

North Northamptonshire Health and Wellbeing Board

19 March 2024

Report Title	Combatting Drugs Partnership Update	
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List of Appendices

Appendix A – Needs Assessment and Recommendations

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1. The Northamptonshire Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (CDP) programme is in its second year of delivery. The chair of the CDP has now passed to Jane Bethea, NNC Director of Public Health (from Sally Burns, WNC Director of Public Health) and this update provides an overview of priorities and achievements, with a focus on the Treatment and Recovery element of the programme.

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 The UK Governments plan to combat illegal drugs (['from harm to hope'](#)) set out the national strategy in 2021 and provided over £3 billion investment to be delivered until 2025. The main aims of the strategy are to cut off the supply of drugs by criminal gangs and give people with a drug issue a route to a productive and drug-free life.
- 2.2 The national plan has been adopted within Northamptonshire and operates, with local partners, across three core pillars of delivery:
1. Break drug supply chains
 2. Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system
 3. Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 It is recommended that the Board:
- a) Note the content of this report.
- 3.2 The reason for the recommendation is that the Northamptonshire Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (CDP) is an ongoing programme of work which is fully aligned to the National Strategy, is funded and resourced until 2025

and is already demonstrating that the additional investment is delivering against the objectives.

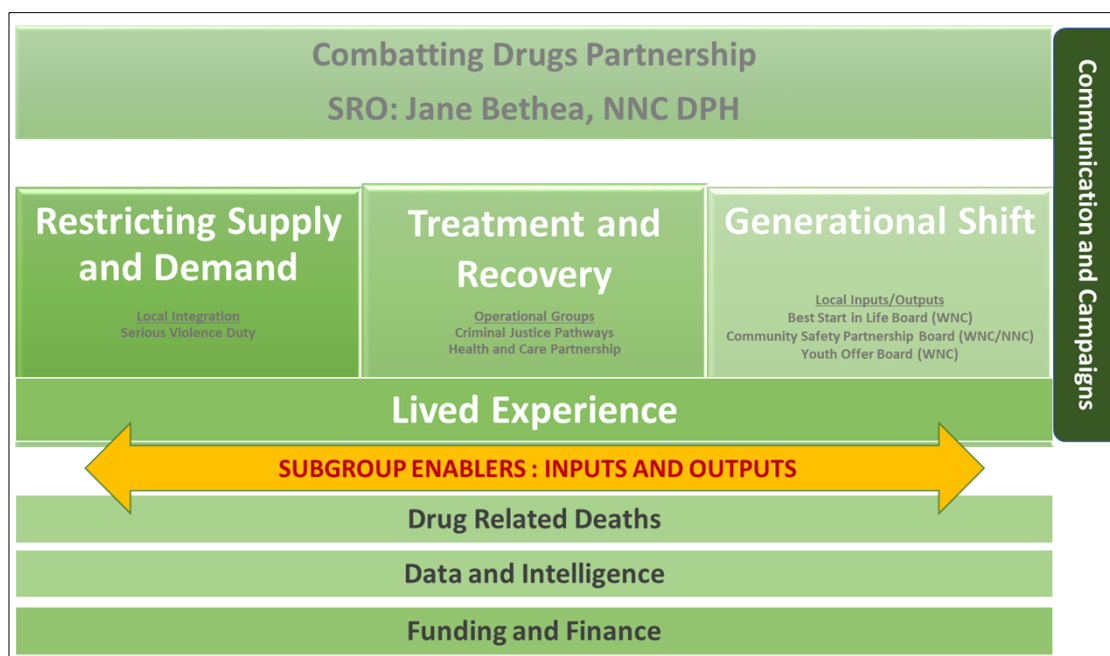
4. Report Background

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 The aims and objectives of the Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership has been keenly embraced within Northamptonshire.
- 4.1.2 This is a joint partnership, including North Northamptonshire Council, West Northamptonshire Council, Northamptonshire Police, Crime, Fire and Rescue, HMP Prison Service and NHS Northamptonshire
- 4.1.3 Over three thousand adults are in formal treatment programmes in Northamptonshire, one thousand four hundred of those are from within North Northamptonshire.
- 4.1.4 An annual cost of circa £7.1m is spent on the Northamptonshire drugs and alcohol treatment and recovery services.
- 4.1.5 Service providers are contracted until March 2026, at which time a new suite of deliverables and delivery models are expected to be in place.
- 4.1.6 Additional CDP grants, totalling £2m across North Northamptonshire for 2024/25 have been awarded to accelerate delivery and outcomes of the existing services and create new pathways to mitigate current risk.

4.2 Achievements

- 4.2.1 The CDP governance has been in place for 12 months and has matured to include the 3 core pillars shown in the illustration below. These are supported by 2 main subgroups, namely 'Lived Experience' and 'Communication and Campaigns' and enabled in the delivery by an additional 3 subgroups. The groups are operational and are attended by partnership representatives.



- 4.2.2 The Northamptonshire CDP Scorecard has been developed by the programme and shows improvement in all key performance areas.
- 4.2.3 Since transitioning the responsibility for communicating harm reduction notifications to other professionals and service users, a steady reduction in

risk has been observed and drug related deaths remains below the national average.

4.2.4 Dame Carol Black, (Independent Advisor to the Office of Health Improvements and Disparities) and Dr Ed Day, (UK Government’s Recovery Champion) visited the region during January and met with public health, health and police partners, service providers and service users. The welcome feedback from the visit, via her office, was ‘she felt that we all wanted to deliver a whole system approach and we all showed an awareness of the mental health and trauma needs of the clients’.

4.2.5 Enhanced treatment services for those located in rural areas and with protected characteristics are now included as part of a formal service provider plan to ensure that inequalities are minimised.

4.2.6 HMP Probation Services, Change Grow Live (CGL) and NHS England are jointly making significant progress on an integrated care pathway from prison to the community. This is crucial for supporting recovery from substance misuse and reducing reoffending among people leaving custody. The CDP ambition is to ensure 3 in 4 (75%) of prison leavers with a substance misuse issue are engaging in treatments, 3 weeks after release. Drug related death is the leading cause of death within 28 days of prison, accounting for 50% of deaths during that period.

4.2.7 Joint work is underway across health and wider partners to ensure that people experiencing co-existing substance use and mental health issues get the right support to help them move on into recovery.

4.3 Agreed Local Priorities

The following table of 2024/25 priorities have been discussed and approved within the CDP subgroups. Resources and monitoring are in place with deliverables mapped to the CDP Scorecard.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PRIORITIES	
	Goals to shape the future
<p>Treatment:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase numbers in treatment across Northamptonshire. 2. Access those underrepresented cohorts and bring into treatment indicated by the unmet needs and current data analysis; females, alcohol only, ethnicity who are in need of support 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the numbers in treatment by 10% and support treatment providers to leverage the Lived Experience Recovery Organisation model 2. Establish a simple and cohesive referral system for self-referrals and third-party referrals specifically focused on primary and secondary care 3. Pilot ‘female only’ referral service, integrated with the Vulnerable Female Support service
<p>Continuity of Care: Improve criminal justice prisoner release process and pathways for those discharged under Post Sentence Supervision</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Embed the new criminal justice pathway within all HMP locations that release within Northamptonshire 2. Utilise the Continuity of Care toolkit and increase the support available in known localities to deliver services to 75% of all secure estate releases

<p>Recovery: Increase the number of places available for rehab and stimulate the 'self-referral/dual funding' model via the Department of Work and Pensions</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilise the national grant funding to increase rehab places available 2. Build and deepen the dual diagnosis models i.e substance abuse and mental health conditions
<p>Harm Reduction: Develop the Local Drug Information System (LDIS) and increase the use of Naloxone to counter act potential drugs overdoses</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase use of naloxone across all emergency services 2. Provide clear communication for professionals and service users where synthetic and harmful substances are identified in and around the region

5. Issues and Choices

5.1 All issues and choices are tabled at the CDP Quarterly Members meeting and are approved within the governance set out. This report provides a high-level summary.

6. Implications (including financial implications)

6.1 Resources and Financial

There are no resources or financial implications arising from the report.

6.2 Legal

There are no legal implications arising from the report.

6.3 Risk

There are no significant risks arising from the proposed recommendations in this report.

6.4 Consultation

There was no consultation required for this update report.

6.5 Consideration by Scrutiny

This update paper describing the work of the Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership has not been presented to the Health Scrutiny Committee. However, substance use and associated services are being discussed at this committee on 12th March 2024.

6.6 Climate Impact

N/A

6.7 Community Impact

All communities within Northamptonshire (North and West Northamptonshire) will benefit from the Combating Drugs and Alcohol Programme and additional investment.

7. Background Papers

- 7.1 The National Drugs and Alcohol 10 Year Strategic Aims [from harm to hope](#)
- 7.2 **Northamptonshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)**



Combating Drugs
Partnerships needs :