Each year in the UK, it’s estimated that drugs cost society £10.7 billion in policing, healthcare and crime - with drug-fuelled theft alone costing £6 billion a year. As both the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire and a Derby City resident, I often see and hear how the issue of substance misuse and its associated crime affects the lives of the people in Derby. As the Police and Crime Commissioner, one of my responsibilities is to help keep communities safe from harm. Substance misuse and anti-social behaviour are two of the key priorities identified in my Derbyshire Police and Crime Plan 2016 - 2021.

These priorities cannot be addressed by any organisation alone and require a multi-agency response that seeks to address the wider social factors causing people to offend. The evidence suggests that drug and alcohol treatment remains critical in reducing the likelihood and impact of drug and alcohol related crime. In fact, in Derby city there were approximately 28,000 less crimes committed as a result of people having access to drug and alcohol treatment services last year. The social and economic benefits to the city as a result of the treatment system totalled around £9.5 million during 2016/17. Treatment for substance misuse is therefore beneficial to all of the residents of the city, in that it reduces the likelihood or fear of becoming a victim of crime.

The role of the Police in tackling the effects of drug related crime and dealing positively with anti-social behaviour will contribute towards making Derby a ‘safer’ and ‘stronger’ place to live and work - two of the key aims of the Derby Plan 2030. Equally my office recognises the need to work in partnership with Public Health and other statutory bodies to jointly commission effective drug and alcohol treatment.

Hardyal Dhindsa
Police & Crime Commissioner
National research demonstrates that for every £1 spent on alcohol and drugs treatment, and estimated £3 and £4 is saved in the wider economy, respectively. In the UK there were approximately 339,000 hospital admissions related to alcohol consumption in 2015/16 and nationally the trend is increasing numbers of people dying unnecessarily from drug and alcohol misuse. Locally agencies have identified that substance misusers are increasingly experiencing complex physical and mental health conditions resulting from long term substance misuse.

It is also both a cause and consequence of criminal activity, family and relationship breakdown, housing issues and employability problems. The Police and Probation services identify that repeat offenders who have had multiple prison sentences, are being released drug and alcohol free - only to slip back into a lifestyle of drug and alcohol misuse when back in the community. Many have limited housing options compounded by outstanding rent arrears and debts - further reducing their ability to access suitable long term accommodation. Young people are also at risk or drug and alcohol misuse - either directly through their own behaviour or indirectly as a result of parental substance misuse. This can lead to poorer school outcomes, offending behaviour and child safeguarding issues; alongside family and relationship breakdowns.

In 2015 the Council and its partners developed the Derby City Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Strategy following a rise in the reported use of so called ‘legal highs’. The strategy was instrumental in bringing partners together to jointly address the challenges identified by partners, share resources, increase staff competencies and improve information sharing relating to the availability of drugs and local patterns of drug misuse.

Building upon the success of this strategy – the Derby City Substance Misuse Strategy (2018 – 2021) is a response to the local substance misuse issues identified by agencies working across the city that have daily contact with people who are - or who have been affected by all illicit drug and alcohol misuse.

Cate Edwynn
Director of Public Health
Understanding the drug and alcohol problem in Derby

In Derby there are around 1,900 heroin users, 4,600 dependent drinkers and around 9,000 harmful drinkers who are generally part of an aging population. Many people also drink more alcohol than the recommended 14 units per week and whilst they don’t need treatment, awareness needs to be raised about the harmful effects of drinking too much. Similarly not all illegal drug use requires treatment, but everyone needs to be made aware of the potentially harmful consequences. In 2016/17 1,823 people accessed the City’s drug and alcohol treatment services – either by referring themselves or being referred by their GP, the Police, Probation or a Court. In the same period the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol related illness was 990 for every 100,000 residents of Derby – a situation that makes Derby one of the worst in the region. More needs to be done to engage drug users and those who damage their health through drinking alcohol excessively.

Individuals requiring support for drug and alcohol misuse often represent some of the most deprived and many experience a range of social inequalities and poor health when compared to the rest of the population. Derby has a population of approximately 250,000 with a higher than average number who are between 15 and 24. There are pockets of deprivation in and around the city and Derby ranks in the top 1/5th of England’s most deprived Cities. An absence of suitable or stable housing - critical for successful substance misuse treatment – makes the inequalities gap wider. In Derby there are approximately 1000 homeless applications each year and of these roughly 375 relate to those who have alcohol or drug problems. More appropriate accommodation is needed to help the vulnerable engage successfully with substance misuse treatment and access other essential health services.

In the last year Derby has seen a rise in visible, on-street drug taking in the city centre – mainly caused by those who use ‘Synthetic Cannabinoid receptor Agonists’ commonly referred to as ‘mamba’. Whilst these drug users represent some of the city’s most vulnerable – often being homeless or suffering from poor mental health - their behaviour impacts widely on businesses, retailers and the public who wish to go about their lives without fear of crime. Increased partnership working is the only way to tackle such a problem and we need to build on the work of the city’s ‘Partnership Engagement and Enforcement Programme’.

On average 100 young people or children in Derby require treatment for drug and alcohol use each year. Although small in number - considering the City’s estimated 60,000 under 18s - there are a growing number who continue to experiment with drugs, alcohol and risk-taking behaviour. Building on the in-school advice and support already available there needs to be more drug education programmes and other activities that engage children and equip them with the knowledge and skills required to change attitudes and build confidence. Similarly risky behaviour linked to children’s vulnerability needs to be identified earlier in order to safeguard them.

Considering the rest of the England for 2016/17:

• 8% of Derby’s heroin users left substance misuse treatment successfully - compared to 7% nationally.
• 42% of those who used amphetamine and so called ‘mamba’ left treatment successfully - compared to 41% of ‘non-opiate’ users nationally.
• 43% of alcohol users left treatment successfully - compared to 40% of alcohol users nationally.

This strategy aims to bring together a range of partners and agencies to focus primarily on the problems identified for the city and to prioritise resources that will improve people’s lives, build resilience and help people to achieve and maintain recovery from drug and alcohol dependence.
What is recovery?

Recovery from drug and alcohol problems is personal and it will mean different things to different people.

In Derby a person’s recovery journey starts at the point a person seeks help and support for their drug and alcohol use and its meaning will change over time depending upon where someone is on their recovery journey.

Recovery is likely to include –

• achieving and maintaining freedom from drug and alcohol dependence.
• having a range of coping skills to stop them turning back to drink or drug use.
• not being involved in criminal behaviour.
• suitable accommodation.
• being healthy and happy.
• having a positive group of friends and being involved with meaningful activities.
• having good family relationships.
• having opportunities for employment.

Box 1: What is recovery - concept defined

What does national strategy and government policy say about drugs and alcohol?

The national strategies for both drugs and alcohol recognise that a multi-agency approach is needed to tackle drug and alcohol issues. The Modern Crime Prevention Strategy 2016 focuses upon the social impacts of drug and alcohol related crime and the importance of agencies working together to improve community safety. It also identifies that effective drug and alcohol treatment has the largest impact on reducing dependence.

Similarly the 2017 National Drug Strategy identifies opportunities for increased joint working across health, social care and criminal justice services in order to build resilience in people identified as being at risk - and improve recovery outcomes for those in treatment. Box 1 defines the concept for recovery in substance misuse treatment.

The 2017 Drug Strategy sets out two key ambitions:

1. to reduce all illicit and other harmful drug use.
2. to increase the rate of individuals recovering from their dependence.

The strategy highlights the need to reduce the demand for drugs, build resilience and confidence among young people to reduce the impact of drug misuse. It identifies the need for partner agencies to take a smarter approach to restrict the supply of drugs; reduce drug availability; empower people to build recovery from drug misuse; and improve the quality and outcome of treatment by ensuring that people receive the right support to continue their recovery journey.
How will Derby respond to this?

In 2015 the Council and its partners developed the ‘Derby City Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS) Strategy’ following a rise in the reported use of so called ‘legal highs’. The strategy was instrumental in bringing partners together to jointly address the challenges identified, share resources, increase staff competencies and improve information sharing relating to the availability of drugs and local patterns of drug misuse.

The city's Partnership Substance Misuse Strategy 2018 - 2021 will build on these established principles to further tackle the drug and alcohol priorities identified by key stakeholders. It will contribute towards the aims of the Derby Plan to make Derby a safer and stronger place, as well as the Council Plan outcomes of promoting health and wellbeing and protecting vulnerable children and adults.

What are Derby's partnership priorities?

Our engagement with partners consistently recognised the complexity and extent of drug and alcohol misuse - particularly in vulnerable groups, identifying the harm it causes at a local level. Following similar national trends, Derby is seeing a higher number of drug related deaths. Some of these are the result of overdose and others are as a result of the long term effects of drug taking causing other types of long term health conditions. Similarly the health harm caused by alcohol misuse is a major cause of hospital admissions with an increasing number of people being admitted for alcohol related illnesses.

The increase in visibility of on-street drug misuse, begging and anti-social behaviour in the city centre is not unique to Derby, but is none the less alarming to members of the Public. Recognising that no one agency can tackle substance misuse and crime in isolation Derby City Council, its statutory partners and the services it is responsible for - alongside third and voluntary sector organisations - will work together to deliver the local priorities identified in this strategy.

Taking into consideration local, national and partnership priorities the strategy will have the following strategic aims:

1. to raise awareness of the harms caused by drug taking and excessive alcohol use across all age groups - working with those affected to prevent such harm.
2. to reduce deaths caused by drug taking and ill health associated with long term drug use through partnership working.
3. to tackle harmful drinking across the city – by working with hospitals, GP’s and treatment agencies.
4. to stop people behaving anti-socially and aggressively in the city whilst under the influence of drugs and alcohol through partnership work.
5. to ensure the delivery of effective treatment help people to rebuild their lives and recover from harmful drug and alcohol use.
How will Derby City Council and its’ partners achieve these aims?

We plan to achieve the aims in the following ways:

To raise awareness of the harms caused by drug taking and excessive alcohol use across all age groups - working with those affected to prevent such harm

How will we do this?

• By working with schools deliver a quality drug education programme that is age appropriate, builds resilience and challenges children’s attitudes towards drugs and alcohol.
• By ensuring schools have policies and processes in place to identify need and provide appropriate support to those in need.
• By encouraging people who are at risk of becoming problematic drug and alcohol users to access help earlier through targeted work with vulnerable groups.
• By encouraging problematic drug and alcohol users to access support earlier, in order to prevent an escalation in drug or alcohol use and reduce the likelihood of long term harm to their health.

How will we measure success?

• 100% of schools in Derby will have a comprehensive drug education programme that addresses the prevention of substance misuse and associated risky behaviours.
• 100% of schools will have a policy in place to manage drug related incidents. This will inform how they identify the substance misuse related needs of young people and support them appropriately.
• There will be a 25% increase in the early identification of young people who receive harm reduction advice and information about drug and alcohol use.
• We will see a 10% increase in the number of adults receiving ‘brief interventions and harm minimisation advice’ (these are specific treatments) for drug and alcohol misuse.
Working with partners, aim to reduce deaths caused by drug taking and ill health associated with long term drug use

How will we do this?

- By making medicines - such as Naloxone - which are used to prevent overdose widely available to individuals or their carer’s.
- Promoting messages that support early access to treatment by making information available to all.
- By enabling access to healthcare and other specialist support activities that are appropriate for vulnerable adults and are carried out in a housing location.
- Through the promotion of pharmacy based needle exchange and access to blood borne virus screening (for example Hepatitis B, C and HIV) in order to reduce the risk of infection.
- Ensure those with complex physical and mental health needs receive the right specialist treatment and recovery support. This will enable them to feel included in the community, gain employment and skills and address some of the long standing issues that have affected their lives.

How will we measure success?

- We will see a 25% increase in the distribution of Naloxone to people identified as being at risk of overdose in the city.
- There will be a 20% increase in the number of people accessing recovery support as part of their drug and alcohol treatment.
- There will be a 15% increase in the number of people who are screened for Hepatitis C.
Tackle harmful drinking across the city – by working with hospitals, GP’s and treatment agencies

How will we do this?

• By continuing to engage those individuals who revolve in and out of hospital as a result of their dangerous drinking and motivate these hard to reach groups to engage in meaningful treatment.
• By developing ‘step down’ supported accommodation to safeguard (those who are vulnerable) slowing the cycle of repeated homelessness.
• Through our partnerships we will monitor alcohol related assaults in the city’s night time economy and work directly with the Police and hospitals to reduce the impact and the cost.
• Ensuring that the night time economy is carefully managed in order to reduce the harmful effects of alcohol and reduce the cost to hospitals from drunkenness.

How will we measure success?

• There will be a reduction in the number of alcohol specific hospital admissions for those who frequently attend by 10%.
• There will be a 15% increase in the number of brief interventions delivered for alcohol at hospital and in primary care (GP surgeries) locations.
• We will see a 10% reduction in the number violent incidents related to alcohol reported in the night time economy.
Through partnership work - stop people behaving anti-socially and aggressively in the city whilst under the influence of drugs and alcohol

**How will we do this?**

- Through the co-ordination of partner agencies ensure support is offered to those individuals who are visible in the city centre and who are disrupting the lives of others. This includes repeated efforts to engage the users of products that have become known as ‘spice’ and ‘mamba’.
- Where such people do not wish to accept support, yet continue to commit crime - they will be appropriately dealt with through Police, Probation and civil enforcement measures.
- Working with the police we will support operations targeting those who persistently commit crime in the centre of Derby, by being smart about sharing intelligence and information between key partner agencies.

**How will we measure success?**

- We will detect 10% more people who are at risk (of what) and engaged by support services in the city centre.
- We will engage 10% more people who are visible and vulnerable in the city centre in support services.
- We will see a 10% reduction in the number of ambulances called to the city centre to deal with drug and alcohol use.
- We will see a 5% increase in the number of appropriate orders given by the criminal justice agencies in the city.
Ensure the delivery of effective treatment help people to rebuild their lives and recover from harmful drug and alcohol use

How will we do this?

• By ensuring that people who access treatment and recovery support have clear goals in order to rebuild their lives and make a meaningful contribution to communities.
• By safeguarding vulnerable adults and their families through joint working with partners, the aim of which is to increase the likelihood of recovery from drug or alcohol misuse.
• By prioritising the services offered to those who cause the most amount of harm to communities.
• By providing advice and support for those affected by someone else’s drug or alcohol misuse and recognising the role they play in that person’s recovery.
• By ensuring that those who require more specialist medical or longer term residential treatment have access to the most appropriate options to support their recovery from drug or alcohol misuse.

How will we measure success?

• We will maintain 8% of heroin users leaving drug treatment successfully, in line with the national average.
• We will see a 20% increase in the number of number of people who are accessing recovery support for their drug and alcohol use.
• There will be a 5% increase in people receiving support and advice for people affected by someone else’s substance misuse.
• These broad aims are supported by a detailed action plan with clear objectives and milestones. The action plan will be reviewed by the Derby City Substance Misuse Strategy Partnership Group, made up of the key partner agencies required to deliver against these strategic objectives.
Contacts and useful information

Aquarius Family Service
0300 790 0265
http://aquarius.org.uk/

Derby City Council
www.derby.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/substance-misuse/

Derby Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service
St Andrew’s House
201 London Road
Derby
DE1 2TZ
0300 790 0265
www.derbysubstancemisuseservices.org.uk

Derby Integrated Family Health Service
Connexions
Curzon House
8 Curzon Street
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01332 641661
dmh-tr.childfamily-derby@nhs.net

Derbyshire PCC
www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/Home.aspx

Frank
www.talktofrank.com/

Mental Health Trust
www.derbyshirehealthcareft.nhs.uk/services/mental-health/

2017 National Drug Strategy

Modern Crime Prevention Strategy 2016