

Public health and health integration scrutiny committee

Drug and alcohol update

November 2023

An overview of:

- Drug and alcohol use in Leicester (adults and young people)
- Drug and alcohol services in Leicester
- Service performance
- The Dame Carol Black review & implications
- Key challenges
- Future plans

Drugs and alcohol in Leicester

- The estimated rate of opiate and/or crack (OCU) users in Leicester is higher than that of England (11.3/1,000 population).
- Around 55% of OCU users are not currently in treatment – similar to the rate in England – indicating a high level of unmet need.
- Of those in treatment, 36% are unemployed, 18% have a housing problem, 15% an urgent housing problem, 31% are parents and 2.2% students.
- The rate of hospital admissions due to drug related mental and behavioural disorders has significantly increased over the last 10 years.
- The rate decreases as deprivation decreases.
- From 2018 – 2020 there were 47 deaths from drug misuse.
- There are a significantly higher number of unplanned exits from treatment than England.



Drugs and alcohol in Leicester

- A significantly larger proportion of the city (50%) are abstinent compared to England.
- The proportion of non drinkers is highest in the most deprived areas where hospital admissions and deaths are also highest.
- Rates of alcohol related and alcohol specific deaths are significantly higher than England.
- Hospital admission and death rates were increasing prior to the pandemic and have increased more sharply since.
- Over two thirds of those in alcohol treatment also have a mental health need; 12% have a housing problem; 8% are in contact with the criminal justice system and 36.5% are parents.
- The proportion of people who successfully complete treatment is significantly worse than England.



Children and young people in Leicester

- Those more vulnerable to drug or alcohol use include:
 - Looked after children
 - Those who have been suspended or excluded
 - Those who have experienced adverse events as a child
- Around 1 in 6 children have tried alcohol and 1 in 100 drink at least once a week.
- Use of any drug in the last year is highest in 16 – 19 and 20 – 24 year old age groups.
- Alcohol specific hospital admissions are lower than England.
- The number of young people in treatment is declining with unmet need estimated at 91% in 15 – 24 year olds, similar to England
- 13% of CYP criminal offences are drug related.



Treatment services in Leicester from core public health grant

- **Turning Point (integrated treatment provider):**
 - Provide treatment for adults and children from drugs and alcohol including those with dual diagnosis, within the criminal justice system and with diverse needs.
 - Refer and support access to inpatient detox and residential rehabilitation.
 - Provide naloxone and harm reduction services
 - Sub contracts main lived experience/recovery organisation, Dear Albert
 - Sub contracts local recovery support organisations supporting diverse communities
- **No 5 wet centre**
 - A safe place to drink in a safe way, incl case managed/drop-in model
 - Access to treatment and other services
- **Unity House**
 - Accommodation for those on their recovery pathway
- **Inpatient detoxification unit**
 - Based in Nottingham to provide short term, intensive detoxification from either drugs or alcohol to a base level or abstinence.

Other core services in Leicester

- **Alcohol care team (ACT)**
 - Funded by the ICB and based in UHL.
 - Trained staff to refer patients into treatment
- **Dual diagnosis team** supporting people with a dual diagnosis of alcohol/drug addiction and mental ill health. Staffed by LPT.
- Drug and alcohol related death panel.

Current performance: key indicators

- 2,219 adults in treatment: not yet meeting our baseline but improving.
- Similar or lower estimates of unmet need across all substances compared to England
- Higher proportion of deaths in treatment than England (1.58% vs 1.40%)
- Lower proportion of prison leavers entering treatment than England (30% vs 43%)
- Lower proportion of people in treatment showing substantial progress than England (36% vs 47%)
- Lower proportion of the treatment population in employment, in stable housing or accessing mental health treatment than England.

Dame Carol Black review

- Carried out in 2019.
- Resulted in 10 year government drug strategy: “From Harm to Hope”.
- Large injection of funding set aside for those areas ‘most in need’.
- Initial agreement funding for 3 years to 2025.
- Requirement for all areas to develop a ‘Combating drugs partnership’ to measure progress against the national strategy.

Grants awarded to Leicester

- **Supplementary substance misuse treatment and recovery grant (SSMTRG) to:**
 - Decrease drug and alcohol offending
 - Increase the numbers in treatment and numbers in treatment after prison release
 - Increase the qualified workforce
 - Reduce deaths
- **Rough sleepers drug and alcohol treatment grant (RSDATG) to:**
 - Support access to treatment by increasing outreach teams and reducing caseloads.
- **Housing support grant (HSG) to:**
 - Improve the rate of recovery for those with a housing need.
 - Increase specialist staff within current housing teams
 - Increase knowledge of housing and drugs and alcohol within professional staff base.
- **Individual placement support (IPS)** to provide specialist employment support for people accessing treatment services.

Key activity as a result of grants

- Large scale recruitment of new staff including recovery workers, medication dispensers, mental health, housing & employment specialists.
- Comprehensive drug and alcohol needs assessment (autumn 2022).
- Development of the 'Combating drugs and alcohol partnership' structure.
- Development of a Leicester drug strategy
- Amalgamation of drug strategy with the city alcohol strategy.

Combating drugs and alcohol (CDA) governance

Joint CD Unit
(Home Officer)

LLR CDA strategic partnership

- Part of SPB Exec with own TOR
- Provides oversight of strategic outcomes

LLR CDA operational partnership

- Coordination of LLR CDA strategy
- Oversight/analysis of performance

City/county/Rutland delivery groups

- Implementation of locality based action plans
- Reporting of key metrics against action plans

LLR and locality sub groups

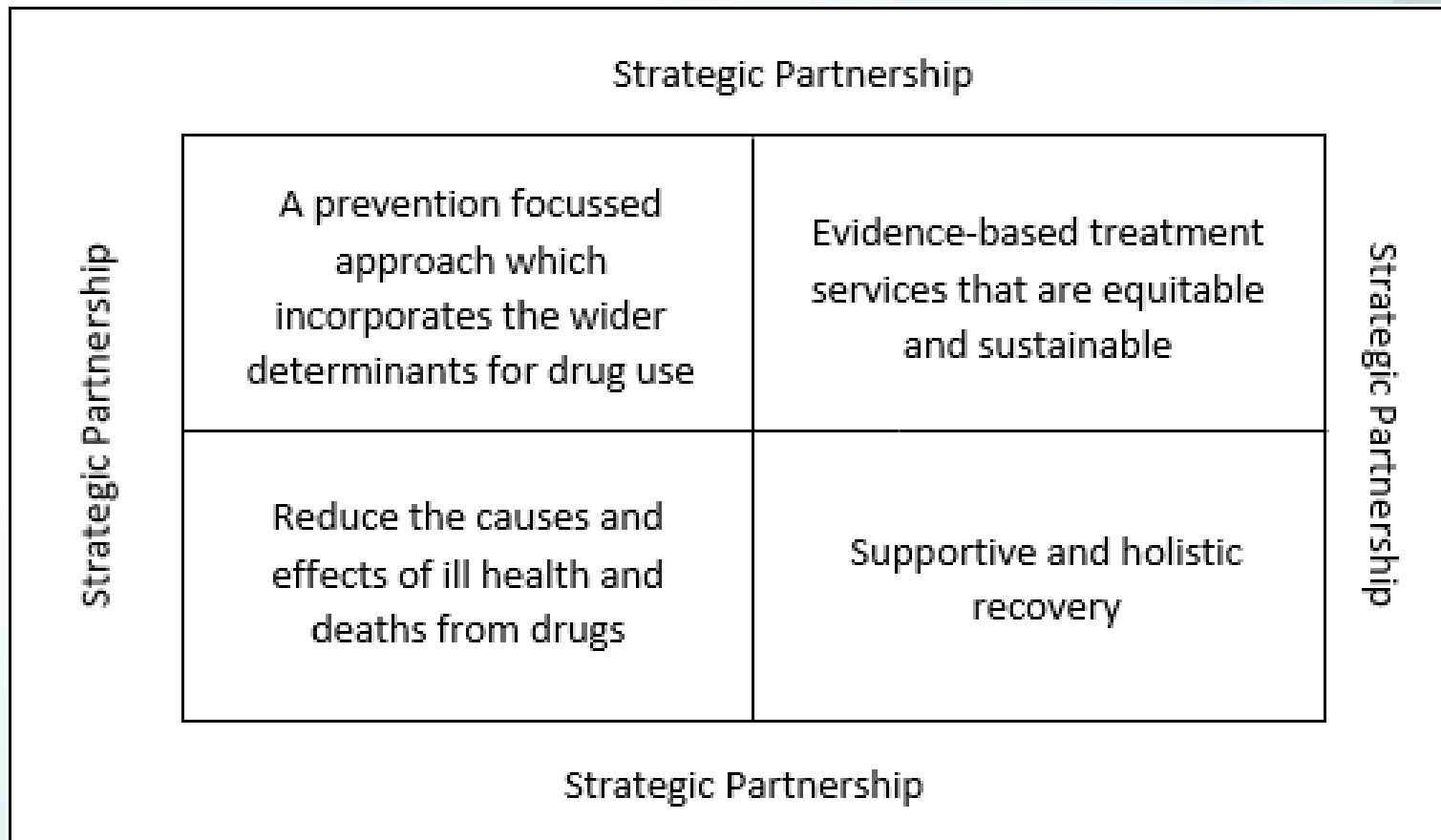
- LLR drug and alcohol deaths panel
- Strategy sub groups inc lived experience
- Criminal justice, probation, police: LLR and locality

Locality
Community
Safety
Partnerships &
Health &
Wellbeing
Boards



Leicester
City Council

Leicester's drug strategy



Leicester's drug and alcohol strategy

- Prevention

- Make knowledge of drugs and alcohol common knowledge
- Build resilience in children and young people
- Raise visibility/awareness of drugs and alcohol in professional bodies and staff

- Treatment and recovery

- Increase the number of people entering and remaining in treatment
- Identify and meet areas of unmet need
- Strengthen the support for co-existing mental health and drug and alcohol need
- Continue to develop our robust approach to harm reduction
- Ensure our services are accessible and equitable
- Ensure services provide a holistic approach to support
- Increase the uptake of testing for blood borne viruses
- Continue to support our recovery community to be a thriving, visible part of local services
- Continue to promote the importance of people with lived experience as part of the recovery pathway

- Night time economy

- Strategic direction

- Adopt a quality improvement approach to all of our work
- Review provision of fibroscanning
- Plan for change in future service needs and provision
- Be proactive in learning together



Key challenges

- Change management
- Uncertain funding timelines: March 2025
- Other funding considerations
- Performance scrutiny: quality vs quantity
- Reaching all of our communities
- Some specifics:
 - Changing availability of heroin
 - Changing national policy re: recreational drug use

Next steps

- Implementing the strategy
- Planning for next year's funding round
- Embedding new staff
- Evaluating new programmes of work
- Planning for 2025 and beyond.

References

- [Dame Carol Black review](#)
- [From Harm to Hope](#): 10 year national drug strategy
- National drug outcomes [framework](#)
- Leicester City [drugs and alcohol needs assessment](#)