



SHROPSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD Report

Meeting Date	19 th March 2026			
Title of report	Shropshire Drug and Alcohol Update			
This report is for (You will have been advised which applies)	Discussion and agreement of recommendations	x	Approval of recommendations (With discussion by exception)	Information only (No recommendations)
Reporting Officer & email	Shaun Morris, Drug and Alcohol Strategic Commissioning Lead Shaun.morris1@shropshire.gov.uk			
Which Joint Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities does this report address? Please tick all that apply	Children & Young People	X	Joined up working	X
	Mental Health	X	Improving Population Health	X
	Healthy Weight & Physical Activity		Working with and building strong and vibrant communities	
	Workforce		Reduce inequalities (see below)	
What inequalities does this report address?				
Report content				
<p>1. Executive Summary</p> <p>This report provides an overview of drug and alcohol treatment activity in Shropshire, set against national and West Midlands trends, using NDTMS data, alongside key local developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult treatment numbers have increased over time and Shropshire has exceeded its 2025/26 ambition, with a provisional 1,714 adults in treatment. • Young people’s referrals have also risen recently, reflecting national trends, although Shropshire is marginally below its ambition (114 against 117). • In line with national patterns, adult treatment shows a rising proportion of alcohol and cocaine use and a decline in opiate use, with alcohol accounting for a particularly high proportion in Shropshire. • Among young people, cannabis remains the most common substance but is declining faster than nationally, while alcohol-related treatment is increasing locally, unlike regional and national trends. • Treatment exits and successful completions for both adults and young people have increased, likely reflecting higher referral volumes. Adult treatment outcomes are comparable with national performance, with 46.59% showing substantial progress. <p>Key activity will be undertaken in the coming months and local updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of the Drug and Alcohol JSNA in March 2026 • Preparations for recommissioning the core service to be tendered in Summer 2026 and to begin April 2027, with considerations around how RESET will form this future offer • Successful delivery of a community detox in the new temporary accommodation at 70 Castle Foregate • Strengthened arrangements for reviewing drug- and alcohol-related deaths and emerging risks (Local Drug Information System - LDIS) • Progress on the Blue Light Project including MDT development and workforce training, and • Strong engagement in specialist webinars 				
<p>2. Recommendations</p> <p>Note the contents of the update.</p>				
<p>3. Report</p>				

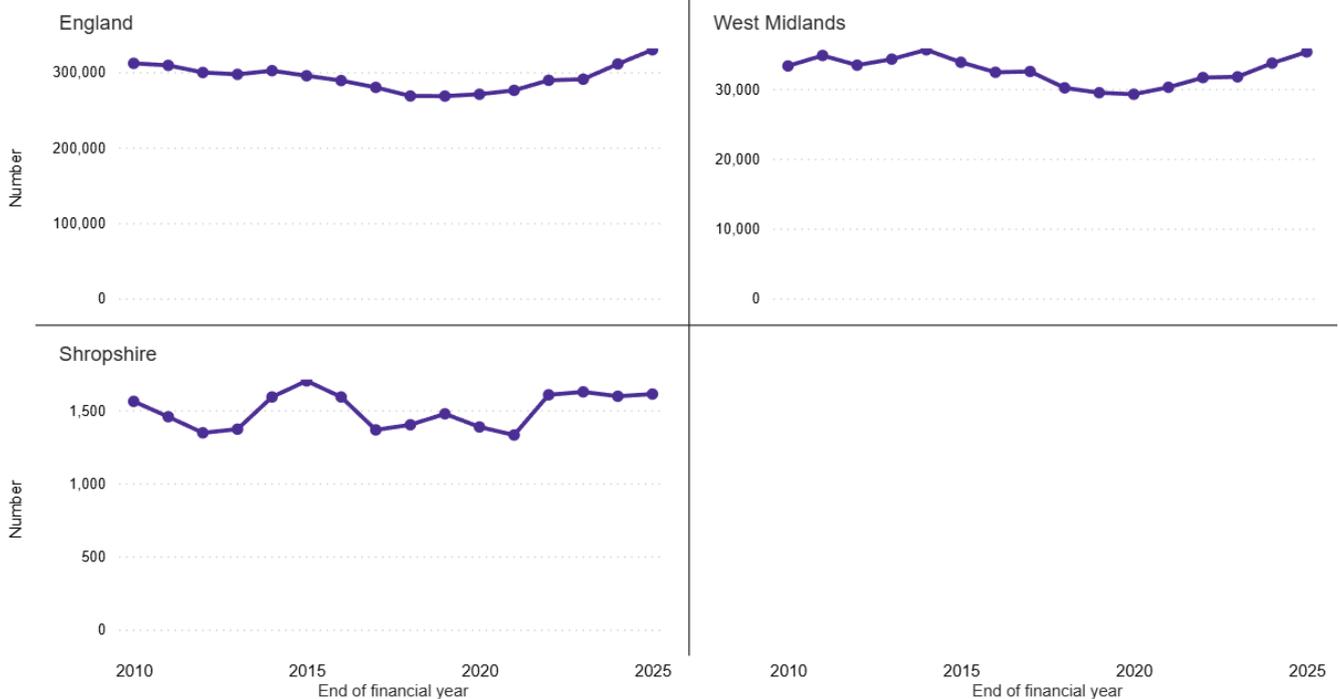
Summary of Current Position

Funding and reporting mechanisms for the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities ([OHID](#)) have changed for 2026/27, including how we forward plan and how we set ambitions for the years ahead. This report will detail most recent publicly available figures for Shropshire and against National and Regional data for context where applicable, taken from the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System ([NDTMS](#)).

Adults in structured treatment:

Total

All in treatment - (Opiate, Non-opiate only, Alcohol only, Non-opiate & alcohol) - (Male, Female) - (18-29, 30-49, 50+)

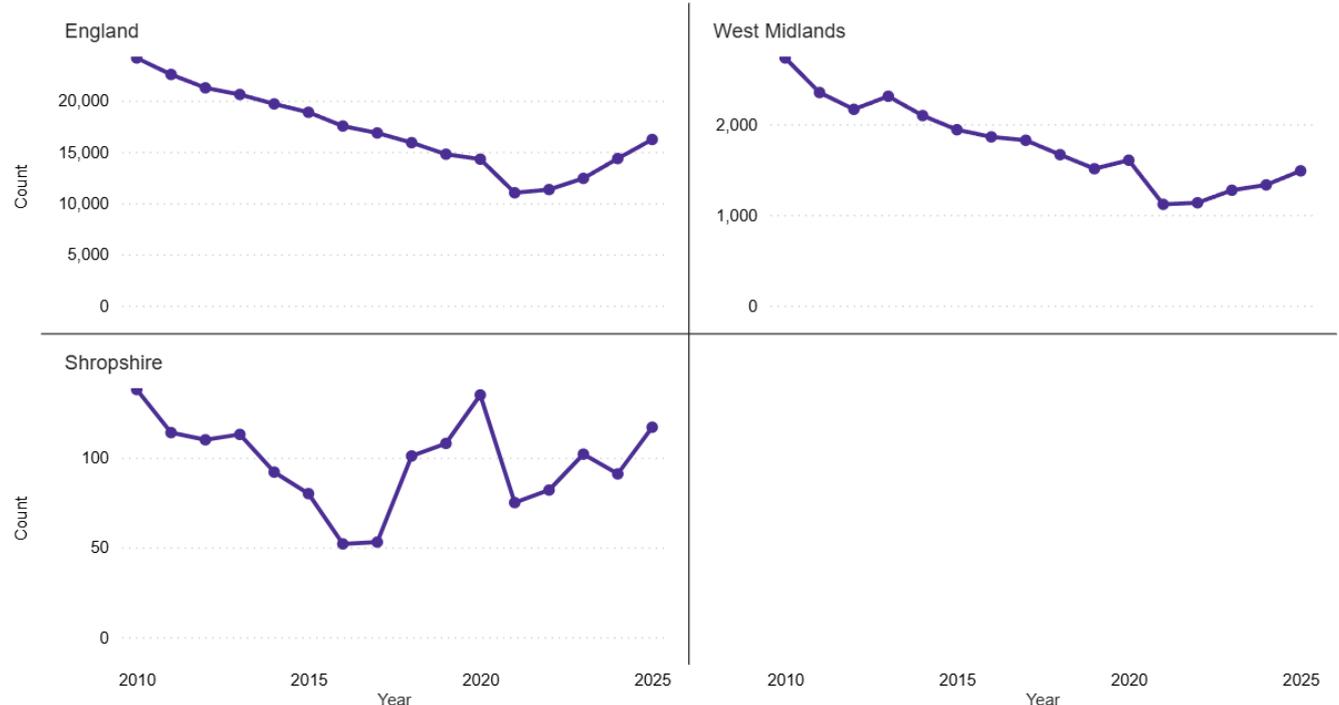


Numbers of adults in structured treatment have increased slightly over the years. Shropshire has an ambition to exceed 1,610 clients in 2025/26 and has exceeded this, with a provisional figure of 1,714 from January 2025-December 2025.

Young People in treatment:

Total

All in treatment - - 2009/10 - 2024/25 - (Male, Female) - (Under 14, 14-15, 16-17)

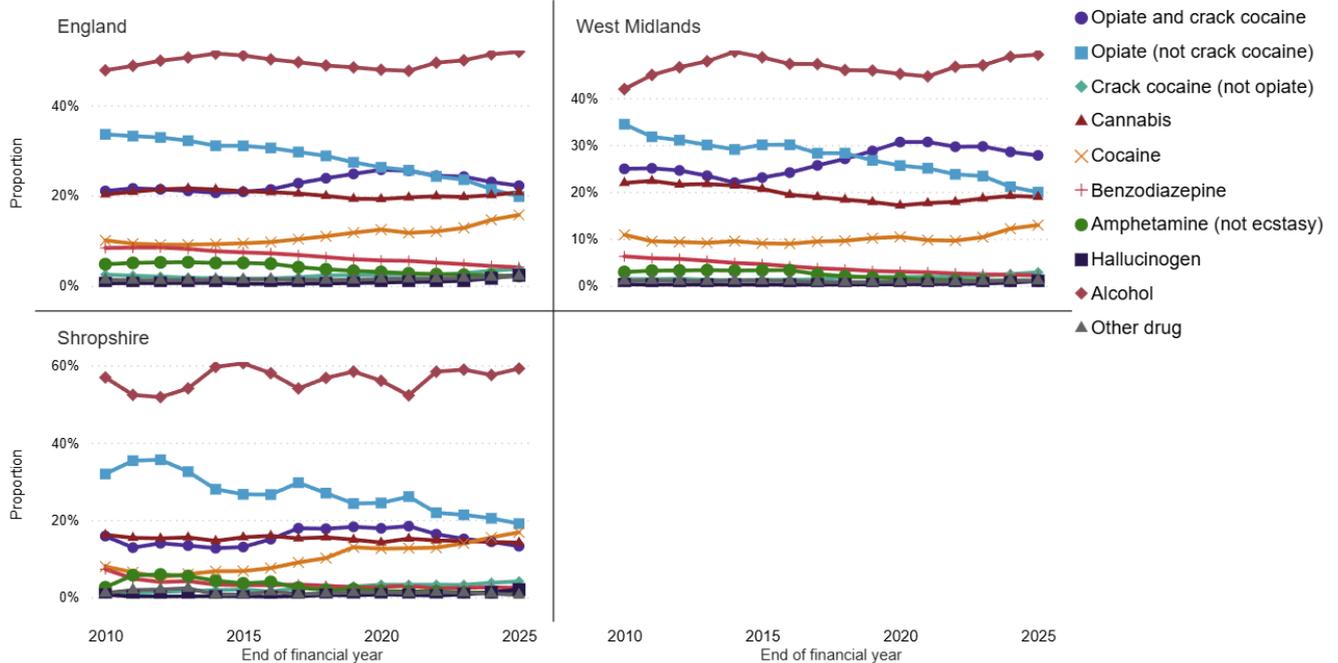


Numbers of children in treatment have recently shown an increase in the number of referrals to the service. This is a trend seen nationally. Shropshire has an ambition to exceed 117 in 2025/26 and is slightly below this with a provisional figure of 114 from January 2025-December 2025.

Substance Use – Adults:

Substance use - All in treatment

All in treatment - (Opiate, Non-opiate only, Alcohol only, Non-opiate & alcohol) - (Male, Female) - (18-29, 30-49, 50+)

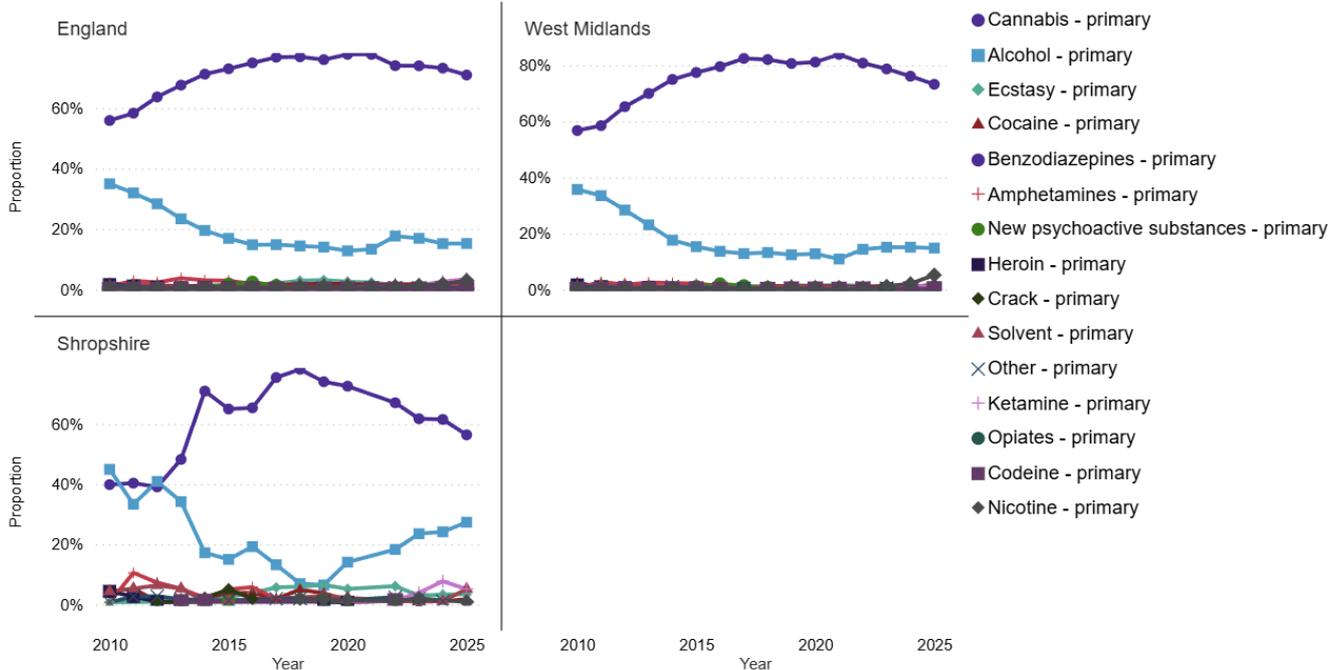


Like national trends, Shropshire sees the proportion of adults in treatment for alcohol use rising alongside cocaine, and a decrease in the proportion for opiate treatment. Shropshire however has a much higher proportion of individuals seeking support with alcohol use against other substances.

Substance Use – Young People:

Substance use - primary citation

All in treatment - - 2009/10 - 2024/25 - (Male, Female) - (Under 14, 14-15, 16-17)

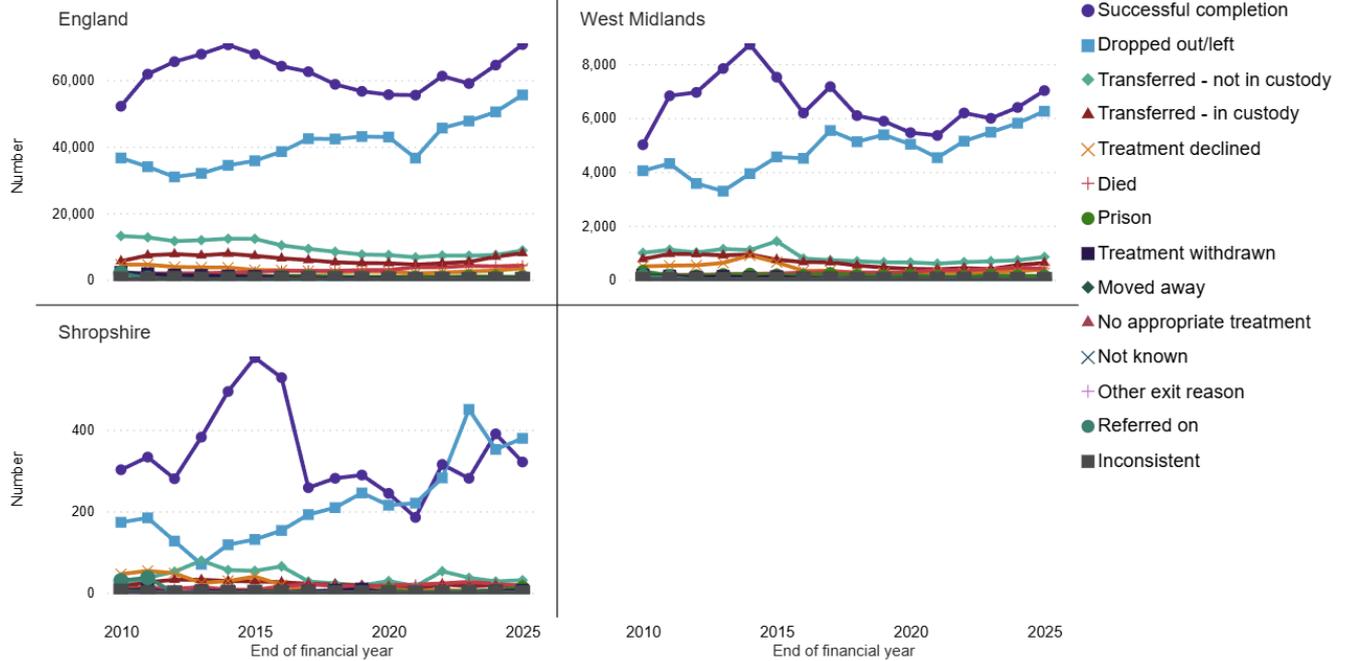


Shropshire sees the proportion of young people in treatment for cannabis use declining quicker than nationally, and a steady rise for those in treatment for alcohol which is not seen either regionally or nationally. Note – the small numbers in service mean a small change in numbers can mean significant changes in proportions.

Treatment Exits – Adults:

Treatment exits - All in treatment

All in treatment - (Opiate, Non-opiate only, Alcohol only, Non-opiate & alcohol) - (Male, Female) - (18-29, 30-49, 50+)

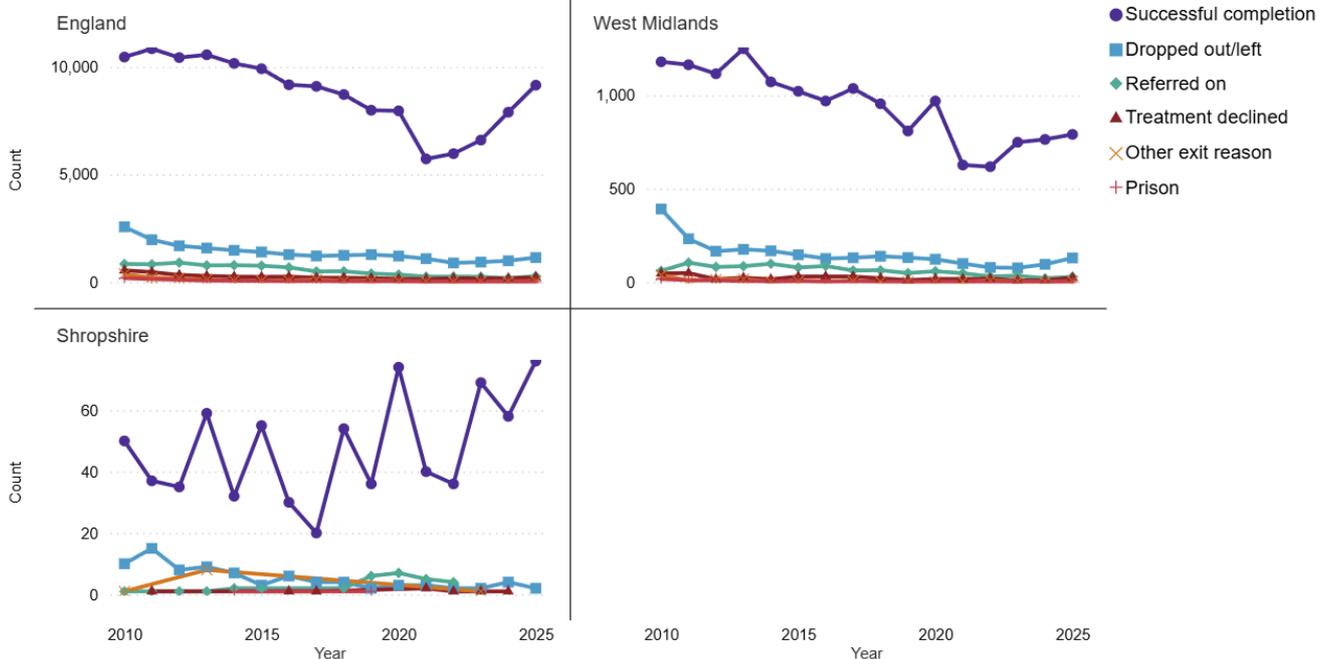


Similarly to regional and national figures, Shropshire numbers of those successfully completing treatment and leaving the service have risen in recent years, likely due to the rise in the numbers of referrals and presentations to the drug and alcohol service.

Treatment Exits – Young People:

Treatment exits

All in treatment - - 2009/10 - 2024/25 - (Male, Female) - (Under 14, 14-15, 16-17)

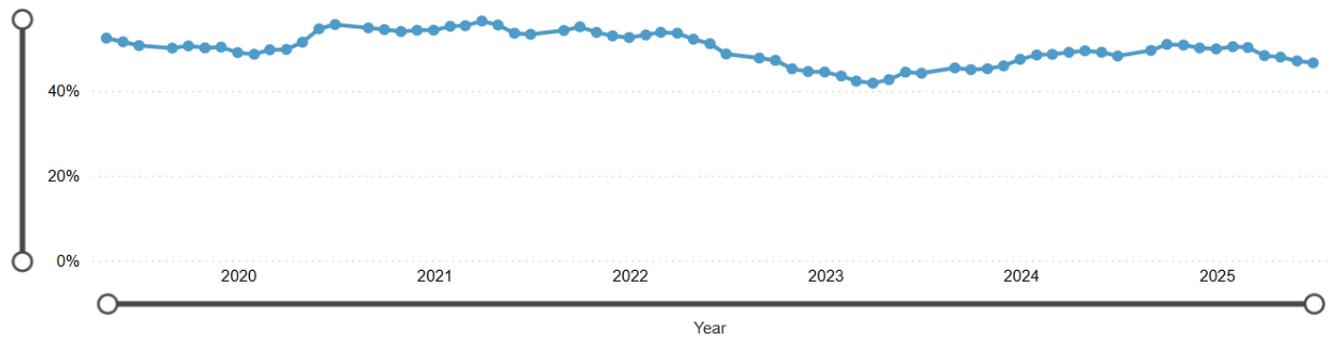


Recent national trends similarly reflect an increase in the numbers into service and the number of successful completions for young people in service.

Treatment Progress – Adults:

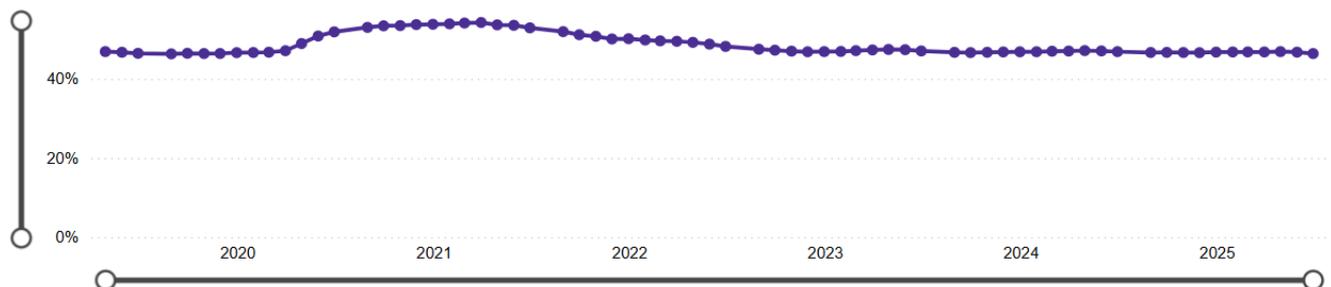
Shropshire

Showing substantial progress



England

Showing substantial progress



Shropshire has similar treatment progress where substantial progress is defined as successfully completing treatment, not using problem substances or substantially reduced using problem substances, with 46.59% against the national figure of 46.38%. This data is not collected for young people.

Local Updates and Activity

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) & Engagement

Shropshire is currently in the process of reviewing and updating its JSNA for drug and alcohol services. The JSNA is being developed to inform commissioning of community-based alcohol and drug treatment and recovery services in Shropshire and will guide the development of relevant partnerships by the Shropshire Council Drug and Alcohol Team and provide an evidence base to support the development of services which best meet the needs of the Shropshire population.

A variety of data sources have been used to inform the JSNA, including the local treatment services database and the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) reports, scientific literature and Government reports. Engagement has also included input from those who use the services and professionals who work with or refer into this service. A final version will be completed in March 2026.

Recommissioning update

The current contract for Shropshire drug and alcohol service, Shropshire Recovery Partnership (SRP) provided by WithYou is due to end in March 2027. The JSNA work as above will inform future services, alongside market engagement which is being completed over February and March. Providers of drug and alcohol services have been engaged with to understand market pressures and gather insight as part of the process of building the next specification for community drug and alcohol services in Shropshire. It is anticipated that a tendering opportunity will be advertised in Summer 2026, with the next service to begin in April 2027.

RESET Update

The Council's service for those who are rough sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping who need support with drug and alcohol use continues to be in place. Current contracts for this service end in March 2026, and a proposal and forward plan have been discussed and agreed for service continuity for 2026/27 with further discussions ongoing for how the RESET offer will align and operate within the infrastructure of the new core drug and alcohol contract from April 2027.

Community Detox

With the opening of the supported accommodation at 70 Castle Foregate in Shrewsbury, one of the rooms has been utilised to undertake a community detox in connection with SRP and RESET. In early February, the first community detox of its kind in this setting has been completed successfully, with the Rough Sleeper Team and Shropshire Recovery Partnership working in partnership to gain positive outcomes for those most vulnerable.

Local Drug Information Systems (LDIS) and reviewing Drug and Alcohol-Related Deaths (DARD)

Drug and Alcohol Related Deaths Learning Review Panels (DARD-LRP) are now booked for 2026 along with suicide learning review panels, with information sharing agreements between partners in place. Through a structured review process, these panels enable partners to come together and examine system interactions and generate actionable learning and service improvements to strengthen prevention efforts and reduce deaths linked to drug and alcohol use. By maintaining a responsive and adaptive membership and ensuring strategic reporting to countywide partnerships, the panels offer a comprehensive and coordinated mechanism for reviewing deaths, improving practice, and strengthening the wider prevention system across Shropshire.

The **Local Drug Information System (LDIS)** in Shropshire is a multi-agency mechanism designed to detect, assess, and respond to emerging risks from new, potent, or contaminated illicit substances circulating within the community, and is currently in place to safeguard residents through timely intelligence -sharing and coordinated action. Over the course of 2026, updated national LDIS guidance is expected to be issued by OHID, and the Shropshire LDIS will be revised to align with these developments. A shared Incident Response Protocol is being developed with partners across the four West Mercia Police's local authority areas and upon release of updated national guidance, is expected to be put in place. This regional Incident Response Plan will complement Shropshire's existing LDIS processes by standardising and streamlining common elements of local arrangements, improving consistency for West Mercia Police and create a more effective and collaborative approach to public health drug related incidents across all four local authority areas.

Blue Light Project Update

The Blue Light Alcohol Project is a national initiative designed to support treatment-resistant drinkers, individuals who are alcohol-dependent, frequently use emergency services, and often do not engage with traditional treatment programmes. Shropshire launched its own version of this project following several case reviews where alcohol was identified as a contributing factor in a person's death.

Multi-disciplinary Team (MDT) approach - In Shropshire, the project has identified a cohort of individuals who, over the past year, have repeatedly attended A&E or been admitted to hospital and have presented with alcohol-related dependence. In response, the project group has agreed to establish an MDT approach to review these individual cases.

Before MDTs are initiated, the Board is reviewing and mapping the following:

- Organisations currently working with each identified individual
- Additional partner organisations that need to be involved
- Any existing MDT structures already in place, to avoid duplication

At this early stage, it is anticipated that the MDT process will include:

- Sharing relevant information relating to each individual
- Mapping service touchpoints and current engagement
- Identifying risks, safeguarding concerns, and unmet needs
- Allocating a lead professional for each case

Training and Development - To support the wider workforce across Shropshire, training sessions on 'Safeguarding Vulnerable Dependent Drinkers', delivered by Alcohol Change UK, have been scheduled throughout March. Over 130 colleagues from a range of partner organisations have already registered. Through the Blue Light project group, colleagues who currently work or have previously worked with this cohort have been identified and encouraged to attend one of these sessions.

Webinars

A series of webinars are being organised for the year ahead, with most recently having a well-attended overview for Ketamine attended by over 150 participants, with more registering for information where unable to attend. A recording of this can be found on a link from Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership's page for Tackling Drug and Alcohol Use: [Tackling Drug & Alcohol Use — Shropshire Safeguarding Community Partnership](#). Feedback for this session has been overwhelmingly positive, with other Local Authority areas also looking to view.

Risk assessment and opportunities appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

Financial implications

(Any financial implications of note)

None

Climate Change Appraisal as applicable

None

Where else has the paper been presented?

System Partnership Boards

Voluntary Sector

Other

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) or your organisational lead

Cllr Bernie Bentick, Portfolio Holder for Public Health & Public Protection

Appendices

Appendix A. Drug & Alcohol update – presentation