



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Report

Meeting Date	18th January 2024			
Title of report	Drug and Alcohol Strategic Programme Update			
This report is for (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations	Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception)	x	Information only (No recommendations)
Reporting Officer & email	Gordon Kochane Gordon.kochane@shropshire.gov.uk Public Health Consultant, Inclusion & Vulnerable People Paula Mawson Paula.Mawson@shropshire.gov.uk Assistant Director, Integration & Healthy Population			
Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply	Children & Young People		Joined up working	
	Mental Health		Improving Population Health	x
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity		Working with and building strong and vibrant communities	x
	Workforce		Reduce inequalities (see below)	x
What inequalities does this report address?	Tackles inequalities faced by vulnerable citizens who suffer from drug and alcohol dependency.			

Report content - Please expand content under these headings or attach your report ensuring the three headings are included.

1. Executive Summary

This report provides an update to the Health & Wellbeing Board on the substance misuse strategic programme for Shropshire. This includes updates for:

- SSCP Tackling Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Partnership Strategic Action Plan
- The RESET project
- Improving outcomes for people with co-occurring needs
- Drug and Alcohol Death Review panels
- Drug Information System and Professional Information Network
- Drug and Alcohol Strategy
- Locally commissioned drug and alcohol service developments

2. Report Recommendations

Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

- Note the updates regarding the substance misuse operational workstreams
- Review the attached draft Tackling Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Strategic Action Plan and to feedback comments
- Provide support, suggestions and challenge to programme plans as presented to the Board.

3. Main Report

Tackling Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Strategic Action Plan

The multi-agency Tackling Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Partnership Strategic Action Plan is currently being updated to align partner work programmes with local priorities identified from the substance misuse JSNA, ambitions within the Drug and Alcohol Strategy and wider regional and national outcomes and themes. It is delivered through the Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership priority group for Tackling Drugs and Alcohol.

The Strategic Action Plan structure is being developed based on the three key themes linked to the national strategy (From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives) along with reference to the outcomes and metrics in the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework.

A draft copy of the Action Plan is attached to this paper for the Board's review and feedback prior to finalisation. The outcomes of the Strategic Action Plan are to:

1. Reduce drug use and the supply of drugs in Shropshire
2. Reduce drug related crime (including re-offending), drug offences and related violence
3. Reduce drug related harms and deaths
4. Increase engagement in drug and alcohol treatments
5. Improve drug recovery outcomes including long-term recovery
6. Prevent demand for drugs by children, young people & young adults to achieve a generational shift
7. Embed lived experience within the design, delivery and evaluation of the Action Plan

As a summary, the Plan includes themes around:

- **Breaking the drug supply chains** via
 - Measures to reduce drug use - including opiates and crack, alcohol dependency, supporting rough sleepers and homeless people with a drug dependency need and children & young people with drugs as an assessed factor
 - Reduced drug related crime - including links to drug related homicide, neighbourhood crime, trafficking and possession and drug related violence.
 - Reduced drug supply - through enhanced intelligence linked to County lines, measures to disrupt organised crime and enhancing intelligence to support drug seizures

- **Deliver a world class treatment and recovery system** via
 - Increased engagement in treatment – through reduced waiting times, inclusion of people with lived experience in development and implementation of the plan, enhancing links between substance misuse services and community teams as well as wider determinant risk offers (such as welfare support), further development of outreach support services, continuity of care for those linked to criminal justice and ensuring continued support from custody to community
 - Improved recovery outcomes – development of a lived experience forum to support commissioning and planning of services, improved joint working protocols to better safeguard individuals at high risk and with complex care needs, enhancing links with physical health support, measures to increase number of people completing treatment successfully and not re-presenting and increasing number of people diagnosed with Hepatitis C accessing treatment, programmes to promote stable accommodation to facilitate successful treatment, stronger links with employment and individual placement and support (IPS) and programmes to support young people to stop or reduce substance misuse
 - Reduced drug related deaths and harm – through utilisation of multi-agency learning from deaths and near miss overdose, embedding of a local drug information system (LDIS) and professional information network (PIN), enhancing pathways between acute settings and substance misuse treatment

- **Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs** via
 - School based prevention – including design and implementation of a drug and alcohol toolkit to safeguard CYP from exploitation through multi-agency working and health awareness campaigns to raise awareness of drug/alcohol harms and promote healthy lifestyle choices
 - Support for young people and families most at risk – enhanced co-ordination of support for carers, promotion of early identification of harm risk related to drug/alcohol use, targeted support, exploration of dedicated training to support families and workforce education (particularly in community hubs and Early Help services) to increase knowledge and understanding of substance misuse and family impact.

To support monitoring of the impact of the drug and alcohol strategic plan a data dashboard is being developed which will align with the national drug strategy outcome's framework indicators for the drug strategy delivery. This data set will be reviewed at the bi-monthly partnership meetings and the key performance measures will be reported on as part of future updates to this board.

[Drugs strategy national outcomes framework - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/drugs-strategy-national-outcomes-framework)

Collectively the strategic action plan and the data dashboard will ensure that the recommendations of the drug and alcohol needs assessment completed in 2022 are achieved (link available below).

[Drugs and alcohol | Shropshire Council](#)

Supplemental Substance Misuse Drug and Alcohol Grant

In line with delivery of the national drug strategy, public health services have received an additional allocation of ring-fenced funding to improve the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services in their area. The current allocation has enabled us to fund a criminal justice team to improve referrals and treatment diversion for individuals in the criminal justice system. Discussions are now ongoing in relation to the next round of funding with draft plans to be submitted to OHID (Office of Health Improvement & Disparities) for approval in readiness for delivery during the 2024-25 financial year.

Regional Combating Drugs Partnership

In addition to the Shropshire Tackling Drugs and Alcohol Misuse programme of work, the West Mercia Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) is developing a regional delivery plan to drive local activity that aligns with the national outcomes' framework. The Shropshire priorities identified within the Tackling Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Strategic Action Plan will be fed into this group.

We recognise opportunities of the CDP to support with addressing wider challenges such as access to wider data sets (including from the Ambulance Service and Emergency Departments) to guide planning and review progress as well as working broader to address shared challenges.

RESET

The RESET programme was launched in 2023 following a successful bid for funding via the Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant (RSDATG) to improve outcomes for rough sleepers and those at risk of rough sleeping with focus on a MDT approach to substance misuse, mental health, domestic abuse, housing support and adult social care. Rough sleeping is increasing at a national level, and this is being seen locally in Shropshire also, with many rough sleepers have a range of complex needs.

The team is made up of Shropshire Council, With You at Shropshire Recovery Partnership, Midlands Partnership Foundation University Trust, Shropshire Domestic Abuse Service, the Shrewsbury Ark and Intuitive Thinking Skills. The programme provides opportunities to improve access into treatment services for rough sleepers which otherwise can often be complicated by changes in their personal circumstances.

There have been 71 referrals into RESET between 1st April 2023 and 30th September 2023 with the majority accessing via substance misuse services and self-referral. The peak age range of RESET clients during 2023 is 30-34 years followed by 40-44 years.

Examples of impact to date include:

- Case Study 1: The person came to Shrewsbury a year ago and was living on the streets throughout that time whilst using crack and heroin. The person had limited contact with their daughter and parents had lost hope. They joined RESET in 2023 and everything changed, with the person accessing a methadone script and shortly was able to access buvidal injection to treat dependence for opioids. The person felt supported by the RESET team who were in constant contact and now has a roof over their head. They feel better, happier in

themselves and hoping to get their own place, a job and car. They now have a great relationship with their daughter and parents.

- Case Study 2: The person reported the RESET team helped get them off the streets into temporary accommodation and helped with mental health needs. The RESET team were always there when the person needed to talk and came to check on them when not seen for a few days. The RESET teams were always asking around to get proper accommodation and helped the person when they got a job, including access to a bike (along with funding to cover cost of a bike safety servicing) so the person did not have to walk 2 miles to work and back.

A learning event for RESET stakeholders is being organised for early 2024 to review the first year of operations and agree plans to progress delivery for 2024/25.

Improving care and outcomes for people with co-occurring needs

It is very common for people to experience problems with their alcohol / drug use and mental health (co-occurring conditions) at the same time. Research shows that mental health problems are experienced by the majority of drug (70%) and alcohol users (86%) receiving community substance misuse treatment. However, research indicates that people with co-occurring needs can find it difficult to receive the right care at the right time. Death by suicide is also common, with a history of alcohol or drug use being recorded in 54% of all suicides in people experiencing mental health problems (Public Health England, 2017). It is also common for domestic abuse, both as victims and perpetrators, to be an additional issue impacting on people's lives. To respond to this a Task Finish group has been established, led by Public Health, with representatives of substance misuse, mental health and domestic abuse providers to further enhance joint working between these providers to ensure clients receive the best possible care and outcomes. The Task Finish Group is currently reviewing evidence of good practice and guidance regionally and nationally to inform the development of joint working protocols between providers that will build on the good practice that is in place locally.

Ensuring the physical health needs and inequalities for people with drug and alcohol issues are addressed is a further area of focus for 2024-25. Discussions are ongoing with ICB colleagues and with Shrewsbury and Telford Hospitals NHS Trust to agree key actions to be moved forward as part of the strategic action plan.

Drug and Alcohol Death Review Panel

A new drug and alcohol deaths review panel has been established to thematically review recent deaths and identify learning and recommendations for system improvements, to mitigate similar risks occurring in the future. The first test and learn panel was held in November 2023 and included partners who had signed and returned an ISA for data sharing. Further panels will be held bi-monthly until end of financial year to allow the panel to refine and adapt the process before plans to move to a quarterly panel in 2024/25.

The intention will be for the Panel process and identification of cases will be supported through the investment in a Real Time Surveillance system for recording drug and alcohol death information and suspected suicide information, which also provides an analytical tool to identify emerging themes and patterns. A new Real Time Surveillance post is being explored to manage this process and who would support DARD and suicide review work across both Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin.

Shropshire Drug Information System and Professional Information Network

In line with the Drug Alerts and Local Drug Information guidance issued by Public Health England (now OHID) in 2016, Shropshire has been reviewing its own system in order to use consistent and efficient processes for sharing and assessing information and issuing warnings (or drug alerts) where needed. This can help to ensure high-quality, effective information rapidly reaches the right people, and subsequently reducing drug related death and harm. All communications are agreed with the police prior to issuing to ensure appropriate join up of messaging.

For example, this channel of communication has been used recently to inform local agencies of the national concerns around synthetic opioids (particularly nitazenes) identified in some supplies of

heroin and illicit tablets nationally, to be aware of potential local risk symptoms and response recommendations (including use of naloxone to temporarily reverse the effects of an opioid overdose). Nitazenes can have a high potency and substantially increase risk of overdose, hospitalisation and death. We have been working with partners to enhance surveillance and testing of samples as well as with our substance misuse provider to support with messaging and advice.

Drug and Alcohol Strategy

It is noted that since the draft version of the Shropshire Drug and Alcohol Strategy was previously developed, a Substance Misuse JSNA has been undertaken and the national Strategy (From harm to hope: a 10-year drug plan to cut crime and save lives) has been published.

As such a refresh of the Shropshire Strategy is planned during 2024/25 which will reflect these priorities and recommendations. The draft of this Strategy will be presented to the Board for endorsement in due course.

Locally commissioned drug and alcohol services developments

Drug and alcohol community treatment and recovery services are delivered across Shropshire by With You, working as part of the Shropshire Recovery Partnership with in-patient detox services, residential-rehab services, GPs, Pharmacies and a range of other services, including voluntary and community services. During the course of 2023, the community drug and alcohol service has particularly worked to:

- set up community hubs to see clients across Shropshire. This has enabled clients to have access to a nurse, prescriber and key worker without having to travel to Shrewsbury, with hubs available in Oswestry, Ludlow, Bridgnorth, Market Drayton and Whitchurch.
- develop integrated working with Enable, to deliver the Individual Placement and Support employment model for people with substance misuse needs. This provision is fully integrated into the core service, and supports clients back into work, available across the services in Shropshire. Additional funding for this provision was provided to Enable a year ahead of schedule by OHID (Office of Health Improvement and Disparities) as part of national roll out of the IPS model for substance misuse inline with the national drug strategy ambitions.
- strengthen the focus on involving people with lived experience with a service user forum established providing clients with opportunities to influence how their service is run.
- enhance the recovery community across Shropshire with three group workers delivering a full timetable of group provision offered across Shropshire. This includes friends and family support groups. Group work includes a focus on wellbeing and developing skills to move forward positively with their lives post treatment, including supporting clients to make stronger connections with their local community and developing links with a wide range of organisations covering a whole range of topics including fishing, cycling, leisure, natural heritage and local allotments. For some clients the focus on recovery has included undertaking training and qualifications which has boosted their confidence and self-belief. Groups are offered in-person and virtual with a mix of times during the day and evenings to maximise access, covering topics such as Smart Recovery, Maintaining Change, Relapse Prevention, Friends and Family Group Art, & Walking amongst others.
- review the distribution and training for Naloxone. This has exceeded set targets and has risen from an average of 15 distributions per month to 80 per month. Partners have also received training on how to give out naloxone with the right advice.
- Achieved stretch targets for successful completions for opiates placing the service within the top quartile regionally.
- Continued to deliver the Young People's service, offering under 18s the space to consider their drug and alcohol use and to get advice, and set goals to reduce or stop. Support is also offered to anyone concerned about another's drug or alcohol use.
- During Quarter 2 of 2023-25, 50 young people were engaged in treatment, with the service achieving 100% attendance rate for appointments, and no waiting list. Cannabis remains the drug of choice for young people.
- Partnership work to ensure our young people are safeguarded from the harms of drug use is continuing to strengthen. This includes joint working with Shrewsbury College's Group where, for example, With You have attended student induction days, and provided training on the

drug and alcohol service for the college's designated safeguarding lead staff. With You also regularly attend the Cleobury Mortimer Family Information Drop-In service. There is a member of the With You team working one day per as part of the Trees Exploitation team. Alcohol use is particularly the significant drug used by young people who present to Emergency Departments across Shropshire.

For information about With You services in Shropshire, please see:

[Shropshire - With You \(wearewithyou.org.uk\)](http://wearewithyou.org.uk)

Telephone 01743 294700

Hepatitis C micro-elimination

NHS England implemented a national hepatitis C (HCV) elimination programme to eliminate HCV before 2030. HCV is one of the main causes of liver disease in England. In December 2023, our local provider With You reported Shropshire has achieved micro-elimination of the hepatitis C virus. This means:

- 100% of clients in structured treatment have been offered a hepatitis C test
- 100% of those with a history of injecting have been tested
- 90% of current and previous injectors (at risk) have a hepatitis C test date within the last 12 months
- 90% of clients who've tested positive for hepatitis have completed or commenced treatment

Further work is still planned to include monthly Q&A drop-in surgeries for staff and to reach clients in rural locations through outreach programmes as well as continuation of the testing programme to sustain the micro-elimination status and strive towards complete elimination of HCV.

Inspiring Team Award

The With You Shropshire Drug and Alcohol team have been awarded the Inspiring Team Award from the National With You Recognition Awards – this means they go above and beyond for service users, have increased successful completions and hit targets over the last 3 months. The Awards highlighted the team are open to change and happy to discuss solutions and new ideas, and they are seen as a model of good practice for the With You nationally.

<p>Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal (NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)</p>	<p>This paper presents an update on the strategic substance misuse programme focused on improving outcomes and lives for some of Shropshire's most vulnerable residents. In so doing, it will support delivery of the Shropshire Plan, ICP Strategy, HWBB Strategy, Shropshire Inequalities Plan and Safeguarding Partnership Priorities.</p>	
<p>Financial implications (Any financial implications of note)</p>	<p>Current investment in drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services to be maintained. Note additional funding received through SSMTR and RSDATG. Public Health England conducted a value for money exercise which demonstrated every £1 invested in treatment generated between £3 and £7 of savings elsewhere in the system.</p>	
<p>Climate Change Appraisal as applicable</p>		
<p>Where else has the paper been presented?</p>	<p>System Partnership Boards</p>	
	<p>Voluntary Sector</p>	
	<p>Other</p>	

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)

Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Portfolio holders can be found [here](#) or your organisational lead e.g., Exec lead or Non-Exec/Clinical Lead

Rachel Robinson – Executive Director, Health, Wellbeing and Prevention

Cllr Cecilia Motley – Portfolio Holder for Adult Social Care, Public Health & Communities

Appendices

Appendix A - Drug and Alcohol Strategic Plan January 2024