



**HEALTH OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE:**  
**11 SEPTEMBER 2019**

**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH**

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

**Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to consult the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee on the draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23.

**Policy Framework and Previous Decisions**

2. 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.
3. The priorities that form the Substance Misuse Strategy are informed by the Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment chapters on alcohol misuse and drug misuse in adults which were published in March 2019.
4. The priorities 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.
5. The draft strategy seeks to build on elements of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and to build on the work already underway to strengthen the links between health and wellbeing and community safety. The strategy also builds on the overarching public health responsibility to take steps to improve the health and wellbeing of Leicestershire residents by focusing on the broader issues surrounding substance misuse.

**Background**

6. 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.

7. 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.
8. 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 our local population.
9. 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.

## **Proposals**

10. 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 LCC 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**

11. Following Cabinet approval of the draft strategy on 25 June 2019, a public consultation commenced on 8 July 2019 and ran for 8 weeks, ending midnight on 2 September 2019. The consultation sought feedback regarding the proposed priorities through various means including focus groups and via the Have Your Say webpage on the council website. Stakeholders who were consulted included: local Clinical Commissioning Groups, Leicestershire Police, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, departments across the council, local hospitals, members of the Leicestershire Safer Communities Strategy Board and the Health and Wellbeing Board, district health leads, Healthwatch, Voluntary Action Leicestershire, substance misuse service providers and service users.
12. Analysis of the consultation findings shows strong support for having a strategy and for the priorities identified within the strategy. The consultation feedback placed strong emphasis on the importance of a partnership approach (Priority 5 of the Strategy). Feedback also indicated the need for more detail on how each priority will be implemented.

### **Resource Implications**

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

### **Timetable for Decisions**

14. The outcome of the consultation will be used to inform a final version of the strategy to be presented to the Cabinet for approval in November 2019. Following this, Public

Health will develop an implementation plan which details the specific actions required to achieve each priority, and the lead department/person responsible for each priority/action.

## **Conclusions**

15. Following completion of a comprehensive Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for drug misuse and alcohol misuse in adults, 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.
16. The proposed Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 utilises evidence from the needs assessments to outline the key priorities for the next three years to further reduce the harm caused by substance misuse and to ensure the ongoing provision of appropriate, accessible and equitable services to our local population.
17. An 8 week public consultation commenced on 8 July 2019. The consultation findings show support for the priorities identified within the strategy. A final version of the strategy will be presented to the Cabinet for approval in November 2019. Following this, Public Health will develop a detailed action plan to implement the Strategy.

## **Background papers**

Report to Cabinet – Draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 – 25 June 2019

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/documents/s146576/Leicestershire%20Substance%20Misuse%20Strategy%202020-23.pdf>

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 2017 – Strategic Plan 2018 – 22

<http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=5104&Ver=4>

## **Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure**

18. A copy of this report will be circulated to all members under the Members' Digest.

## **Officers to Contact**

Mike Sandys, Director of Public Health

Tel: 0116 305 4239 email: [mike.sandys@leics.gov.uk](mailto:mike.sandys@leics.gov.uk)

Joshna Mavji, Consultant in Public Health  
Tel: 0116 305 0113 email: [joshna.mavji@leics.gov.uk](mailto:joshna.mavji@leics.gov.uk)

## **List of Appendices**

### **Appendix - Draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23**

## **Relevant Impact Assessments**

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

19. 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**

20. 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**

21. 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.

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