

**Open Report on behalf of Glen Garrod,
Executive Director – Adult Care and Community Wellbeing**

Report to:	Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date:	21 March 2023
Subject:	Drug and Alcohol Core Priority Group Report

Summary:

To present to the Scrutiny Committee, a summary of work related to drug and alcohol misuse by the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership, in Lincolnshire during the course of 2022/2023 and the intentions for the coming year, to ensure Members are sighted on these topics as a statutory duty.

Actions Required:

Members of the Public Protection and Communities Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the contents of the report.

1. Background

The United Kingdom as whole continues to be affected by the harm caused by drugs and Lincolnshire is no exception. An independent review of drugs by Dame Carol Black, was commissioned in 2019, with Parts 1 and 2 published in 2020 and 2021, respectively. Part 2 focussed on drug treatment, recovery and prevention and informed the national drug strategy, published in April 2022 - From harm to hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives¹.

The development of this strategy incorporated 32 recommendations made in Dame Carol Black's report; recommendations for change across various government departments and other organisations, to improve the effectiveness of drug prevention and treatment and to help more people recover from dependence. The strategy led to the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership re-identifying substance misuse (hereafter referred to as drugs and alcohol), as a priority and establishing a Core Priority Group to be responsible for local implementation of the strategy. Simultaneously, a national Joint Combating Drugs Unit was created by the Home Office, to monitor and support activity against the national strategy, with a request that local Combating Drugs Partnerships were formed to be accountable for activity carried out. The Drugs and Alcohol Core Priority Group, under the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership,

¹ Full document available to download from:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1079147/From_harm_to_hope_PDF.pdf

was identified as a suitable mechanism to operate in a dual role as a Combating Drugs Partnership and relevant discussions, Terms of Reference and Membership have been embedded to reflect this.

2. Accountability

The Drug and Alcohol Core Priority Group (CPG) is accountable to the Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy Board. However, in its dual role as a Combating Drugs Partnership, the Drug and Alcohol CPG also has a Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) who will report progress in delivering the national strategy at a local level to the National Joint Combating Drugs Unit.

3. Membership of the Drugs and Alcohol CPG

The SRO for the Partnership is Derek Ward, Director of Public Health. His delegate for operational purposes and the Chair of the group is Lucy Gavens, Consultant in Public Health. The Vice Chair is Detective Chief Inspector (DCI) Andrew McWatt, Lincolnshire Police. The group is co-ordinated by Jemma Clarke, Community Safety Strategy Co-ordinator for Drug and Alcohol Misuse. Membership provides representation from key stakeholders, with appropriate individuals involved who are able to make decisions and hold each other to account.

Members include:

- Lincolnshire County Council (Officers & Elected Member)
- Lincolnshire Police
- Police and Crime Commissioner's Office
- Probation
- Department for Work & Pensions
- Lincolnshire Prisons
- Local Treatment Providers (WAWY and OYL)²
- Lincolnshire Fire & Rescue
- Drugs and Alcohol Recovery Service (Double Impact)
- OHID (Office for Health Improvement and Disparities)
- Framework
- District Councils (Homelessness)
- Lincolnshire Partnership Foundation Trust
- Integrated Care Board (ICB)
- University of Lincoln (UoL)

The CPG first met on 22nd September 2022 and has met on two occasions since this date. Meetings are to be held quarterly, with additional meetings to be scheduled, should need arise.

4. Strategy

Locally, substance misuse is referred to as drugs and alcohol misuse. The decision was taken to refer to this as such, to ensure the scope of the work of the Partnership was explicit and understood by all. In addition, the national drugs strategy does have a focus on drugs,

² WAWY: We are with You
OYL: One You Lincolnshire

specifically, with little mention of alcohol. It was agreed locally that the impact of alcohol use must not be overlooked; in many areas it is difficult to assess the effect of drug misuse without considering alcohol misuse alongside it.

The Safer Lincolnshire Partnership Strategy Board set a strategy, parameters, and success measures for each of its priorities. For drugs and alcohol, they are:

Strategy: Reduce drug and alcohol related harm through a comprehensive package of prevention and treatment activity.

Parameters: Focus on early prevention in areas of greatest deprivation, ensure sufficient support services are available in those areas and work holistically with partners to achieve a positive outcome for individuals, families and communities.

What will success look like: Fewer people will use drugs and experience harm from alcohol use, and services will be in place to support behaviour change in those people who need specialist treatment to overcome harmful drinking or drug use.

4 (i). Strategic Considerations

The work of the Drugs and Alcohol CPG has been informed by a number of local assessments.

A: The Strategic Assessment for Community Safety and Safeguarding in Lincolnshire was a key document in understanding the challenges relating to drugs and alcohol in Lincolnshire. This comprehensive deep dive into drugs and alcohol highlighted a number of key points:

- The drugs supply market is highly resilient and adaptable;
- There is a notable link between serious violence and drug and alcohol misuse, with particular reference to the county lines model and associated harms;
- Drugs and alcohol may be a factor in an increasing number of domestic offences;
- Drug and alcohol-related deaths are at all-time highs;
- Treatment services have been affected by poor investment over a sustained period of time;
- Work needs to be done, to ensure that efforts are not disproportionately in favour of criminal justice intervention and that a public health approach is of equal consideration in activity.

B: The Alcohol and Drugs Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) Factsheet. During July and August 2022, this was updated, to illustrate the current picture of drug and alcohol misuse in Lincolnshire and to help to inform next steps. Steps pertaining to the work of the Drugs and Alcohol CPG related to:

- Formation of the Drugs and Alcohol CPG and acknowledging that this group will be responsible for developing and delivering Lincolnshire's strategic approach to reducing drug and alcohol-related harm, including both prevention and treatment across a range of health and social outcomes.

- Continuation of the delivery of the Lincolnshire Drug Strategy and to expand this work to a broader focus on prevention and treatment of alcohol as well as drug-related harm.
 - Supporting the work led by Lincolnshire County Council in relation to their implementation of government grant monies.
- C: In November 2022, further work was undertaken, to build on the JSNA Factsheet and the Strategic Assessment for Community Safety and Safeguarding. Additional documents which held relevant information around the picture of drugs and alcohol misuse in Lincolnshire, including:
- Local Alcohol Profiles for England (Lincolnshire)
 - Lincolnshire’s Drug Market Profile.

Collectively, these works formed the Lincolnshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership Needs Assessment (Appendix 1).

These analyses have helped shape the direction of activity around drugs and alcohol in Lincolnshire for the Drugs and Alcohol CPG, in the form of a delivery plan. This plan encompasses a whole system plan for the delivery of the three main strategic ambitions of the National Drug Strategy (*Break Supply Chains*, *Deliver* a world class treatment and recovery system and *Achieve* a generational shift in the demand for drugs). The delivery plan has 6 key areas of focus:

- Develop and implement an all-age local prevention plan for drugs and alcohol that includes: a universal offer and a targeted approach that focuses on communities with the greatest need.
- Ensure clear and well-functioning referral pathways between agencies in contact with people affected by drugs or alcohol, and treatment services.
- Improve data sharing and joint analysis between organisations in contact with people experiencing drug and/or alcohol-related harm, to develop a more comprehensive understanding of local need, and use that intelligence to guide future practice.
- Develop and implement a process to review recent drug-related deaths, to understand lessons learned, and use that learning to inform local evidence-informed prevention and treatment.
- Improve access to drug and alcohol treatment through the criminal justice system and collaborate with partners to tackle drug supply chains (to include County Lines).
- Review the current drug strategy, with a view to extending the focus to include the effects and issues surrounding alcohol and the health impact of both drugs and alcohol.

All actions have a named responsible owner, with target start and end dates clearly defined. Progress will be reviewed and updated regularly, with members of the CPG invited to comment and discuss.

The CPG is in the process of identifying key metrics locally, to track and map successful delivery against the National Outcomes Framework and will periodically review the progress of activity of these strategic and intermediate outcomes, using pre-existing data sets and

data sharing agreements that are in development. The CPG is also in the initial stages of identifying any additional local metrics that will help in understanding progress against priorities identified in the Delivery Plan.

5. Notable activity

Since establishing the CPG, the following activity has been initiated:

- Positive collaboration with Police colleagues, to implement activity around County Lines and sharing of information pertaining to substance misuse via Public Protection Notices (PPNs).
- Work underway between With You (Treatment Provider for Drug and Alcohol Misuse in Lincolnshire) and a number of Stakeholders, to continue the training and distribution of Naloxone³ across Lincolnshire.
- Continued good cross-sectional working with other priorities within the SLP – particularly with the Reducing Reoffending CPG and Preventative Education.
- Roles identified to support the work of the CPG; a Data Analyst role identified to support on analysis of information and support understanding of our performance within the partnership, a Drugs-related Deaths Officer and a Senior Programme Officer for Substance Misuse who leads on Public Health-related prevention and treatment activity.
- A prevention Task and Finish group is being established, led by Public Health in collaboration with Community Safety, to develop and implement an all-age drugs and alcohol prevention approach for Lincolnshire. This will include universal activities (e.g., available to all) and targeted activity (e.g., focused on communities with the greatest need).

With particular reference to the prevention task and finish group, this will look at prevention in its broadest terms. Prevention is where we put in place measures to stop a problem from ever developing, for example through education and awareness raising, modifying environments, or through national government legislation. Current considerations for themes within the prevention task and finish group are:

- Evidence-based harm reduction and treatment interventions, such as Naloxone, needle-syringe programmes, talking therapies and psychological, psychosocial, and pharmacological interventions.
- Work with children and young people through school-based prevention and early intervention.
- High risk groups including women & girls, ethnic minority groups and offenders.
- Training and awareness looking at an increase in better training for individuals and organisations, awareness campaigns and rapid response communications.

Utilising a public health approach; looking at primary, secondary and tertiary prevention, gives a different lens through which activity and outcomes can be seen.

³ Naloxone (provided under the brand names Prenoxad and Nyxoid in the UK) is a medication used to reverse opioid overdose.

6. Conclusion

The Drugs and Alcohol Core Priority Group has mobilised stakeholders across the system to ensure that strong foundations are in place to effectively manage drugs and alcohol concerns within Lincolnshire.

Identifying the most appropriate representatives to form the Core Priority Group was crucial in strengthening the reach and response to activity against our current ambitions for change. The stakeholders which form the group bring with them a wealth of knowledge and an ability to affect change and it is the Core Priority Group's function, as a whole, to ensure those tools are shared and utilised effectively for the benefit of those living, working and visiting Lincolnshire.

The 2023 Delivery Plan has been developed based upon analysis of local intelligence including the experience and expertise of the CPG members. Each action has a named responsible owner, as well as target start, and end dates clearly defined. Progress will be reviewed and updated regularly, in discussion with members of the CPG. Activity is already underway on work against the Delivery Plan actions and the group is in a strong position to implement action and monitor progress using national and local metrics.

7. Consultation

a) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

8. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report:	
Appendix A	Lincolnshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership Needs Assessment

9. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Jemma Clarke, Community Safety Strategy Coordinator, who can be contacted on 07766 990699 or at jemma.clarke@lincolnshire.gov.uk.