

Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board
7th December 2022

Report Topic:	Sandwell Drug & Alcohol Strategy
Contact Officer:	Mary Bailey
Link to board priorities	<p>1. We will help keep people healthier for longer Problematic substance misuse can cause ill health and impact on mortality rates. Preventing misuse and ensuring engagement with treatment will help individuals live longer and enjoy a better quality of life – adding years to life and life to years.</p> <p>2. We will help keep people safe and support communities It is estimated that around 45% of acquisitive crime is committed by heroin and/or crack cocaine users. Evidence suggests treatment helps prevent 4.4 million crimes annually. Crime can have a significant impact on communities; people may feel less safe, home insurance can increase, property prices can be affected and businesses may avoid the area. Preventing use and ensuring engagement with treatment is likely to reduce crime.</p> <p>3. We will work together to join up services Successful delivery of the government’s drugs strategy, ‘From harm to hope’, relies on coordinated action across a range of local partners including in enforcement, treatment, recovery and prevention. The Sandwell Drug & Alcohol Strategy will ensure local delivery towards commitments and ambitions of the 10-year national drugs strategy</p> <p>4. We will work closely with local people, partners and providers of services Sandwell Drug & Alcohol Partnership, together with the West Midlands regional Combatting Drugs Partnership</p>

	brings together the different individuals and organisations who represent and deliver the strategy goals, and co-ordinate activity to reduce substance misuse harm at a local level
Purpose of Report:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To appraise partners of the impact of substance misuse in the borough and plans to prevent and reduce such harms • To inform Sandwell Health & Well Being Board of Sandwell’s Drug & Alcohol Strategy
Recommendations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That Sandwell Health & Well Being Board acknowledge the Strategy and its associated action plan • That Sandwell Health & Well Being Board support delivery of the local Strategy ambitions including system-wide partnership working
Key Discussion points:	<p><u>Sandwell Drug & Alcohol Strategy 2022:</u> The overall aim of the new strategy is to reduce drug and alcohol-related harms and overall use in Sandwell. It was informed by the 2022 Sandwell Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment which reviewed local drug and alcohol needs and the current response to them. The Strategy was created in conjunction with the Sandwell Drug & Alcohol Partnership (SDAP).</p> <p>The strategy aligns to the national Governments 10-year drugs plan ‘From Harm to Hope’ and additionally includes a focus on alcohol given needs assessment findings which show Sandwell is disproportionately impacted by alcohol. The three priorities for this all-age strategy are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing Supply • Delivering a World-Class Treatment and Recovery System • Achieving a Generational Shift in the Demand for Alcohol and Drugs

The strategy also highlights the role that all partners have in improving an individual's treatment and recovery outcomes. The Strategy includes a set of partnership principles given its ambitions can only be delivered by the right players working together in partnership.

Governance:

The Sandwell Drug & Alcohol Partnership (SDAP) is the key local mechanism which brings together partners around the agenda and is governed by the Safer Sandwell Partnership. Sandwell is also one of 7 local authorities linked into the West Midlands Combatting Drugs Partnership led by the Office of the Police Crime Commissioner -this allows for more joined up action at a regional level especially in relation to supply and criminal justice elements.

The Strategy also contributes to many Sandwell Health & Well Being Board priorities as outlined in section 1. We would therefore welcome oversight and support of the Strategy from Sandwell HWBB given the numerous health impacts due to drug and alcohol use.

Progress/ reporting:

Under each of the Strategy's three priorities sits a number of commitments which will be monitored through an accompanying action plan to enable progress feedback at timely intervals to a range of stakeholders. Progress reports will align to the National Combatting Drugs Outcomes Framework as well as additional local data and alcohol related indicators

A copy of the Strategy is attached for further information



Sandwell Drug

<p>Implications (e.g. Financial, Statutory etc)</p>	
<p>The production of the Strategy is led by the Addictive Behaviors Team within Sandwell Public Health, with much of the focus on improving partnership working across the system. There are no budget or land/building implications associated with this proposal.</p> <p>Individuals at harm from drug or alcohol use are often marginalised, therefore it is anticipated that this work will have a positive impact on reducing inequalities. In addition the Strategy will also contribute to the wider wellbeing of individuals, families and communities.</p> <p>Drug or alcohol related harm has wide-reaching social and economic impacts. Preventing and treating such harms will therefore have a range of beneficial impacts on Sandwell’s residents and communities.</p>	
<p>What engagement has or will take place with people, partners and providers?</p>	<p>The local Strategy has been created in conjunction with the Sandwell Drug and Alcohol Partnership (SDAP). Alongside this report to HWBB, the Strategy has also been presented to the Safer Sandwell Partnership (the governance body for SDAP).</p> <p>Several audiences were consulted as part of the Needs Assessment and Strategy development including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 420 responses received from community members to our online survey– this shows that drug and alcohol use is a key concern for the local community • A series of focus groups and interviews with young people and adults currently accessing local drug and alcohol treatment services • Over 30 responses from frontline practitioners working across the system who in some way deliver to/ experience issues related to drugs or alcohol

--	--

