

	<h2>Health and Wellbeing Board</h2>
<p style="text-align: center;">Title</p>	<p>Combating Drugs Partnership Board and Needs Assessment</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Date of meeting</p>	<p>27th July 2023</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Report of</p>	<p>Tamara Djuretic, Joint Director of Public Health and Prevention</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Wards</p>	<p>All</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Status</p>	<p>Public</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Urgent</p>	<p>No</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Appendices</p>	<p>Appendix A – Glossary of terms Appendix B - Combating Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment Appendix C – Delivery Plan</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Officer Contact Details</p>	<p>Louisa Songer – Senior Public Health Strategist Louisa.Songer@barnet.gov.uk</p>
<h3>Summary</h3>	
<p>The national drug strategy, ‘From Harm to Hope’, was published in December 2021. It sets out the government’s 10-year plan to tackle harm caused by illegal drug use and related crime.</p> <p>In keeping with previous drug strategies, From Harm to Hope sets out three strategic priorities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> I. Break drug supply chains (HO and MoJ) II. Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system (DHSC, MoJ, DLUHC, DWP) III. Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs (HO, DfE, DHSC, MoJ, DCMS, DLUHC) <p>In June 2022, the Joint Combating Drugs Unit (JCDU) published guidance on setting up and operating Combating Drug Partnerships. Local areas were tasked to come together to address all three strands</p>	

of the governments drug strategy, by bringing together partners to assess needs, develop an action plan, and deliver locally relevant ambitions.

The Barnet CDPB launched in November 2022 and has had three meetings to date.

The Barnet CDPB, with leadership from Public Health, has drafted a “From Harm to Hope” needs assessment (Appendix B) which assesses Barnet’s delivery of the three strategic priorities. There is a supporting delivery plan (Appendix C) for oversight from the HWBB and support for delivery.

There are a range of prescribed outcome measures relating to the Combating Drugs Partnership. Measures and outcomes were released by the JCDU in May 2023 and will be aligned to the delivery plan. Updates and progress against these measures will be reported at future Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Recommendations

- 1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board note progress on establishing and delivery of the Combating Drugs Partnership Board.**
- 2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment**
- 3. That the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan**
- 4. That the Health and Wellbeing Board approve oversight of the Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan**

1. Reasons for the Recommendations

1.1 National Drug Strategy - ‘From Harm to Hope’

The national drug strategy, ‘From Harm to Hope’, was published in December 2021. It sets out the government’s 10-year plan to tackle harm caused by illegal drug use and related crime. The strategy was the government’s response to two independent reports produced by Dame Carol Black in 2020 and 2021.

In keeping with previous drug strategies, From Harm to Hope sets out three strategic priorities:

- I. Break drug supply chains (HO and MoJ)
- II. Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system (DHSC, MoJ, DLUHC, DWP)
- III. Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs (HO, DfE, DHSC, MoJ, DCMS, DLUHC)

In June 2022, the Joint Combating Drugs Unit (JCDU) published guidance on setting up and operating Combating Drug Partnerships. Local areas were tasked to come together to address all three strands of the governments drug strategy, by bringing together partners to assess needs, develop an action plan, and deliver locally relevant ambitions.

1.2 Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership (BCDP)

The Barnet CDPB launched in November 2022 and has had three meetings to date. The CDPB aims to address the following key outcomes:

- Reduce drug related crime

- Reduce harm
- Reduce supply
- Increase treatment engagement
- Increase long-term recovery
- Reduce the number of people developing problematic substance misuse

It was agreed in the September 2022 Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) that the Barnet CDPB will report to the HWBB, with strong oversight from the Barnet Safer Communities Partnership Board (BSCP). There is an expectation that relevant partners will take leadership of key elements of the CDP Delivery Plan, including actions relating to breaking drug supply chains and addressing offending behaviour, whilst working closely with the wider partnership.

The Barnet CDPB has had good partnership attendance and support to date. A range of partners are signed up and have been attending meetings regularly. There has been representation from: Public Health, Change Grow Live, Community Safety Team, Family Services, Probation, Met Police, Barnet Homes, Adult Social Care, NCL Integrated Care System, Education, Service user representative and attendance by chair of the SCPB. The meeting is chaired by the chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board and the senior responsible officer is the Director of Public Health and Prevention.

The Barnet CDPB, with leadership from Public Health, has drafted a “From Harm to Hope” needs assessment (Appendix B) which assesses Barnet’s delivery of the three strategic priorities. There is a supporting delivery plan (Appendix C) for oversight from the HWBB and support for delivery.

There are a range of outcome measures relating to the Combating Drugs Partnership. Measures and outcomes were released by the JCDU in May 2023 and will be aligned to the delivery plan. Updates and progress against these measures will be reported at future Health and Wellbeing Boards.

1.3 Combating Drugs Partnership Needs Assessment

The full needs assessment can be viewed in Appendix B.

This needs assessment reflects the Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership ambition to develop a programme of work that addresses drug and alcohol misuse in Barnet by holistically assessing local needs and making key recommendations.

I. Breaking Drug Supply Chains

The 10-year UK Government plan to combat illegal drugs sets out the plan to cut off the supply of drugs by criminal gangs and give people with a drug addiction a route to a productive and drug-free life.

Barnet Council’s new administration has made community safety a priority, and Barnet’s 2022 [Community Safety Strategy](#) outlines how the council plans to work in partnership to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB).

There are numerous workstreams within Barnet Council that deliver elements of tackling crime and ASB, and in doing this also work to break drug supply chains. These come together in the London Borough of Barnet's Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation (VVE) work.

Key messages & recommendations:

- There was a 3.5% increase in 'Violence with Injury' offences in Barnet over the 12 months to March 2022 compared to the previous year, and a 2.6% increase when compared to five years ago
- The last 5 years indicate a pattern whereby we see spikes of weapons related offences during the spring summer months and a decrease in the winter months
- The "Rescue and Response Year 4 Strategic Assessment" shows that in 2021/22 there were 21 referrals to the Rescue and Response (a county lines) project, a reduction of 3 from the previous year. London in total saw a reduction in referrals of 43%
- There were also total of 40 people in Barnet identified as having a link to County Lines, a reduction of 1 from the previous year. London in total saw a reduction of 27% in individuals identified as having a link to county lines
- Reductions in the Rescue and Response project are likely the result of COVID-19 lockdown measures which made it difficult for people to move freely in the community (data for subsequent years is not yet available to assess the impact)
- Rates of drug offences in Barnet are generally lower than London and England
- There are some areas which have particularly high rates of drug offences, higher than London and disproportionate to the rest of the borough. Colindale North is of particular note.
- Offences relating to possession are two times as many as offences relating to drug trafficking
- Drug trafficking offences also have a much lower prosecution rate than possession offenses
- The report outlines pathways from criminal justice settings, such as police custody and prison, to treatment services and indicates that there is much work to be done to improve these pathways
- Close collaboration is required between partners in the development of the serious violence duty strategic needs assessment
- Better partnership working with the Met police to successfully implement business and delivery plans
- Services should collectively work to improve pathways from criminal justice settings into treatment and recovery services

II. Delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system

The government's drug strategy set out our ambition to significantly increase the capacity and quality of treatment and recovery services as part of the whole-system approach to tackling supply and demand. It is anticipated that this will not only reduce crime, but aims to reverse the upward trend in drug and alcohol related deaths and benefit communities.

This report details key treatment and recovery data and makes recommendations on areas of development in the local treatment service.

Key messages & recommendations:

- Access to local treatment services can be improved through better geographic spread of services and improving local pathways

- Wards with higher deprivation also tend to have a higher number of substance misuse treatment episodes than the less deprived areas
- There is substantial unmet need across Barnet, including a number of parents who are not accessing support for their substance misuse needs and a falling number of young people in treatment
- Better partnership working is required with local GP's to improve identification of people misusing alcohol and address physical health problems for people misusing substances
- Women and girls are under-represented in treatment services
- Older adults using substances have specific needs such as better access to physical health and social care services
- Whilst rates of alcohol related admissions in Barnet are fairly low, there is a small group of people who have multiple hospital admissions and suffer on-going alcohol specific ill health.
- Drug related deaths in Barnet are low but alcohol related deaths are increasing
- There is good naloxone distribution in Barnet and this should continue to be a priority
- Rates of smoking in people who use drugs and alcohol are significantly much higher than the general population, both in adults and young people
- Young people in treatment often have other vulnerabilities that have increased their risks of substance misuse.
- Mental health concerns in young people and adults who misuse substances are higher than the general population, and many do not have access to suitable mental health support
- Opiates (specifically heroin) and alcohol are the most reported substances used by adults in treatment
- Cannabis and alcohol are the most reported substances used by young people in treatment
- People experiencing severe and multiple deprivation are more likely to experience challenges accessing services
- There are some innovative local initiatives to respond to multiple and complex needs, however these operate in a piecemeal way.
- The incidence of substance misuse in perpetrators of domestic abuse is high
- Satellite provision across the borough should be developed, including reviewing needle exchange
- Opportunities for improving access from primary care, including establishing alcohol clinics and GP shared care scheme should be explored
- The partnership should aim to increase engagement of under-represented groups in treatment
- Develop closer working relationships with social care and substance misuse services to support older adults with complex needs
- Review dual diagnosis good practice and implement locally
- A partnership approach to addressing multiple and complex needs is required
- Addressing substance misuse issues in perpetrators of domestic abuse is essential

III. Achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs

The third priority of the national drug strategy is to “achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs.”

At a national level, it is expected this will be achieved through:

- an improved understanding of what works through investing in research,
- targeting people found in possession of illegal drugs with ‘more meaningful consequences’,
- improving prevention and early interventions via schools, and providing early, targeted support including to families

This report details actions that can be taken by partners in Barnet to support earlier identification and prevention of substance misuse issues.

Key messages & recommendations:

- Good PSHE provision is in place in Barnet however more can be done to broaden the scope
- Identification and Brief Advice (IBA) is available to all Barnet residents. However current reach is small and attempts to promote should be made.
- Workplace plays an important part in the health of Barnet residents, and addressing substance misuse in the workforce should be incorporated in to other workplace health initiatives
- Alcohol related harm should be considered when reviewing local licencing applications
- Although parental substance misuse in “child in need assessments” in Barnet is lower than England, it is higher than benchmark areas.
- The number of parents in treatment is low compared to identified need
- Barnet has a good range of parenting support programmes and early help services in place; however parents accessing treatment services tend to have not used these services, indicating they are not always reaching the right families.

2. Alternative Options Considered and Not Recommended

2.1 No alternatives were considered – CDPB and needs assessment were established following government guidance

3. Post Decision Implementation

3.1 The CDPB was established and implemented post sign off from the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2022

3.2 A delivery plan has now been drafted for agreement by the Health and Wellbeing Board

3.3 Quarterly CDPB meetings are scheduled and will oversee the implementation of the delivery plan and develop a local strategy.

3.4 Regular updates will be brought to the Health and Wellbeing Board.

4. Corporate Priorities, Performance and Other Considerations

4.1 Corporate Plan

The report strongly aligns with the councils corporate plan across two main priorities:

Caring for people

- Tackling inequalities: by addressing inequalities that result in problematic substance misuse

- Family Friendly: by addressing familial risk factors, implementing preventative approaches to substance misuse and making the borough a safer place to live
- Living well: by reducing drug and alcohol related harm and improving recovery outcomes

Caring for our places

- Safe, attractive neighbourhoods and town centres: by reducing substance misuse related crime and disorder

4.2 Corporate Performance / Outcome Measures

There a range of outcome measures relating to the Combating Drugs Partnership. Measures and outcomes were released by the JCDU in May 2023 and will be aligned to the delivery plan. Updates on progress against these measures will be reported at future Health and Wellbeing Boards.

Measures are included within the delivery plan in appendix C.

4.3 Sustainability

There are no sustainability implications of this report

4.4 Corporate Parenting

Looked after children and care leavers are identified as specific vulnerabilities for substance misuse. There are specific recommendations within the report regarding addressing young people's vulnerabilities to substance misuse.

4.5 Risk Management

No specific risks are associated with this report.

4.6 Insight

The Combating Drugs Partnership needs assessment (appendix B) outlines data analysed to inform recommendations. Data includes local data, national data and soft intelligence gathered through surveys and feedback.

The needs assessment was drafted with analytical support from Public Health and the Insight and Intelligence teams. Data was also accessed from other council partners including Family Services and Community Safety.

Performance and outcomes will be monitored via the CDPB outcomes framework and reported to the Health and Wellbeing Board. There will be ongoing evaluation of the programme of work.

4.7 Social Value

Where services are procured as part of the CDPB work, social value will be a core component.

5. Resource Implications (Finance and Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT and Property)

5.1 In recent years, publicly funded alcohol and drug treatment has largely been commissioned using funding from the annual public health grant, overseen by Directors of Public Health within local authorities. In 2022/23, the budget for substance misuse treatment services was

£2,349,399.34 for adults and £199,540.46 for young people. Both services are delivered by [Change Grow Live](#).

Following the publication of the 2021 drug strategy, a new Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) was announced. This has provided Barnet with £381,264 in 2022/23 and £390,000 for 2023/24. There is a further £41,000 available for inpatient detoxification. This is managed via a London consortium. A requirement for receipt of these grants is that public health grant investment in substance misuse is not reduced.

Additional drug strategy-related grants to support rough sleepers (RSDATG) have also been made available to selected local authorities. This has provided Barnet with £398,121 of funding to support people rough sleeping in 2022/23 and 2023/24.

The SSMTRG in 2023/24 provides 10 additional roles to support the delivery of the current adult and young people's services.

The RSDATG funding has enabled the recruitment and development of a specialist homelessness and substance misuse outreach team.

SSMTRG and RSDATG will continue to be used to deliver the recommendations of the CDPB needs assessment.

6. Legal Implications and Constitution References

6.1 There are no current legal implications associated with the recommendations of this report.

6.2 The Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board are set out in part 2B of the Constitution and include specific responsibilities for:

- Overseeing public health and promoting prevention agenda across the partnership
- Developing further health and social care integration.

7. Consultation

7.1 Consultation was completed as part of the needs assessment. This can be viewed in chapter 5 of the needs assessment, Public Engagement and feedback.

7.2 Further public engagement meetings are scheduled and will inform the delivery plan.

8. Equalities and Diversity

8.1 Data relating to equalities and diversity is referenced throughout the needs assessment.

8.2 Recommendations made through the report and delivery plan support equalities duties and aim to improve outcomes for all.

9. Background Papers

9.1 Health and Wellbeing Board, September 2022

Agree the establishment and terms of reference of the proposed Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership.

Agree and implement governance structure relating to the Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership.

[Agenda for Health & Wellbeing Board on Thursday 29th September, 2022, 9.30 am](#)
(modern.gov.co.uk)