

TITLE OF REPORT: Substance Misuse Strategy and Plan for Gateshead

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek endorsement of the Substance Misuse Strategy 2017-2022 and Action Plan for Gateshead.

Background

Substance Misuse Strategy 2017-2022

- 2.1 The Substance Misuse Strategy has been finalised following a thorough consultation process and extensive partnership engagement. The strategy has joined the two issues of drug misuse and alcohol misuse due to the many similarities in the actions required to address this agenda. The joint approach is highlighted by the shared aims and objectives below.

- **REDUCE DEMAND / PREVENTION ACROSS THE LIFE COURSE**

Aim: To ensure that a coordinated 'whole family' approach is taken for initiatives working with children, young people, working age, older people, individuals, families and communities, protecting those most affected by substance misuse.

- **REDUCE SUPPLY PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBILITY**

Aim: To ensure all sections of the trade promote responsible retailing to support a reduction in substance misuse-related harm. To mitigate the role of substance misuse in fuelling crime, anti-social behaviour, violence and domestic abuse.

- **BUILD RECOVERY / HEALTH AND WELLBEING SERVICES**

Aim: To ensure an evidence based 'health and wellbeing' focused prevention, treatment and recovery approach is employed to address the needs of service users and their families experiencing alcohol related issues.

- 2.2 Although an integrated strategy has been developed, it is acknowledged that some distinctively different approaches are also required to address drug and alcohol harm. Alcohol requires a population approach to address availability, acceptability and safer use. Substance misuse relates to a more specific client group and has a greater crime and disorder focus. This strategy has two chapters; Alcohol and Drugs, to outline the specific work relating to each area.
- 2.3 The need for high level, strategic action was also identified which has been incorporated within the final strategy document. A multi-agency Implementation Plan is currently being developed which will sit underneath the Substance Misuse Strategy and provide a detailed breakdown of how partners will take forward key actions to deliver the objectives of the strategy.

- 2.4 A full copy of the final Substance Misuse Strategy for Gateshead is attached to this report. Key changes/additions made since the first draft strategy was considered by the Board in July 2016 include:
- The new Chief Medical Officers low-risk drinking guidelines and the need to raise public awareness of these revised levels;
 - Increased recognition of the Carers' role and needs in supporting those who misuse substances;
 - Further detail of the contribution of the Making Every Contact Count programme;
 - A commitment to explore the possibility of pooled budgets and joint commissioning of services;
 - The actions arising from the joint Health and Wellbeing and Community Safety Board meeting.
- 2.5 The Substance Misuse Strategy Group will prepare quarterly reports to track progress against the outcomes and indicators set out in this strategy, with remedial action being taken by partners in areas where there is under-performance or blockages.

Recommendations

2. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
- Endorse the Substance Misuse Strategy and Action Plan for Gateshead for the period 2017- 2022;
 - Receive, challenge and scrutinise update reports as required;
 - Take appropriate action to enable the Strategy Group to deliver the outcomes of the strategy, when issues arise.

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