

TITLE OF REPORT: Northumbria Combating Drugs Partnership

Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this paper is to provide an overview of the local arrangements in response to the national requirement to establish Local Combating Drugs Partnerships (LCDP). This paper relates to the 6 local authority areas within the Northumbria Police Force area. Other areas across the Northeast are developing separate similar proposals.

How does the report support Gateshead's Health & Wellbeing Strategy?

2. The report supports Gateshead's Health and Wellbeing Strategy by describing how key partners within the Northumbria force area will be coming together to form a Local Combating Drugs Partnership (LCDP) with the aim of reducing the scale and impact of substance misuse

Background

3. Chief Executives and Directors of Public Health received notification from government on 15 June 2022 of the requirement to establish new Local Combating Drugs Partnerships on a 'local' basis. In determining the geographic footprint of the partnership local authorities have been encouraged work together across a wider footprint to create a shared arrangement which improves integration and makes it easier for the police and probation for example to serve a partnership at a senior level. This LCDP arrangement comes from the governments ten government's 10-year drug strategy "From Harm to Hope" and is the formal response to the Independent Reviews of Drugs led by Dame Carol Black (2021).
4. There are 3 key strands to this strategy: breaking drug supply chains; delivering world class treatment and recovery and achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs. The strategy has been followed with additional drug and alcohol treatment funding to each local authority DPH, with indicative amounts also set to March 2025.
5. The publication of the guidance on 15 June sets a framework for LCDPs with new Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) as well as the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework. It also sets out clear deadlines for local areas to confirm the following by 1st August 2022:
 - The footprint of the partnership.
 - A local SRO who should chair the partnership and be responsible for reporting to central government on local cross-cutting delivery against the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework, alongside their own specific organisational objectives.

- Partnership lead
- Public Involvement lead
- Data and digital lead
- Names and contacts of others who have agreed the proposed geographical area and SRO:
 - LA Chief Executive
 - LA DPH
 - LA Elected Member
 - PCC
 - Regional Probation Director
 - Integrated Care Board Chief Executive

6. The first meeting and sign off for the terms of reference is then expected by end September 2022 with a joint needs assessment November 2022, and outcomes framework by December 2022.

Outcomes include the following:

National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework Our ambition: a safer, healthier and more productive society by combating illicit drugs	
What we will deliver for citizens (strategic outcomes)	Measured by:
 Reducing drug use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proportion of the population reporting drug use in the last year (reported by age) prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use
 Reducing drug-related crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of drug-related homicides the number of neighbourhood crimes
 Reducing drug-related deaths and harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> deaths related to drug misuse hospital admissions for drug poisoning and drug-related mental health and behavioural disorders (primary diagnosis of selected drugs)
What will help us deliver this (intermediate outcomes)	Measured by:
 Reducing drug supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of county lines closed the number of moderate and major disruptions against organised criminals
 Increasing engagement in drug treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the numbers in treatment (both adults and young people, reported by opiate and crack users, other drugs, and alcohol) continuity of care – engagement with treatment within three weeks of leaving prison
 Improving drug recovery outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proportion who are in stable accommodation and who have completed treatment, are drug-free in treatment, or have sustained reduction in drug use <p>Key additional components integral to recovery include housing, mental health, and employment</p>

Proposal

7. Chief Executives, DsPH, Northumbria Police, the probation service and the Office of the PCC have agreed that a force wide combatting drugs partnership will be established covering 6 local authorities, supporting the enforcement, drug supply and criminal justice focused outcomes.
8. Paul Hanson Chief Executive of North Tyneside Council has been nominated as the lead chief executive, Alice Wiseman, DPH in Gateshead has been nominated as the Senior Responsible Officer and Kim McGuiness PCC has agreed to chair the partnership.
9. There is no allocated funding for the establishment or coordination of NCDP however Newcastle City Council have offered to be partnership and data lead, with initial support for administration and business support, intelligence and data processes utilising ADDER resources and arrangements (ADDER is the national Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery programme which has led to additional investment for Newcastle as an identified area, with outcomes to reduce drug prevalence, drug deaths and drug supply). Arrangements have been in place between public health and Northumbria Police

including information sharing agreements and an analyst hub which is already reviewing some of this data) to March 2023 to help coordinate, administer, and establish the NCDP – a proposal for which needs to be in place before end September 2022.

10. The first meeting and sign off for the terms of reference for the Northumbria Combating Drugs Partnership (NCDP) has been approved and will be held on the 4th October (due to diary availability). It is then expected a joint needs assessment will be developed by the end of November 2022, and outcomes framework by December 2022 in line with national deadlines. This timeline runs parallel with local authorities planning against the new Substance Misuse Treatment Grant, which will be in place for 2023 to 2025.
11. Further work will be required to develop governance and links with other boards and partnerships (not limited to existing local and regional drug and alcohol partnerships which will retain accountability for the broader agenda and local planning; Community Safety and ASB partnerships, Health and Wellbeing Boards).
12. Whilst the NCDP is being developed, local authorities will also develop local partnerships that will link to the partnership in the force wide footprint with the aim being to coordinate and operationalise local action. Public health will retain responsibility for the strategic oversight of the agenda and local implementation of the national strategy, as well as the budget and localised delivery (including against the breadth of the performance outcomes). Each public health teams' drug and alcohol lead will be working on this area and will be involving and updating local elected members in these discussions.

Recommendations

13. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to consider how it would like to be kept updated with the progress from the Northumbria Combating Drugs Partnership.

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