

Lancashire Health and Wellbeing Board
Meeting to be held on 5 March 2024

Corporate Priorities:
Caring for the vulnerable
Delivering better services

Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Partnership – Delivering the Government's Strategy 'From Harm to Hope A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives'.

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Brief Summary

Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Partnership has been in existence for eighteen months and in that time has developed and sustained some positive changes for the people of Lancashire. This report sets out progress to date and gives an outline of plans for 2024/25. The additional programmes proposed to be funded during 2024/25 are summarised in the report. (A description of the following providers and their main areas of work can be found in Appendix 'A').

The national 10-year Strategy 'From Harm to Hope' 2021 requires each upper tier authority to develop and sustain a Combatting Drugs Partnership with membership made up of key public and voluntary services in the county including, NHS, social care, public health, housing authorities, the Police and Crime Commissioner, prisons, and probation. Partnerships must link with other strategic boards such as the Lancashire and South Cumbria Integrated Care Board, reducing reoffending boards, and community safety partnerships. In Lancashire we chose to broaden the Partnership's remit to include alcohol along with illicit drugs due to the wide-ranging harms associated with it.

Recommendations

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

- (i) Receive and discuss the progress made by the Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership in achieving the outcomes of the Government's 10-year drug Strategy.
- (ii) Endorse the proposed 2024/25 plan in making further progress in addressing the harms caused by drugs and alcohol in Lancashire.



Detail

Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Partnership (LDAP) is Lancashire's coordinating body formed to respond to the requirements set out in the Government's Strategy, 'From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives' (2021).

The Strategy sets out three core priorities: break drug supply chains, deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system, and achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs. This approach can only be effective if it is built on strong local partnerships.

"Successful delivery of the Government's drugs strategy, 'From harm to hope', relies on co-ordinated action across a range of local partners including in enforcement, treatment, recovery and prevention" (Guidance for local delivery partnerships – updated 26 January 2023, Home Office).

Each combatting drugs partnership Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Partnership (LDAP) and local partners must work to achieve the following outcomes:

- Reduced likelihood of drug and alcohol related deaths
- A reduction in drug and alcohol related reoffending amongst prolific offenders within local areas
- Increase in the numbers of drug and alcohol users, especially offenders, engaging in treatment as well as increases in those achieving and sustaining recovery
- Reduced costs for local health services and police forces due to lower health and crime harms, and lower costs to the criminal justice system (as fewer people are dealt with by the courts)
- The strategy sets out several national targets and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) have set local (Lancashire) targets based on the national delivery expectations.

Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Partnership (LDAP) is made up of a range of partners and has established multi-agency working groups to achieve the above outcomes including on prevention, data and intelligence, early intervention, criminal justice, dual diagnosis, and drug related deaths.

As part of Lancashire Drug and Alcohol Partnership's (LDAPs) work, it had to undertake an initial needs assessment and develop an action plan. This allowed focus on work to address some of the big challenges faced by people with treatment needs in Lancashire. Levels of unmet needs have been mapped, numbers of people in treatment for different drugs, the links between prison and community treatment providers and made significant progress in addressing and reducing barriers to treatment.

Whilst performance has been strong in Lancashire for many years more recently it has been falling and the county is facing some very challenging issues and very high levels of unmet need. For example, Lancashire has a higher than England average in terms of unmet need for problematic – 'at risk' alcohol users (in England around 80% of this group are not in treatment whilst in Lancashire the figure is closer to 83% Lancashire).



The treatment population experience multiple and complex health and social needs. For example, around 80% of people entering treatment for alcohol use have a mental health treatment needs whilst for England the figure is closer to 70% of people in treatment have a mental health treatment need.

With additional investment there has come some challenges not least in recruitment of additional staff such as struggling to recruit social workers into the system, in response it has been decided to retrain three of recovery workers as social workers. Providers have taken a 'grow your own' approach to develop capacity in the future.

To achieve the ambitions in the national strategy there has been some allocated additional funding; the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG). This grant is focused on community treatment for adults and children and young people with the aim of delivering on the Strategy's priority to develop a world class treatment and recovery system.

Progress against targets

Lancashire are currently in year two of the National Strategy, the Lancashire Alcohol and Drugs Partnership, and the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) and have agreed annual targets with the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID).

As of November 2023, there were almost 7000 adults in treatment in Lancashire. This is an increase of 800 people from the baseline 6119 in March 2022. The target has been exceeded for 2023/24 by more than 200 adults in treatment. For young people, as of November 2023 there were more than 300 in treatment. This is from a baseline of 196 in March 2022. The target for 2023/24 for young people was 244 people in treatment. A significant increase has also been seen in the continuity of care (people leaving prison with a drug/alcohol treatment need and arriving at community treatment) figures at 64% for the rolling 12 months to November 2023, compared to a baseline of 37% in March 2022.

Lancashire in 2023/24 has achieved micro-elimination of Hepatitis C within the treatment population. This is across all twelve districts and is thanks to the hard work of Change, Grow Live (CGL) provider and with support from health colleagues across the County.

This is a significant achievement and means that there is:

- 100% of people using the service have been offered a Hepatitis C test.
- 90% of those people have been tested.
- 75% of people who were diagnosed with Hepatitis C have started treatment.

Lancashire Alcohol and Drug Treatment Plan for 2024/25

The additional programmes proposed to be funded during 2024/25 are summarised below. (A description of the following providers and their main areas of work can be found in Appendix 'A').



Change, Grow, Live (CGL) – Lancashire's Adult Treatment Provider

The current average caseload sits at 65-75 per drug and alcohol worker. A key element of plans for 2024/25 is to significantly increase the number of drug and alcohol workers to bring caseloads down towards the ambition of 40 per drug and alcohol worker as set out in the drug strategy. In comparison a social worker would typically carry a caseload of around 20. There are also plans to recruit specific stimulant workers to increase the number of primary crack users coming into treatment as we have identified that there is a high unmet need in this population. It is proposed to use some of the additional funding to enhance the pharmacy offer to those receiving medically assisted treatment. The enhanced offer includes the delivery of wellbeing support, including harm reduction, reporting of all missed pick-ups and late collections and an annual review by a pharmacist. One of driving forces behind the funding of the enhance pharmacy service is to support the management and reduction of risks, including drug related deaths and overdoses. Support for the criminal justice system and the police's Test on Arrest programme.

We Are With You – Lancashire's Children and Young Peoples treatment provider

The plans for 2024/25 include the addition of two contextual safeguarding workers to enhance the links between and With You and children's social care to improve access and treatment for young people who are at risk of exploitation and criminality. The plan is to introduce a dedicated transitional worker to support individuals between the ages of 18-25 as they transition from young people's service into Change, Grow Live (CGL). It is proposed to also fund a Cognitive Behaviour Therapy practitioner to support the high levels of mental health needs seen in service.

Red Rose Recovery

The Red Rose Recovery plans for 2024/25 include the uplifting of all Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) funded staff to the Real Living Wage of £12 an hour. This will support staff retention and bring greater parity between recovery and treatment service pay.

Lancashire Women

The main addition to the Lancashire Women offer in 2024/25 is the addition of a part time group work facilitator. Group work is a key component of drug and alcohol treatment and recovery and the introduction of the group work in the Snapback programme is to support women to feel comfortable in engaging in group work to allow them to facilitate access to structured treatment.

The Well

The plans for The Well include the expansion of their People with Lived Experience Management training to support the private sector in addition to public and charitable sector.



Conclusion

The Partnership will, in 2024/25, review and revise the drug and alcohol needs assessment factoring in changing drug markets and patterns of use. It will place a greater emphasis on prevention and develop a revised and SMART action plan. The Partnership is well placed to continue to deliver on the objectives in the National Drugs' Strategy 'From Harm to Hope' and meet the core requirements of the additional grants in terms of performance.

Appendices

Appendix	Title
Appendix 'A'	Delivery partners in the Lancashire Substance Use Treatment System

List of background papers

From Harm to Hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives. 2021
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>

Guidance for local delivery partners. Updated 26 of January 2024
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/drugs-strategy-guidance-for-local-delivery-partners/guidance-for-local-delivery-partners-accessible-version>

