

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD: 23 FEBRUARY 2023**REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH****THE LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND COMBATING
DRUGS AND ALCOHOL PARTNERSHIP****Purpose of report**

1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Health and Wellbeing Board of the progress being made to establish the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership, to oversee local delivery of the National Drugs Strategy.

Recommendation

2. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked:
 - a) To note the content of the report
 - b) To support the arrangements for the LLR Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership and its future work
 - c) To request that Health partners continue to engage in the process of the local delivery of the National Drugs Strategy to ensure joint solutions are developed to address drug and alcohol misuse locally and where appropriate, become members of the LLR Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership.

Policy Framework and Previous Decision

3. The Government's new Drugs Strategy: From Harm to Hope was published in December 2021. The Strategy is a 10-year plan focusing on cutting crime and saving lives through three strategic priorities:
 - a. Breaking drug supply chains
 - b. Delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system
 - c. Achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs
4. The intended outcomes of the work are to:
 - a. Reduce drug use
 - b. Reduce drug-related crime
 - c. Reduce drug-related deaths and harm
5. The work of the partnership aligns with the 'Staying Healthy, Safe and Well' priority of the Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032

Background

6. In response to the Drugs Strategy: From Harm to Hope, the Government has established a Joint Combating Drugs Unit (JCDU) with the ask for local areas to:
 - a. Form a Combating Drugs Partnership to oversee and provide accountability for the strategic priorities listed above
 - b. Confirm the geographical footprint for the partnership
 - c. Identify a Senior Responsible Officer (SRO)
 - d. Conduct a strategic needs assessment which in turn will lead to the development of a local strategy and delivery plan

7. The plan is supported by investment of £3 billion nationally over a 3-year period. This includes the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant which has been provided to all local authorities to deliver improvements to the quality and capacity of local treatment systems. For Leicestershire, this amounts to just under £2m over a 3-year period.

Current Progress

8. A local partnership already exists (LLR Substance Misuse Community Safety Partnership). This will morph into the LLR Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership. Membership of the existing group includes Local Authorities (Public Health, Community Safety, Children & Families), Turning Point, Leicestershire Police, Community Safety Partnerships, HM Prison and Probation Service and the ICB.

9. The current partnership arrangement is heavily weighted towards criminal justice partners. Further work is needed to increase involvement from health partners.

10. The partnership group will report into the Strategic Partnership Board Executive (SPB Exec). This Board provides the system leadership and strategic coordination required to prevent and reduce violence and vulnerability across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. Membership includes: Leicestershire County Council, Leicester City Council, Rutland County Council, Leicestershire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Leicestershire Police, Leicestershire Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Service, Integrated Care Board, University Hospitals Leicester and East Midlands Ambulance Service.

11. It has been agreed that the LLR Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership will cover the geographical areas of Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

12. The role of Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) is being jointly covered by the Directors of Public Health across LLR. The SRO is responsible for ensuring local partners come together to work collectively against a shared local plan that delivers against the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework. The SRO will also report local progress to Government.

13. Each local authority and Leicestershire Police have previously completed strategic needs assessments for their areas. These are being combined to produce an LLR Strategic Needs Assessment.

Next Steps

14. The Terms of Reference, membership and governance structure for the newly formed LLR Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership are being developed based on the needs set out by the JCDU and local need. It is intended that the local partnership will place an equal focus on alcohol as well as drugs, recognising the greater level of alcohol misuse and its impact on health and wellbeing across LLR. Particular focus is being placed on identifying suitable membership from the health sector to ensure representation from all key organisations, and also in ensuring that people with lived experience are involved in the local work.
15. The LLR Strategic Needs Assessment will be finalised with the development of local strategic priorities within the next month. This will be presented to SPB Exec for sign off and will form the basis of the local delivery plan/s.

Resource Implications

16. Delivery of the requirements set out by the JCDU is being undertaken using existing resources.
17. Where grant funding is being made available to local areas, there are specific conditions and expectations in relation to the use of the grant and outcomes expected to be achieved. For example, the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant has been made available to deliver improvements to the quality and capacity of treatment services.

Background papers

From Harm to Hope: A 10 year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1079147/From_harm_to_hope_PDF.pdf

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Relevant Impact Assessments

Equality and Human Rights Implications

18. It is acknowledged that there is a differing impact that alcohol and drug misuse has on some groups of the population, including, but not limited to people with mental health issues and learning disabilities. A key element of this workstream will focus on reducing stigma, and achieving equality, diversity, and inclusion across services.

Crime and Disorder Implications and Environmental Implications

19. The work of the LLR Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership is being jointly led with Leicestershire Police. This is in acknowledgment that the priorities arising from the National Drugs Strategy include a strong focus on criminal justice.

Partnership Working and associated issues

20. Success of the local response to the national Drugs Strategy is dependent on high quality and trusted partnership working. Through developing an alliance approach, it is hoped that further progress can be made across multiagency boundaries to improve the health and wellbeing of the Leicestershire population.
21. The current partnership arrangement is heavily weighted towards criminal justice partners. Further work is needed to increase involvement from health partners.