



CABINET – 22 NOVEMBER 2019

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 advise the Cabinet of the outcome of the consultation on the draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 and to seek approval of a final version.

Recommendations

2. It is recommended that;
 - (a) The outcome of the consultation on the Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy be noted;
 - (b) The Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 (attached as Appendix B to this report) be approved;
 - (c) The Director of Public Health, following consultation with the Lead Member for Health, be authorised to produce an Implementation Plan to deliver upon the priorities set out in the Strategy.

Reasons for Recommendation

3. The 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. An eight-week public consultation took place from July to September seeking feedback on the draft Strategy. Feedback from the consultation has been incorporated into the final Strategy.
5. The development of an implementation plan, which will deliver upon the priorities set out in the Strategy, will be led by the Director of Public Health and the wider Public Health Team.

Timetable for Decisions (including Scrutiny)

6. On 25 June 2019, the Cabinet approved commencement of an eight-week consultation on the draft Strategy, which ran from July to September 2019.
7. The draft Strategy was considered by the Health and Overview Scrutiny Committee on 11 September 2019 as part of the consultation and a summary of its comments are included in Part B of the report.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

8. 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.
9. The priorities that form the 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.
10. The 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

11. There are no immediate resource implications arising from the Strategy. Any costs will be met via existing resources.

Circulation under the Local Issues Alert Procedure

12. This report will be circulated to all members of the Council.

Officers to Contact

Mike Sandys, Director of Public Health

Tel: 0116 305 4239

email: mike.sandys@leics.gov.uk

Joshna Mavji, Consultant in Public Health

Tel: 0116 305 0113

email: joshna.mavji@leics.gov.uk

PART B

Background

13. 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.
14. 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.
15. 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.
16. A comprehensive Leicestershire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for drug misuse and alcohol misuse in adults was completed by the Health and Wellbeing Board in March 2019. The JSNA highlighted that considerable progress had 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 means there is a need to review the existing approach to substance misuse service provision to ensure the ongoing delivery of appropriate, accessible and equitable services to our local population.
17. The Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 utilises evidence from the JSNA to recognise achievements made thus far across the Council and outlines the key priorities for the next three years (detailed at paragraph 23 of the report) 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 addressing the problems associated with drug and alcohol misuse in Leicestershire.

Consultation on the draft Strategy

18. An eight-week consultation on the draft Strategy took place from 8 July until 2 September 2019. 8 responses were received through an online questionnaire and additional feedback was collated from focus group sessions with

substance misuse service providers and service users. A summary of the consultation responses is included at Appendix A. Respondents included: Adult Social Care Services, University of Hospitals Leicester, district level community safety partnerships, Corporate Services, service providers and service users.

19. The Key findings from the public consultation were;
 - a. Overall the draft Strategy was well received with many reporting it was timely and required in order to help provide focus to substance misuse work across Leicestershire.
 - b. There was substantial support for developing a partnership approach.
 - c. None of the feedback alluded to the priorities being incorrect.
 - d. Some responses mentioned the lack of detail within the draft Strategy and questioned how the priorities would be delivered/achieved. This will be developed as part of an implementation plan which will be produced once the Strategy has been approved.
 - e. Other feedback focused on operational issues at a local level, for example, the need to have supported accommodation, the need to strengthen community outreach services and 1-2-1 support for individuals with substance misuse issues, and the need for systematic monitoring of the health of individuals following recovery. This level of detail will be explored as part of the future work to recommission substance misuse services.

20. Overall the consultation responses supported the Strategy's proposed approach. Based on consultation feedback, some amendments have been made to the detail under each priority:
 - Priority 1 has been amended to consider practitioner training at a local level.
 - Priority 2 has been amended to reflect the benefits of having alcohol care teams within the local hospitals and recognition for a process by which friends/family of those needing help can also seek support.
 - Priority 3 has been amended to consider support for other vulnerable cohorts such as victims of domestic abuse.
 - Priority 4 has been amended to place greater emphasis on physical health consequences as a result of substance misuse and on how to reduce alcohol related harm.
 - Priority 5 has been amended to strengthen the links at a local level to Joint Action Groups and Community Safety Partnerships.

21. The draft strategy was considered by the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee on 11 September. The Committee supported the Strategy and welcomed the feedback received through the consultation which overall had been positive and supported the proposed approach.

22. The Committee noted that in order to address the increasing problem of painkiller abuse, delivery of Priority 1 of the Strategy would include provision to educate people to prevent them becoming addicted to prescription drugs in the first place, whilst Priority 3 of the Strategy would include setting up an

individual treatment service for those addicted to prescription medicine. The Committee also noted that as a result of consultation feedback the draft Strategy had been amended to include further detail on how alcohol problems would be managed, whilst further consideration would be given as to how greater partnership working could take place.

Overview of the Strategy

23. The Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 is appended to this report as Appendix B. There are five priorities that form the Strategy which 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 such as district councils and NHS organisations.
 - 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 three 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.
 - 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.

24. An implementation plan will be developed and led by Public Health to deliver the Strategy. Progress against the implementation plan will be monitored by the Director of Public Health and the Public Health Departmental Management Team. Progress information will also be shared with partners and key stakeholders to ensure alignment across the system.

Equality and Human Rights Implications

25. As part of the development of the final Strategy a screening Equality Human Rights Impact Assessment (EHRIA) has been undertaken to identify equality and human rights issues that needed to be incorporated into the final Strategy. The screening EIHRA concluded that a full EIHRA was not required.

Crime and Disorder Implications

26. 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

27. The draft strategy outlines a partnership approach to managing 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.

Background Papers

Report to the Cabinet 25 June 2019: Draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23 <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 2019 – Strategic Plan 2018 – 22 <http://politics.leics.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=134&MId=5104&Ver=4>

Appendices

Appendix A - Summary of Consultation Responses

Appendix B - Draft Leicestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-23

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