
TITLE OF REPORT: Substance Misuse Group – Revised Terms of Reference and Work Plan 2015/16

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks endorsement from the Health and Wellbeing Board in relation to the revised Terms of Reference and Annual Workplan 2015/16 that has been produced for the Substance Misuse Group. It also provides an overview of the work that continues to take place in relation to the Substance Misuse Strategy.

Background

2. The use and misuse of illicit drugs and alcohol is a significant cross-cutting factor, and remains an influencing factor in a significantly high proportion of crime and disorder incidents, and more often than not, the links between the two substances are closely intertwined.
3. In September 2013, the separate Drug and Alcohol Strategy Groups were merged to become the Substance Misuse Strategy Group. The Community Safety Board decided to join the two Groups to ensure that we could address broader issues associated with substance misuse, as a whole, and enabled partners and services not to be constrained to actions around a particular substance type. The Group has started to develop a single overarching Substance Misuse Strategy that will set out actions to collectively address both drug and alcohol misuse.

Terms of Reference

4. The Terms of Reference for the Substance Misuse Strategy Group have been revised for 2015/16. The overarching purpose of the Group is to produce and deliver an aspirational and ambitious vision for addressing drug and alcohol-related issues within Gateshead (on behalf of both the Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing Boards).
5. The role of the Group is to identify and address current and future substance misuse issues impacting on the Borough and, more specifically, is responsible for the development and implementation of the Substance Misuse Strategy in Gateshead.
6. The Group has representation from a broad range of organisations (including Northumbria Police, Treatment Services, Job Centre Plus, Probation Services, The Gateshead Housing Company as well as Public Health England and Balance). In addition, there is also a plethora of internal Council services in attendance (including Community Safety, Public Health, Licensing, Trading Standards, Children's Services and Housing).
7. In January 2015, the chairing arrangements changed from Northumbria Police to Gateshead Council – and as such, we now have alternating chairs between Community Safety and Public Health.

8. The full Terms of Reference has been set out in Appendix 1.

Work Plan for 2015/16

9. In conjunction with the revised Terms of Reference, an Annual Work Plan for 2015/16 has also been produced. This has been drafted in collaboration with partners to ensure that we are proactively addressing a range of issues linked with drug and alcohol misuse. This includes reviewing work undertaken to: address the growing trend of Novel Psychoactive Substances, refresh of the Council's Licensing Policy, updates from Drug-related Death Panel, Reducing Supply Group and treatment services as well as activities developed to tackle alcohol-related violence.
10. The Annual Work Plan has been included as Appendix 2.

Substance Misuse Strategy Update

11. In November 2014 the Community Safety Board endorsed a new approach in relation to the Substance Misuse Strategy. It agreed that in order to effect change in the long-term, a wider population approach was needed, which would address the culture and social norms around drinking and drug use. As a result, the Board agreed for a new, visionary strategy to be developed, that would include actions over the next fifteen-years (to 2030).
12. A consultation event was held with partners in March 2015 to start discussion on the development of the new Substance Misuse Strategy. This resulted in a range of challenging outcomes being identified. It was agreed that this was needed to test the way that we think about drug and alcohol misuse and to help us to identify radical actions to be able to achieve our goals.
13. The key outcomes that we have set out to achieve by 2030 are:
- To reduce alcohol-related mortality for both men and women to 0
 - To reduce alcohol-related violent crime to 0
 - To reduce OCU (Opiate and/or Crack Use) to 0
14. In order to achieve the outcomes identified above, actions will be identified at a population, community and individual-level linked with the following themes:
- Communication, Media and Publicity (Engagement)
 - Prevention and Diversionary Activities
 - Education and Social Change
 - Support for Individuals, Families and Carers
 - Tougher Stance (Enforcement)
15. Representatives from Community Safety, Public Health and Development and Enterprise are meeting to produce the draft Substance Misuse Strategy and Action Plan, based on the themes and outcomes identified above, which will be submitted to Community Safety and Health and Wellbeing Board for approval.

Recommendations

16. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:
- (i) Discuss and comment on the contents of the report;
 - (ii) Endorse the revised Terms of Reference and Annual Work Plan;
 - (iii) Agree to receive the draft Substance Misuse Strategy at a future meeting.

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