

Our priority

Substance misuse can often be linked to crime and anti-social behaviour and therefore causes harm not only to the individual but also to the wider community. We cannot hope to reduce a person's offending behaviour without first tackling these underlying problems with the help of partners in the health, social care, and third sectors. In partnership, we will continually review our progress in reducing the number of people struggling with substance abuse, and will work to educate people around the risks of drugs and alcohol.

How we are going to deliver

We have made some great progress across West Yorkshire in dealing with drugs and alcohol misuse including a wide review into the drug intervention programme and more localised initiatives in districts. Through existing partnership forums such as the Partnership Executive Group and the Community Safety Partnership Forum we will coordinate our efforts to tackle drug and alcohol misuse across West Yorkshire, supporting those affected and reducing the impact it has on our communities. To do this we must:

- Develop systems to routinely engage with those suffering from drug and alcohol misuse across West Yorkshire both inside and outside the criminal justice system, so we can understand their experiences and continually improve and develop our substance abuse strategies and services. **Listening to people.**
- Using existing data and additional community information collected through consultation, identify the key issues relating to drug and alcohol misuse across West Yorkshire to further inform our strategies and collective efforts. **Understanding our communities.**
- Identify the most suitable forum for partners involved in reducing drug and alcohol misuse in West Yorkshire and ensure that work streams are clear and take into account external initiatives from other partners both inside and outside West Yorkshire. **Working together.**
- Review existing information and experience around 'what works' in preventing alcohol and substance misuse to identify work streams which can be adopted in West Yorkshire. **Preventing and intervening earlier.**
- Regularly review the work of the police and partners in tackling drug and alcohol misuse, calling on the feedback of external bodies to ensure that we are continually improving and responding to changing needs. **Improving our services.**
- Encourage and support problem solving initiatives around drug and alcohol misuse, funding innovative projects where possible, such as through the Safer Communities Fund. **Providing resources.**

How we will know whether we have delivered

We will measure our progress against this priority through our Community Outcome Meetings, through which an in-depth report into drug and alcohol misuse will present the progress of the OPCC, West Yorkshire Police, and relevant partners against the objectives above. It will draw on a range of information available including HMIC inspection reports, national guidance, and statistical indicators including those listed below. In addition to this, we will monitor the progress of relevant OPCC and partner initiatives through our Delivery Quarterly process.

- The number of projects and initiatives focused on drugs and alcohol which we support will increase.
- Fewer people will feel that drug use is an issue in their local area.
- The proportion of people arrested who are alcohol or drug dependent will reduce.