

**Report of Director of Public Health**

**Report to Executive Board**

**Date: 18<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

**Subject: Leeds Drug & Alcohol Strategy & Action Plan 2019-2024**

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| Are specific electoral wards affected?<br>If yes, name(s) of ward(s):  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Has consultation been carried out?   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |
| Is the decision eligible for call-in?  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No |
| Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?<br>If relevant, access to information procedure rule number:<br>Appendix number: | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No |

**Summary**

**1. Main issues**

- The Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024 sets out the city's ambition to address drug and alcohol misuse over the next five years. The strategy has been refreshed in line with changes to national policy and to respond to evolving local challenges and needs.
- The Drug and Alcohol Board agreed the draft strategy on 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019 and, subject to endorsement from Executive Board, will look to publish later in the year.
- The governance arrangements have been reviewed and a new framework is proposed to ensure oversight of the delivery of the new strategy and action plan, and connections to other key strategies and partnerships.

**2. Best Council Plan Implications** (click [here](#) for the latest version of the Best Council Plan)

- The Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan links directly to the Council's ambition of being a Strong Economy and a Compassionate City, with an emphasis on people and place and will contribute, both directly and indirectly, to all the Best

City priorities, including the Best Council Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21 priorities, Health & Wellbeing, Safe Strong Communities, Child Friendly City and Housing

- It directly delivers elements of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Safer Leeds Strategy and contributes to making Leeds a Child Friendly City

### **3. Resource Implications**

- Delivery of the action plan is already accounted for. There are no further resource implications for the refreshed strategy

## **Recommendations**

### **Executive Board is asked to:**

1. To approve the Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024. This is appended to the cover report.
2. To consider the proposed governance arrangements for the strategy noting the connections made to key partnerships, including Safer Leeds and the Children and Families Trust Board.
3. Note that the officer responsible for implementation is Chief Officer/Consultant Public Health, Adults and Health

## **1. Purpose of this report**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the updated Leeds Drug & Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan 2019 – 2024, for approval.

1.2 The strategy and action plan set out the city's ambition to address drug and alcohol misuse over the next five years, with the overarching principle that:

“Leeds is a compassionate city that works with individuals, families and communities to address drug and alcohol misuse”.

The strategy supports our Best City Ambitions and contributes to the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and Safer Leeds Strategy.

1.3 As part of the development of the strategy and action plan, refreshed governance arrangements are also outlined which ensure effective oversight and connection to other key strategies and partnerships such as the Safer Leeds Strategy and the Children and Young People's Plan - both of which were presented to the Executive Board in July and March 2018, respectively.

## **2. Background information**

Leeds Drug and Alcohol strategies and action plans have always aligned with changes to national policy and responded to evolving local challenges and needs.

2.1 The national Drug Strategy 2010: Reducing demand, restricting supply, building recovery: Supporting people to live a drug free life (HM Government, 2010), set out the Government's response to drugs misuse and drug addiction, encompassing

activity across three themes: reducing demand; restricting supply; and building recovery in communities. It had two overarching aims:

- reducing illicit and other harmful drug use; and
- increasing the numbers recovering from their dependence

2.2 The previous Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan was developed in 2016 and set out the local strategy for 2016-2018 to respond to the national 2010 drug strategy with a focus on four main areas. These were:

- People choose not to misuse drugs and/or alcohol
- More people to recover from their drug and alcohol misuse and the harms it can cause
- Fewer children, young people and families are affected by drug and alcohol misuse
- Fewer people experience crime and disorder related to the misuse of drugs and alcohol

2.3 The Government released a new drug strategy in 2017, which maintained its two overarching aims and three themes from the 2010 strategy alongside the introduction of a fourth: Global Action - leading and driving action on a global scale.

2.4 The national alcohol strategy has not been updated since 2012 but has also informed the development of the Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy, ensuring that actions were developed across health and social care, and linking to the night-time economy and criminal justice partners.

2.5 The government is currently undertaking a major independent review of drug misuse. Looking at a wide range of issues, including the system of support and enforcement around drug misuse, to inform thinking about what more can be done to tackle drug harms. Public Health England is also undertaking a Prescribed Medicines Evidence Review. Reporting of findings from both is expected during 2019. The governance in place to deliver the local strategy and action plan will ensure we input into, and keep up to date with the developments of national reviews and action plans, any other national government recommendations, to update local plans where appropriate.

2.6 There are strong connections between drugs and alcohol and crime and community safety. Consequently, the strategy has been reviewed jointly between Public Health and Safer Leeds. The Drug and Alcohol Strategy is also informed by and referenced in the Safer Leeds Strategy.

2.7 With the establishment of the Street Support team and presenting issues with drugs and alcohol for the majority of street users, increased connectivity around prevention, intervention and recovery has been incorporated into operational delivery. This includes enhanced pathways into treatment for street users with substance misuse issues, and better links into accommodation (including emergency, supported or sustained tenancies)

2.8 The 2017/2018 Annual Report of the Director of Public Health, entitled "Nobody Left Behind", contained a focus on the decline in life expectancy in women and the static life expectancy in men and the reasons for this. Two of the significant causes for the disappointing life expectancy figures were cited as a rise in deaths in women from alcohol-related liver disease and a rise in deaths in men from drug-related overdoses. The new Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy therefore contains responses to these issues.

- 2.9 The Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024 is clearly aligned with national strategy and responds to children, young people and families, ensuring a 'Think Family' approach, with a section dedicated to reducing the impact of harm from drugs and alcohol on children, young people and families. In addition, a section has been included on responding to emerging drug and alcohol issues in the city.
- 2.10 The Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024 retains a strong emphasis on prevention, treatment and recovery, including strength and asset based approaches.

### **3. Main issues**

- 3.1 The refreshed Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan contains five main outcomes for delivery:
- Fewer people misuse drugs and/or alcohol and where people do use they make better, safer and informed choices
  - Increase in the proportion of people recovering from drug and/or alcohol misuse
  - Reduce crime and disorder associated with drug and/or alcohol misuse
  - Reduce impact of harm from drugs and alcohol on children, young people and families
  - Addressing specific emerging issues
- 3.2 The strategy has been developed to be delivered over 5 years to allow for better future planning. The action plan supporting the strategy will be a living document, with quarterly reporting built in, and will be reviewed and refreshed on an annual basis.
- 3.3 The strategy has specific action plans for each of the 5 outcomes. Each action plan contains an element of core business and a section that is the focus for the coming year that will have a higher amount of input. The final section - future ambition and innovation - acknowledges that this is a long term strategy and ensures we have sight of actions we are not delivering on now but may want to deliver within the lifetime of the strategy.
- 3.4 The strategy and action plan has also built in mechanisms to respond to the annual Report of the Director of Public Health, as needed.
- 3.5 To oversee the delivery of the strategy, and ensure stronger connections to other key agendas, a new governance framework has been developed. There has been a well-established Drug and Alcohol Board in Leeds for a number of years, with good attendance from a wide range of partners, which maintained ownership of the strategy, but it was acknowledged that reporting mechanisms and connections across strategic partnerships could be improved.
- 3.6 Membership of the board has been refreshed to ensure the right representation across all the partners. Membership of the board includes:
- Public Health, Safer Leeds, Adults and Health, West Yorkshire Police, Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust, Children's Services, Adult Social Work, National Probation Service, Community Rehabilitation Company, St. Anne's Community Services, Forward Leeds, NHS England and HMPPS Yorkshire Prisons

- 3.7 As well as having named individuals responsible for the delivery of the actions in the plan, the actions are also allocated to a particular sub group for oversight. Sub groups will be expected to report to the board by exception on a quarterly basis.
- 3.8 In addition to the board, the governance framework establishes a wider group of individuals to convene twice a year as a network to have discussions about drug and alcohol use in the city and input into the action plans.

## **4. Corporate considerations**

### **4.1 Consultation and engagement**

- 4.1.1 An extensive programme of co-production and consultation has informed the new strategy. This has involved partners and representatives from a range of stakeholders, including Leeds City Council; West Yorkshire Police; National Probation Trust; Leeds Clinical Commissioning Group, Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust, West Yorkshire Community Rehabilitation Company; HM Prison Service and the voluntary and community sector, including service providers and service users.
- 4.1.2 Drafts of the strategy and action plan have gone to lead members for Adults and Health, Communities and Environments and Children and Families, as well as the Safer Leeds Executive and the Leeds Children's Trust Board.

### **4.2 Equality and diversity / cohesion and integration**

- 4.2.1 The issues relating to drugs and alcohol cut across the whole city and therefore the strategy acknowledges this impact, but has developed the action plan to ensure the strategy meets the needs of all Leeds citizens.
- 4.2.2 The Equality, Diversity, Cohesion and Integration Screening document is attached to this report as an appendix.

### **4.3 Council policies and best council plan**

- 4.3.1 The Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan links directly to the Council's ambition of being a Strong Economy and a Compassionate City, with an emphasis on people and place, and will contribute both directly and indirectly to all the Best City priorities, including the Best Council Plan 2018/19 – 2020/21 priorities, Health & Wellbeing, Safe Strong Communities, Child Friendly City and Housing.
- 4.3.2 It directly delivers elements of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy and the Safer Leeds Strategy and contributes to making Leeds a Child Friendly City.
- 4.3.3 Climate Emergency:
- 4.3.4 Officers recognise the ambition to tackle the Climate Emergency in Leeds, as declared at the Council meeting in March 2019.
- 4.3.5 Partners will be encouraged to look at sustainable travel options when attending governance meetings, with better use of skype meeting facilities.
- 4.3.6 Commissioned services will work with commissioners, through established contract management processes, to ensure the service is proactively seeking to minimise its carbon footprint and thereby support the Council in achieving its ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030.

#### **4.4 Resources and value for money**

- 4.4.1 The strategy and action plan has no specific funding attached to it. However, it does recognise the commissioning of drug and alcohol services and ensures reporting feedback from those mechanisms into the board.

#### **4.5 Legal implications, access to information, and call-in**

- 4.5.1 This report does not contain any exempt or confidential information. It is not a key decision, and is subject to call-in.

#### **4.6 Risk management**

- 4.6.1 The governance framework that has been put in place will ensure that the strategy and action plan is delivered over the next five years.
- 4.6.2 The five year strategy has been written to give a longer term approach to delivery, with the consideration that the National Drug Strategy is unlikely to be reviewed before then, with the assumption that even if a new national strategy for drugs or alcohol is released it is unlikely to contain any major changes to legislation.
- 4.6.3 If significant changes are made nationally to drug legislation, then the city has a robust governance framework in place to respond to these changes.

### **5. Conclusions**

- 5.1 The Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024 sets out the city approach to address drug and alcohol misuse over the next five years. The governance arrangements have been reviewed and a new framework is proposed to ensure oversight of the delivery of the new strategy and connections to other key strategies and partnerships.

### **6. Recommendations**

#### **Executive Board is asked to:**

- 6.1 To approve the Leeds Drug and Alcohol Strategy and Action Plan 2019-2024. This is appended to the cover report
- 6.2 To consider the proposed governance arrangements for the strategy noting the connections made to key partnerships, including Safer Leeds and the Children and Families Trust Board.
- 6.3 Note that the officer responsible for implementation is Chief Officer/Consultant Public Health, Adults and Health.

### **7. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.

## **8. Appendices**

- 8.1 Drug & Alcohol Board terms of reference
- 8.2 Equality, diversity, cohesion and integration screening form
- 8.3 Leeds Drug & Alcohol Strategy & Action Plan 2019-2024