

LEICESTERSHIRE SAFER COMMUNITIES STRATEGY BOARD**30th JUNE 2023****LSCSB UPDATE: PUBLIC HEALTH, LEICESTERSHIRE COUNTY
COUNCIL****Background**

1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the range of services that the public health department commissions and provides that align with the Board's priorities, namely:
 - a) identify and protect the most vulnerable and those subject to exploitation;
 - b) reduce harm from alcohol and substance misuse;
 - c) increase reporting of domestic abuse and protect the most vulnerable.
2. The contents of the report also support the 'Safe and Well' strategic outcome of the County Council's Strategic Plan 2022-26 and the 'Staying Healthy, Safe and Well' strategic priority of the Leicestershire Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022-2032.

Existing Offer*Domestic Abuse*

3. The current domestic abuse service system consists of:
 - a) Helpline and Engagement Service provided by Free from Violence and Abuse (FreeVa) – commissioned by OPCC for LLR;
 - b) Domestic Abuse Locality Service provided by Living Without Abuse (LWA) – commissioned by Public Health for Leicestershire and Rutland;
 - c) Sexual Violence Support Service provided by FreeVa – commissioned by OPCC for LLR;
 - d) Leicestershire Safe Accommodation Support Service provided by Women's Aid Leicestershire Limited (WALL) – commissioned by LCC Public Health for Leicestershire.
4. Public Health have commissioned a 2-year pilot Domestic Abuse Perpetrator Early Intervention Service. The service provided by RISE Mutual commenced in January 2023. The focus is on targeting those individuals demonstrating some level of risky behaviour within their intimate relationships and offering domestic abuse awareness raising with the aim of addressing abusive behaviour before it becomes entrenched. The project is not a full longer-term behaviour change programme for high harm/high risk perpetrators. It is anticipated that individuals benefitting from the project will be first time offenders and/or those who do not yet recognise their harmful behaviours and the impact on their partners, or those not willing/able to engage in a longer-term programme.

5. The Domestic Abuse and Housing Alliance (DAHA) mission is to improve the housing sector's response to domestic abuse through the introduction and adoption of an established set of standards and an accreditation process. The proposal was presented to the Chief Housing Officers Group in 2021 with agreement in principle for work to commence. Although there have been challenges to the accreditation being achieved, work completed includes a new training development plan for all front-line officers and an internal e-learning training offer. The intention is for the benefits of this accreditation to be captured through future partnerships.

Mental Health

6. Start a Conversation (<https://www.startaconversation.co.uk/>) is a suicide prevention campaign that aims to build a community that is committed to the mental health and wellbeing of its residents. It provides a non-judgmental environment where care and support are available to those in distress or those bereaved or affected by suicide. As well as advice and guidance on a range of wider issues, such as debt advice or relationship difficulties; Start a Conversation also commissions a range of services to directly support individuals across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland. These include:
 - a) Tomorrow Project – specialist suicide bereavement service;
 - b) Harmless All-Age Self-Harm Service;
 - c) DistrACT – an app designed to improve early access to evidence-based information about self-harm and personal first aid.
7. Start a Conversation delivered a successful world suicide prevention day conference in February, where partners from across LLR came together to take time to talk about normalising conversations around suicide and empowering local communities and individuals to have the confidence and competence to act on preventing suicide.
8. Integrated Care Board (ICB) funding earmarked for mental health prevention and resilience at a neighbourhood level has been accessed by LCC to offer as grant funding. Neighbourhoods were encouraged to prioritise the mental health concerns of their residents and gain grant funding through 'Neighbourhood Mental Health Prevention and Resilience grant funded programmes', for effective initiatives to prevent and combat these mental health concerns. Neighbourhoods were encouraged to put forward evidence-based solutions of mental health prevention and resilience. Currently, there are ten different initiatives which have received funding across Leicestershire. Successful applications can be found at the following link: <https://www.leicestershirecommunities.org.uk/uploads/successful-applications.pdf?v=1684839019>

Substance Misuse

9. Following publication of the national 10 year drugs strategy – From Harm to Hope, an LLR Combating Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Partnership has been established which mirrors the membership of the Strategic Partnership Board Exec and is chaired by the Directors of Public Health across LLR. An LLR Drug and Alcohol

Operational Partnership has also been setup to drive forward joint priorities across LLR. Work is still underway to develop an approach to working with place-specific (Leicestershire) and neighbourhood level (district and borough) organisations while trying to minimise the need to create additional groups/boards.

10. The Integrated Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Service works in partnership with Dear Albert, Falcon Support Services and Age UK to provide the following offer:
 - a) **My Turning Point** - a digital treatment tool that provides 24/7 access to a range of guided and self-help sessions that can help with drug and alcohol use, as well as emotional health and other wellbeing issues.
 - b) **Alcohol and wellbeing programmes** – designed to help individuals cut down or stop drinking.
 - c) **Opiate Substitute Prescribing** – Aimed at those dependent on opiate drugs such as heroin. The offer involves clinical interventions that sit alongside a programme of talking therapies and recovery support.
 - d) **Reclaim** - This is designed to support people who are using drugs to help develop the skills and commitment to make positive changes to their drug use.
 - e) **Young People’s Service** – A dedicated Young People’s team that works with all under 18s (and those aged up to 25 where required) at a location suited to the young person. The team supports young people to make changes to their drug and alcohol use. The team also supports young people affected by someone else’s substance use.
 - f) **Family and Friends Support** - Offers support to family and friends even if the individual with a drug or alcohol problem isn’t accessing treatment services.
 - g) **Last Orders Project** – This project helps those over 50 to learn more about their drinking and how it affects their life and provides support to make positive changes.
 - h) **Community detoxification service**
 - i) **Access to inpatient detoxification services**
 - j) **Access to residential rehabilitation services**
 - k) **Harm reduction support** via district wide drop-in sessions in partnership with Falcon Support Services.
 - l) **Access to recovery support**

11. Additional funding from the Integrated Care Board has been made available to deliver a dual diagnosis offer, providing specialist and intensive support to individuals with co-occurring mental health and substance misuse issues.

12. The Public Health department is leading on the implementation of a multi-agency LLR Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths Review Panel, to prevent and/or reduce future drug and alcohol related deaths by reviewing drug and alcohol related deaths and near misses, determining modifiable risk factors, identifying patterns and shared learning and advocating and actioning change.

13. The Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) has provided supplemental funding to all local authorities across the country to enhance substance misuse treatment provision over the next 3 years. The proposal for

Leicestershire focuses on enhanced work with underserved communities, naloxone provision through the Police, enhanced capacity to support Police and Court custody assessments to improve pathways into treatment, and increased capacity for young person support.

14. Public Health is a responsible authority with regards to alcohol licensing applications. Relationships are being strengthened with licensing authorities across Leicestershire and Rutland, including attendance at the LLR Licensing Forum meetings, input into Statement of Licensing of Policies and identification of public health data to support the review of applications.

Trauma informed practice

15. Barnardo's will continue to deliver the trauma informed practice training beyond June 2023 as well as developing a trauma informed practice toolkit for midwives and health visitors. A Trauma Informed Schools Officer will work with up to 6 schools to support in adopting a trauma informed practice approach.

Teen Health 11-19 service - <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/schools-colleges-and-academies/teen-health-11-19>

16. The Public Health department is working with the Children & Family Wellbeing Service to provide front-line staff within the Teen Health Service the training and resources needed to enhance understanding of conflict versus domestic abuse. A longer-term goal is to embed evidence-based groupwork and direct interventions as part of the offer within secondary schools and the community.

Probation Health Trainers Service

17. The Probation Health Trainers Service is a specialised service training ex-offenders to provide initial support and advice on a range of health and wellbeing issues to individuals who are part of the criminal justice system or recently released from prison.

Coming Year

Domestic Abuse

18. Public Health is supporting Children and Family Services in the procurement of dispersed safe accommodation services from DA Act funding. This will address the gaps in service provision identified by the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment.

Healthy Relationships

19. The Public Health department is currently procuring a whole family relationship service. This service will provide wrap around early help and preventative support

for families to become resilient, addressing the issue of parental conflict and improving the lives of children and young people experiencing this. The service will look to work with secondary schools and pre- and post-natal services, as well as be aligned to Leicestershire's trauma informed practice work.

Mental Health

20. Start A Conversation will be building on the brand, and widening elements of the campaign to include messaging around mental health, developing resources, re-designing the website, and developing an e-learning suicide awareness package.
21. The LLR Suicide Audit and Prevention Group are working in partnership with the National Suicide Prevention Alliance and have recruited and are currently training 10 Lived Experience Network Volunteers. These individuals with lived experience of suicide and mental health challenges will play an integral role in influencing suicide prevention policy and practice at all levels
22. The coming year will see the launch of Mental Health Friendly Places, equipping trusted communities, places and neighbourhoods with training and resources to help support starting a conversation, recognising what good mental health looks like and where to get support if needed

Recommendations for the Board

23. It is recommended that:
 - (a) The Board notes the content of the report;
 - (b) Board members raise awareness of these services within their organisations and seek opportunities for further partnership working

Officer to Contact

Joshna Mavji – Consultant in Public Health
Public Health, Leicestershire County Council
Tel: 0116 305 0113
Email: Joshna.Mavji@leics.gov.uk

This page is intentionally left blank