

Committee: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 20 June 2017

Agenda item:

Wards: All

Subject: Merton's Joint Strategic Framework for Prevention of Substance Misuse and related harm 2017-2021

Lead officers: Chris Lee, Director Environment & Regeneration, Dagmar Zeuner, Director of Public Health

Lead member: Tobin Byers, Adult Social Care & Health

Forward Plan reference number:

Contact officer: Amanda Killoran, Public Health Consultant

Recommendations:

Board members are asked:

- A. To consider the Merton Joint Strategic Framework (LBM & MCCG) for Prevention of Substance Misuse and related harm 2017-21.
 - B. To endorse the whole systems perspective as the means of achieving shared outcomes and maximising the impact of limited resources, and specifically recognising that the current re-procurement of the Adult Substance Misuse Treatment Service is an important 'invest to save' measure –helping to reduce costs to health, social care, welfare and criminal justice.
 - C. To note that the Safer Stronger Executive Board has oversight of the implementation of Substance Misuse Strategic Framework Action Plan- to ensure cross council, CCG and partners' ownership and commitment.
 - D. To consider opportunities for Health & Wellbeing Board members to champion the SM strategic objectives and actions as systems leaders.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to set out the Merton Joint Strategic Framework (LBM & MCCG) for Prevention of Substance Misuse and related harm 2017-21.

The overall aim of the Strategic Framework is to reduce the significant harm caused by alcohol and drug misuse to individuals, families and communities in Merton.

The Framework takes forward specific objectives of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015/18, Children and Young People's Plan, and CCG Whole Merton Vision & Strategy, and contributes to the implementation of the Safer Stronger Merton priorities (including domestic violence). Tackling alcohol and drug misuse will also help close the gap in health inequalities between the west and east of the borough.

The Strategic Framework is a whole systems response to the problems relating to alcohol and drug misuse, and to achieving desired outcomes (reduced levels of substance misuse, and alcohol-related hospital admissions and crime)¹.

The Framework is designed to enable decisions about resources and savings to focus on achieving the shared intended outcomes spanning health, social care, welfare and community safety and criminal justice. Investment in prevention, early intervention and treatment represent invest to save measures –helping to reduce costs to the system.

The Framework specifically informs the current redesign and re-procurement of the Adult Substance Misuse Treatment Service, and decisions about investment and the potential for savings. The aim is to establish a more integrated recovery-based service model to improve successful treatment rates and help reduce costs elsewhere.

To date, within the Council and CCG, the prevention of substance misuse and related harm has not had a strategic profile. The Safer Stronger Executive Board will now take oversight for the implementation of the Strategic Framework Action Plan.

The Health & Wellbeing Board is asked to consider and endorse the Strategic Framework. Members are also asked to consider the opportunities for championing the strategic objectives and actions as systems leaders.

2 DETAILS

The Merton Joint Strategic Framework for Prevention of Substance Misuse and related harm 2017-2021 is presented in appendix 1.

2.1. The health, social and economic costs relating to substance misuse to individuals, families and communities in Merton are substantial.

- In Merton, an estimated 1,800 adults have some level of alcohol dependence in need of specialist assessment and treatment².
- There were a total of 2,900 alcohol-related hospital admissions in 2014/15.
- The impact of harmful drinking and alcohol dependence is much greater for those in the lowest income groups and those experiencing the highest levels of deprivation.
- Around 620 adults are in contact with specialist substance misuse treatment services annually. Alcohol is the primary presenting problem (53% of the treatment population).
- Around 60% of children and young people subject to a single assessment have one, two or all three of the 'toxic trio' risk factors- exposure to parental mental health, substance misuse and domestic abuse.

2.2. The future desired outcomes are reduced levels of alcohol and drug misuse, alcohol related hospital admissions and alcohol related crime³.

¹ As measured by Public Health England national indicators and data sets.

² Public Health England new estimates of Alcohol Dependency in England, published March 2017

³ New data set is due to be published by the end of 2017 for alcohol- attributable crime (for total crime, violence against the person, sexual offences and public order offences) based on a PHE methodological review of crime indicators 2016.

2.3. The Action Plan seeks to align the contributions (commitment and resources) across the council, CCG and other partners to achieve shared improvements in health, social care and community safety outcomes. It is designed to maximise the impact of the resource available and take account of severe financial constraints.

2.4. The redesign of the Adult Substance Treatment Service through the current re-procurement process is an important element of the Framework. The aim is to establish a more recovery focused service model. Research demonstrates that effective treatment has a high return on investment⁴.

The total Public Health Substance Misuse 2017/18 budget is £1,461,630 (including inpatient detox service). The budget includes savings of £140,000 (£80,000 detox service plus £60,000 from the main contract with SW London & St George's NHS Mental Health Trust).

Considerable work has been undertaken to engage specialist substance misuse providers (mental health NHS Trusts and large voluntary organisations) to ensure a competitive positive response to the tender in June/July. The award of the contract is due in November 2017.

The Substance Misuse Strategic Framework is planned to be received and endorsed by the Cabinet and CCG Governing Body in November/December 2017, following formal consultation. The timing is also linked to the approval by Cabinet of the Substance Misuse Treatment contract award decision in November/December.

2.5. The overall strategic objectives and actions cover the following five areas:

- *Leadership commitment through strategic governance* –the Safer Stronger Executive Board and Health and Wellbeing Board
- *Increased focus on prevention and early intervention* -using licensing powers to secure responsible alcohol retailing, training of front line staff on alcohol awareness and brief intervention (Making Every Contact Count), and access for individuals to digital IBA (identification and brief advice).
- *Redesign & delivery of a recovery orientated drug & alcohol treatment service*-with improved access to specialist services and stronger pathways between services (primary care, mental health, and criminal justice); and stronger routes to housing, education, employment, volunteering and mutual support.
- *Reducing the harm to families, children and young people* based on clear pathways between substance misuse, domestic violence and activities to prevent violence against women and girls; as well as early identification through public health children's prevention programmes.
- *Tackling crime & antisocial behaviour relating to substance misuse* – through implementation of the Local Alcohol Action Area project, and sustained collaborative working across agencies on community safety, offender management and rehabilitation.

⁴ Studies have shown that the benefits of drug treatment far outweigh the costs, with a benefit-cost ratio of 2.5:1 ie for every £1 spend on treatment £2.50 savings are achieved in the system (PHE 2017)

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

3.1. N/A

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

The development of the Framework is based on a review process involving extensive engagement with stakeholders (colleagues across community safety, licensing, CCG, police, probation, Children, Schools and Families, and specialist providers and service users).

We plan to work with HealthWatch in undertaking a formal public consultation as a next stage.

5 TIMETABLE

The Safer Stronger Executive Board is now taking the responsibility for oversight of the SM Strategic Framework and implementation of the Action Plan.

A new Merton Substance Misuse Partnership Board has been established to coordinate implementation of the Action Plan, monitor and report progress.

The intention is that the SM Strategic Framework will be received and endorsed by the Cabinet and CCG Governing body at the end of 2017, following formal consultation. This timing is also linked with Cabinet decision on the contract award for the Adult Substance Misuse Treatment Service.

6 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. Given the financial pressures, implementation of the Action Plan will be linked primarily to related plans and commissioning investments

6.2. The total Public Health budget for adult substance misuse treatment services 2017/18 is £1.462m (including for the Adult Substance Misuse Treatment Service inpatient detox service). The total includes a planned savings release of £140,000.

7 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. N/A

8 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

8.1. Tackling drug and alcohol misuse and related harm contributes to reducing health inequalities.

9 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

The Strategic Framework objectives and desired outcomes cover issues of community safety and crime reduction.

10 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

10.1. N/A

11 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

11.1. Merton’s Joint strategic framework for prevention of substance misuse & related harm 2017-2021 (LBM & MCCG).

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