton Partnership and partnerships groups that cover safeguarding and domestic violence.

4.5 **Summary of meeting held September 20th 2022**

The inaugural meeting of the Halton Combating Drugs Partnership held on 20th September at Halton Stadium, it was well attended with representatives from Police, Probation, Drug and Alcohol services, NHS, Police Crime Commissioners office; Voluntary sector and Halton Borough Council including: Children's, Elected members, Youth Justice, Children and Young People Safeguarding Public Health and Community Safety.

The meeting reviewed the terms of reference which were agreed and shared information on the types of information that was available to share and thus be used in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment that needs to be developed and agreed the timescales and acknowledged the challenge in producing a strategy. It was agreed that organisations will be subject to multiple requests for data from across the system and ways to approach this more manageably were discussed. Further meetings in November and January will follow. A local plan is expected to be ready in January 2023.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Tackling the impact of substance misuse on our communities remains a priority for Halton and the establishment of the group bring a formal partnership group from a broad range of partners to address the harms from drugs in our local area.

6.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no financial implications for this work directly. Financial provision for the treatment and recovery is contained within the Public Health ring fenced grant. Additional funds for combating supply chains and offender management are held by other organisations. Opportunities to bid for additional funding may arise and the partnership approach strengthen and supports this option.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

7.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The service contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Halton Children's Plan.

7.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

The partnership will contribute to supporting local residents affected by substance misuse to regain control of their lives and access opportunities to improve their employment, learning and skills in a recovery focused environment.

7.3 A Healthy Halton

The partnership approach is important in promoting the health and wellbeing of the community through its work towards reducing access to drugs, supporting access to excellent treatment options and reducing inequalities through targeted intervention for vulnerable and disadvantaged individuals. The service contributes to the delivery of the objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Board.

7.4 A Safer Halton

The service contributes to a Safer Halton by supporting local people in reducing risk taking behaviour, such as alcohol, drugs, etc. Community services also play an important role in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour

7.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

N/A.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

8.1 All contractors will be required to demonstrate that they embrace and comply with the Equality Act, and services will be monitored to ensure this is the case.

9.0 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

None within the meaning of the Act.