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West Sussex Combating Drugs Partnership

Dan Barritt | Public Health Lead for Substance Misuse



Context

The past decade has seen a rise in overall drug use, a rise in drug (and alcohol) related deaths (61% between 2010-2019), and increased harms from substance misuse (e.g., polydrug use, homelessness and imprisonment, and changing patterns of socioeconomic deprivation).

Dame Carol Black's (DCB) two-part review of drugs policy for the UK Government outlines the scale of the challenge:

"Funding cuts have left treatment and recovery services on their knees. Commissioning has been fragmented, and partnerships between local authorities, health, housing, employment support and criminal justice agencies have deteriorated. The workforce is depleted, especially of professionally qualified people, and demoralised. Vital services have been cut back"

Background

In response, the Government published its 10-year drug strategy, *From Harm to Hope*, and mandated local authority areas to establish a local Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP).

CDPs are multi-agency forums that provides a single setting for understanding and addressing shared challenges related to local drug (and alcohol)-related harms.

They bring together action and oversight across the three strategic priorities and commitments of the national drug strategy: (1) Breaking drug supply chains; (2) Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system; (3) Achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs.

West Sussex Combating Drugs Partnership

The West Sussex CDP is a single setting for understanding and addressing the shared challenges related to local drug (and alcohol)-related harms.

Chaired by the Senior Responsible Owner (SRO), the Director of Public Health, West Sussex County Council, the West Sussex CDP is a multi-agency forum that includes representation from elected Members, local authority officials, the NHS, Jobcentre Plus, substance misuse treatment providers, the Police and Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), the National Probation Service, and the secure estate (e.g., prisons, young offender institutions).

As the CDP develops, the following organisations will also be engaged and worked with: education providers (including higher and further), housing associations and providers of supported housing and homelessness services, youth offending teams, Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise (VCSE) organisations, the coroner's office, and people with lived experience.

Responsibilities

1. Undertaking an ongoing **joint local needs assessment** - reviewing all relevant local data and intelligence; identifying gaps; formal review.
2. Producing an ongoing **local drugs (and alcohol) strategy delivery plan** - reflects the national strategic priorities; local data recording and sharing; focused, multi-agency sub-working groups.
3. Regular **review of progress** - local delivery of strategies objectives; identifying local issues and priorities ongoing.

To understand interactions, synergies, and dependencies, the West Sussex CDP must collectively define its relationship with other strategic and operational bodies.

Recommendation(s) to the Board



The West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. Note that the West Sussex Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP), chaired by the Director of Public Health, as Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) for the partnership, is the local delivery structure for the implementation of the national 10-year drugs strategy and mechanism that central Government will draw upon to track and support delivery of the Strategy.
2. Recognise the significant impact that this new partnership can have on improving the quality of life for residents and communities and reducing future demand and costs for services across the wider health and care system in West Sussex.
3. To consider how the West Sussex Health and Wellbeing Board, as key systems leaders, can support the West Sussex CDP to gain representation and full involvement of local people with lived experience, to maximise our collaboration and impact for this important agenda (e.g., people who are using/have used drugs, family members/carers who have been impacted by substance misuse harms, professionals/services affected by drug related harm).

Partnership roles and contacts

- **Senior Responsible Owner** – Alison Challenger – Director of Public Health - West Sussex County Council – Alison.Challenger@westsussex.gov.uk
- **Partnership and Public Involvement Lead** – Dan Barritt – Public Health Lead for Substance Misuse - West Sussex County Council – Dan.Barritt@westsussex.gov.uk
- **Data and Intelligence Lead** – Robert Whitehead - Senior Research Officer, Public Health and Social Research Unit – Robert.Whitehead@westsussex.gov.uk

Thank you.

Any questions?