

Report to:	Health and Wellbeing Board	Date of Meeting:	Wednesday 6th December 2023
Subject:	Combating Drugs Partnership - One Year Update		
Report of:	Director of Public Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt Confidential Report:	/ No		

Summary:

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an overview and update of the development of Sefton's Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP). The report provides a summary of the partnership development and structures and progress against national milestones.

Recommendation(s):

- 1) The Health & Wellbeing Board to note the content of the report and the progress made within the first year of the Combating Drugs Partnership.
- 2) The Health & Wellbeing Board to continue to strengthen the Partnership by recommending participation of any further key members.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Local governance structures require the Health and Wellbeing Board to have oversight and reporting from the Sefton Combating Drugs Partnership via the Senior Responsible Owner. Quarterly updates are provided as part of the sub-committee report to the Board and an annual report will be submitted.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no cost implications.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no cost implications.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None								
Legal Implications: There are no legal implications.								
Equality Implications: The CDP will focus on addressing inequalities as identified in the JSNA. It acknowledges that the greatest impacts of substance misuse are experienced in our most deprived communities. Members of the partnership have met to explore unmet need in Sefton and discussed how we can work together to address the barriers to accessing services and delivering more targeted interventions.								
Impact on Children and Young People: The National 10 year Drugs Plan and local delivery plan aim to support young people and families most at risk of substance use or criminal exploitation, co-ordinating early, targeted support to reduce harm within families that is sensitive to all the needs of the person or family and seeks to address the root causes of risk.								
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will <table border="1"><tr><td>Have a positive impact</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>Have a neutral impact</td><td>Yes</td></tr><tr><td>Have a negative impact</td><td>No</td></tr><tr><td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td><td>No</td></tr></table> The operation of the CDP does not generate additional impacts on the climate emergency.	Have a positive impact	No	Have a neutral impact	Yes	Have a negative impact	No	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	No
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Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Many of the people who are impacted by substance use are representative of the most vulnerable in our communities. The CDP aims to achieve better integration of services through working together, making sure that people's physical and mental health needs are addressed to reduce harm, vulnerability and support recovery by improving access to training, employment and accommodation.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Investment in substance use service/interventions will support and protect young

<p>people, families, and communities from the direct and indirect impacts of substance misuse.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDP will ensure there is an effective local treatment system in place, providing commissioned core services and focused investment that address the needs of local people.
<p>Place – leadership and influencer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDP as a multi-agency partnership will provide local leadership and collaboration to help us better understand the local challenges and design potential solutions.
<p>Drivers of change and reform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CDP primary purpose is to deliver locally the priorities of the national 10 year Drugs Plan which is designed to drive change and improve outcomes for individuals, families and communities impacted by substance use.
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action to improve employment opportunities – Individual Placement and Support Programme (IPS) has been introduced into Sefton to support those within substance use services to seek employment.
<p>Greater income for social investment: Not applicable</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cleaner Greener: <p>The CDP recognises the negative environmental impact from thousands of single use cannisters being disposed of on the street and in recreational, open spaces.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From November 8th 2023, nitrous oxide is becoming a Class C drug. Collaboratively services have worked together to deliver targeted interventions and highlight referral pathways. It is hoped that education and awareness will reduce usage in the community therefore reducing the number of cannisters disposed of.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7429/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5529/23.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Not applicable.

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Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix 1



Combating Drugs
Partnership TOR Sept

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

As a response to the publication of the 10-year National Drugs Plan the Home Office issued local guidance which provides a framework for how local delivery partners can work together to address the priorities. '*Guidance for local delivery partners – From harm to hope: A 10 year plan to cut crime and save lives - June 2022*' outlines how local areas in England should deliver the transformative ambition they set out and provides clarity on the mechanisms that central government will draw upon to track and support delivery.

2. Combating Drug Partnerships.

The Guidance outlines the need for local areas to establish a Combating Drugs Partnership to drive a system wide approach to delivery. These partnerships bring together a range of local partners - including enforcement, treatment, recovery, and prevention – to work together to deliver the national drugs plan priorities:

- Break drug supply chains
- Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system
- Achieve a shift in demand for drugs

As drug and alcohol use are so intricately linked, most local partnerships will also focus on addressing alcohol dependence and wider alcohol-related harms alongside their focus on the use, supply, and harms of illegal drugs.

All the key milestones for the first year of establishing CDPs, as set out in the national guidance have been met by the Sefton CDP this includes:

- Nominate local Senior Responsible Owner
- Form Combating Drug Partnership
- Confirm footprint of partnership
- Agreeing TOR And Governance structures
- Joint Strategic Needs Assessment – Substance Use
- Local Delivery Plan
- Local Performance Framework Dashboard
- Annual stock-take

3. Partnership Membership

An initial meeting of Sefton’s Combating Drugs Partnership took place on 03/08/2022, which had representation and engagement from across the key organisations.

The CDP meets on a quarterly basis, there has been five meetings to date to oversee the completion of the national milestones set out above. Thematic meeting dates have been scheduled for 2023 – 2024

The membership of the CDP reflects the breadth and complexity of the factors that influence drug and alcohol harm.

Diagram below reflects the members of the Sefton’s Combating Drugs Partnership.



4. Function

The primary function of the Combating Drugs Partnership is to save lives by reducing the supply and demand for drugs and delivering a high-quality treatment and recovery system. To achieve this, it will:

- Provide assurance to the Health and Wellbeing Board that arrangements and plans are in place to ensure that Sefton meet the national requirements for CDPs.
- Provide strategic direction and oversight for the local delivery of the outcomes as defined in the 10year Drugs Plan.
- Jointly conduct and assess evidence and data to understand better the local issues, needs and patterns of drug-related harm.
- Develop a local delivery plan and a cycle of review in accordance with national guidance.
- Communicate and promote local plans/activity across the borough, to secure active contribution and engagement from all communities and stakeholders.
- Hold key partners, agencies, and organisations to account for fulfilling responsibilities in relation to delivery of the local plan.
- Monitor and evaluate the impact of actions and performance against local and national targets through the monitoring of local returns and performance frameworks.
- Provide a forum for discussion by local partners, to identify risks and their mitigation and opportunities for joint action.

5. Governance structures

Sefton CDP is coterminous with Sefton MBC. In line with the Partnerships in the other Merseyside areas the nominated local Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) is the Director of Public Health.

The SRO will report to the national Joint Combating Drugs Unit (JCDU). Each local Senior Responsible Owner represents the whole of their Combating Drugs Partnership, which has joint overarching responsibility for the local drugs delivery plan.

The Sefton CDP is accountable to the Health & Wellbeing Board and reports to the Safer Sefton Partnership and the Merseyside Police and Crime (PCC) Commissioner. The SROs attend quarterly meetings with the PCC office quarterly reports are submitted.

The CDP will be visible and accountable for their actions, both to residents and central government via the National Joint Drugs Unit (Home Office.) The Sefton CDP has a space on the council website where information and updates will be posted.

6. Developments

Receipt of the three-year (2022-25) Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment & Recovery Support grant (SSMTRG) allocations for Local Authorities is subject to the LA maintaining their investment from the Public Health Grant and the submission of a detailed annual plan. The CDP provides oversight of the plan to ensure it focuses on

improvements in quality and capacity of the local drug and alcohol treatment system. The Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant should be used by LAs to directly address the aims of the treatment and recovery section of the drug strategy. The additional funding should deliver:

New high-quality treatment places, including:

- New places for opiate and crack users,
- A treatment place for every offender with an addiction
- New treatment places for non-opiate users and alcohol users
- More young people in treatment
- More people in Recovery

Local SSMTR Grant investment has supported an increase in workforce capacity across the local drug treatment system including an increase in medical, mental health and substance use criminal justice workers.

The CDP provides an opportunity to identify new areas for investment and development across the wider partnership. For example, three Sefton CVS projects have received funding from the 2023/4 SSMTR Grant.

A new post has been created to support the development and functioning of the CDP. A key area of development is the input from service users and those with lived experience and the engagement of the wider community. A Treatment Effectiveness group is now a sub-group of the CDP and will engage with providers across the treatment and recovery system.

The CDP has created opportunities for new pathway development between partners and services to improve outcomes for individuals. For example, Adult Social Care are working with the Growth Company which provides access to employment support.

The Partnership has provided a forum to work collaboratively on local emerging issues. For example, nitrous oxide and single use cannisters have been a recent focus with agreed action between partners.

A substance use JSNA has been produced and a copy will be uploaded on the council website for use by internal depts and partners.

The CDP Terms of Reference were revisited by the partnership on the 28th of September 2023 as part of the 12-month review. (See appendix 1)

7. Performance

The CDP has used the National Outcomes Framework (NOF) to inform their work and to develop the local dashboard. The NOF will guide future planning and progress reporting locally and nationally. Key data for the last 12 months shows:

- Drug related deaths for those in treatment have remained relatively stable, but the alcohol specific deaths have increased in relation to the March 2022 baseline.

- The numbers in treatment have continued to increase, 1338 adults and 74 children are now accessing services.
- The numbers receiving an Inpatient Medical Detox have increased and exceed the previous year figures.
- Performance for prison leavers continuity of care remain high and above the national average.
- In 12 months to May 2023 there were improved recovery outcomes more people in paid work, training/education and in stable and suitable accommodation.

8. Moving Forward

Sefton's Combating Drugs Partnership will monitor performance against the Combating Drugs Outcome Framework and will report on the partnership's performance and delivery into central government, Merseyside PCC and Health & Wellbeing Board as required. Locally a cycle of review and performance dashboard have been agreed in accordance with national guidance.

The CDP will track delivery of the national drugs plan, locally setting plans that demonstrate where investment has gone and how it is making a difference to communities and individuals.

Partnership members will communicate and promote local plans/activity across the borough, to secure active contribution and engagement from communities and stakeholders as appropriate.