



**CABINET – 25 JUNE 2019**

**DRAFT LEICESTERSHIRE SUBSTANCE MISUSE STRATEGY**  
**2020-23**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

**PART A**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek the Cabinet's approval to consult on the draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23.

**Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that;
  - (a) The draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 (attached as the appendix to this report) be approved for consultation;
  - (b) A further report be considered by the Cabinet in November 2019 detailing the findings of the consultation and presenting the Strategy for approval.

**Reasons for Recommendation**

3. The draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 has been developed in recognition of the need to coordinate substance misuse related work across the Council. Developing a strategy that is endorsed by the Council will set an agreed direction for substance misuse service provision across Leicestershire.
4. Undertaking a consultation on the draft strategy will ensure the priorities meet the needs of the local population and that the priorities align with those identified by stakeholders.
5. Undertaking a consultation on the draft strategy is also in keeping with the Council's corporate standards to ensure that all stakeholders are made aware of the Local Authority's priorities and given an opportunity to make comments at an early stage.

### **Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)**

6. Subject to the Cabinet's approval, consultation will commence in July 2019 for a period of eight weeks.
7. The draft strategy will be considered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019 as part of the consultation.
8. The outcome of the consultation together with the final draft of the strategy will be presented to the Cabinet in November 2019.

### **Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

9. A condition of the public health grant requires local authorities to provide an accessible drug and alcohol treatment and recovery system while having regard to reducing health inequalities. Considerable progress has been made over recent years in reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse in Leicestershire. However, the changing landscape of substance misuse needs in the local population coupled with increasing financial pressures faced by commissioners and partner organisations means there is a need to review the existing approach to substance misuse service provision to ensure the availability of appropriate, accessible and equitable services to the local population.
10. The priorities that form the draft strategy align with the following outcomes from the Leicestershire County Council's Strategic Plan 2018-22 which was approved by the County Council on 6 December 2017:

**Wellbeing and opportunity:** The people of Leicestershire have the opportunities and support they need to take control of their health and wellbeing.

**Keeping people safe:** People in Leicestershire are safe and protected from harm.

**Great Communities:** Leicestershire communities are thriving and integrated places where people help and support each other and take pride in their area.

11. The draft strategy seeks to build on elements of the Health and Wellbeing strategy and the work already underway to strengthen the links between health and wellbeing and community safety.

### **Resource Implications**

12. There are no immediate resource implications arising from the strategy which will be progressed utilising existing resources.

**Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

13. A copy of this report has been circulated to all members of the County Council.

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## **PART B**

### **Background**

14. Drug and alcohol misuse impacts on people's lives in many ways. Providing treatment and support to people with alcohol and/or drug problems can have a significant beneficial impact not just for the individual, but for their families and their community. Preventing people from developing alcohol and drug problems and reducing their dependency on alcohol and drugs not only improves their individual health and wellbeing but also reduces the burden on health and social care services.
15. There are around 600,000 dependent drinkers in England and around 200,000 children living with an alcohol dependent parent or carer. It is known that growing up in an environment where there is substance misuse is a significant factor impacting on childhood adversity and trauma, which itself leads to a higher risk of those children developing alcohol and drug problems and engaging in health harming behaviours in adulthood.
16. Public Health England estimates that for Leicestershire, investment in treatment services for individuals with drug misuse reduces crime by 23% and for alcohol misuse is 48%, with total financial benefits to social care of £1.3million per annum and economic benefits of £7.5million per annum. Alcohol treatment provides a return on investment of £3 for every £1 invested. Drug treatment provides a return on investment of £4 for every £1 invested.
17. A comprehensive Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for drug misuse and alcohol misuse in adults was completed in March 2019. The reports highlight that considerable progress has been made over recent years in reducing the harm caused by drug and alcohol misuse in Leicestershire. However, the changing landscape of substance misuse needs in the local population coupled with increasing financial pressures faced by commissioners and partner organisations means there is a need to review the existing approach to substance misuse service provision to ensure the ongoing provision of appropriate, accessible and equitable services to the local population.
18. The proposed Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 utilises evidence from the needs assessments to recognise achievements made thus far across the Council and outlines the key priorities for the next three years to further reduce the harm caused by substance misuse. The Strategy also recognises the need to continue to utilise existing partnerships such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board in developing a partnership approach to tackling the problems associated with drug and alcohol misuse in Leicestershire.

## Overview of the Draft Strategy

19. The draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 is appended to this report. There are five priorities that form the Strategy. These are set out below:
- i. **Raise awareness and prevent the harms of drug and alcohol misuse particularly for those at greatest risk.** This will be delivered by developing a sustainable prevention offer in relation to drug and alcohol misuse and by developing a coordinated approach to communications and campaigns relating to drugs and alcohol across local partners.
  - ii. **Develop a coordinated approach to early identification of individuals exposed to the harmful effects of drug and/or alcohol misuse.** This will be delivered by ensuring that the Council's Public Health and Children and Family Services continue to work together to strengthen the whole family approach to those exposed to the harmful impact of drug and/or alcohol misuse. There is also an opportunity to optimise the link between the commissioned drug and alcohol treatment service and local hospital alcohol care teams once they are established.
  - iii. **Develop an approach to the provision of treatment and recovery services that is responsive to the changing trends in drug and alcohol addiction among residents of Leicestershire.** This will be delivered through an agreed approach to commissioning substance misuse services over the next 3 years with endorsement from all relevant commissioning organisations (e.g. NHS England).
  - iv. **Reduce ill health and deaths as a result of alcohol and drug misuse.** This will be delivered by ensuring harm reduction interventions form an ongoing component of substance misuse treatment provision and by developing a partnership approach (e.g. with Leicestershire Police) to the review of drug related deaths among Leicestershire residents.
  - v. **Ensure a joined up and timely response to changing patterns of substance misuse and emerging issues relating to substance misuse.** This will be delivered by setting up a substance misuse partnership group involving local service providers, voluntary sector organisations, commissioning organisations and partners. This group will meet regularly and feed into strategic groups such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board and the Strategic Partnership Board.

## Consultation

20. Subject to approval by the Cabinet, public consultation on the draft strategy will commence for a period of eight weeks from July 2019. Consultation will

include workshops and meetings with service users and service providers, and an opportunity for key stakeholders (including local CCGs, Leicestershire Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and departments across the council) to submit feedback via email and via the Have Your Say webpage on the council's website. The draft strategy will be considered by the Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 11 September 2019 as part of the consultation. Results will be analysed and used to inform a final version of the strategy which will be presented to the Cabinet for approval in November 2019.

### **Equality and Human Rights Implications**

21. As part of the development of the final strategy, an Equality Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) will be undertaken to identify equality issues which need to be considered. The outcome of the assessment will be presented to the Cabinet alongside the final strategy in November.

### **Crime and Disorder Implications**

22. Substance misuse has far reaching impacts on individual health, families and communities. There are clear links between substance misuse, crime and community safety. Meeting the health needs of people in contact with the criminal justice system can help to achieve reductions in crime, reduce offending and improve the individual's health.

### **Partnership Working and Associated Issues**

23. The draft strategy outlines a partnership approach to tackling the problems associated with drug and alcohol misuse in Leicestershire. The priorities identified within this strategy have been developed based on an understanding of needs in relation to substance misuse and will be refined following widespread consultation with stakeholders.

### **Background Papers**

Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2018-21: Substance Misuse in Adults <http://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/substance-misuse-in-adults.pdf>

Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2018-21: Alcohol Misuse in Adults <http://www.lsr-online.org/uploads/alcohol-misuse-in-adults.pdf>

Report to the County Council – 6 December 2019 – Strategic Plan 2018 – 22 <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=5104&Ver=4>

### **Appendices**

Draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23