

COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING

TACKLE CRIME AND ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR MEETING

17 APRIL 2018

SUBJECT: DRUG AND ALCOHOL MISUSE

Report of the Chief Constable

<p>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</p> <p>1. This report outlines the Force's current position in relation to the partnership approach to Drug and Alcohol Misuse.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION</p> <p>2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner uses this report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of Drug and Alcohol Misuse</p>
<p>POLICE AND CRIME PLAN</p> <p>3. Substance abuse is often linked to crime and ASB and therefore causes harm not only to the individual but also to the wider community. We cannot hope to reduce crime and reoffending without tackling the underlying problems such as substance abuse, and we can only do this by working together. The PCC has said he will continually review the progress in reducing the number of people struggling with substance abuse, and will work to educate people around the risks of drugs and alcohol.</p>
<p>KEY INFORMATION</p> <p>The PCC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Commissioned a review of the West Yorkshire Drugs Intervention Programme• Following the review the PCC widened the definition to include all drugs and alcohol misuse.• Raised the profile and drugs and alcohol through the Community Safety Forum and a Forum workshop on this priority is planned for July 2018.• Continued to provide funding for tackling drug and alcohol misuse to community safety partners in all five local authority areas in West Yorkshire• Ensured the Police have additional resource towards tackling drugs and alcohol misuse within custody settings.• There have also been 45 Projects funded under the Safer Communities Fund at a cost of £184,529 to deliver on this priority at a local level.
<p>PARTNERSHIP WORKING</p> <p>4. The PCC recognises that to tackle community safety problems through drugs and alcohol misuse is a wider partnership endeavour, public health in particular have a large role to play.</p>

The PCC has continued to provide funding through his Community Safety Fund to Community Safety Partnerships to enable them to commission appropriate services for each local area.



Title: West Yorkshire Police's Partnership Approach to Drug and Alcohol Misuse

CoT Sponsor: ACC Hankinson

Report Author: Insp Jon Aldred

Summary The report contained in this paper provides a summary of the interventions undertaken by West Yorkshire Police, in conjunction with partners, to address drug and alcohol misuse.

REPORT DETAILS - Outlining how West Yorkshire Police and partners work in conjunction to address drug and alcohol misuse.

1. **Addiction** can be defined as a chronic, relapsing brain disease that is characterized by compulsive drug seeking and use, despite harmful consequences. It is considered a brain disease because drugs change the brain in terms of its structure and how it works.
2. **Signs of Addiction** – a person who is dependent upon alcohol / drugs will usually exhibit three or more signs of dependency. Such signs are, an inability to stop or control the amount of alcohol or drug taken, having to take more to get the same effect and exhibiting symptoms of withdrawal if not taken.
3. The Police and Crime Plan 2016 to 2021 outlines that substance abuse is often linked to crime and ASB. In order to reduce crime and reoffending it is necessary to address the underlying issues of substance abuse.
4. Offences committed whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs usually fall within two categories, those which are committed by being under the influence or being in possession of such a drug, i.e. driving whilst over the prescribed limit or possession of a controlled drug; or other criminal offences where the use of alcohol or other drug has contributed.
5. Between October 2016 and September 2017 statistics indicated that there were 133,755 drug offences committed in England and Wales. Of these 25,399 were trafficking offences whilst 108,356 were possession offences. These total numbers represent an overall decrease on the previous year.

6. In January 2017, 4152 persons were arrested and detained in custody in the West Yorkshire Police area. In January 2018, 4007 persons were arrested and detained, a reduction of 3.5% on the previous year and following a downward trend over the past 2 years.
7. In January 2017, 570 persons (14%) were recorded as being drunk or in drink at the time of arrest / detention and 1376 persons (33%) stated they had consumed alcohol recently prior to arrest. In January 2018, 430 persons (10%) were recorded as being drunk or in drink at the time of arrest / detention and 1303 (31%) stated they had consumed alcohol recently prior to arrest.
8. When arrested in January 2017, 1107 persons (27%) and in January 2018, 1118 persons (27%) stated they were alcohol or drug dependent. This represents no change.
9. With regard to the data, it is important to remember that detained individuals who are recorded as being drunk/in drink/under the influence of alcohol/under the influence of a drug, are not necessarily suffering addictions. What can be said is that at the time of arrest and detention the individual appeared to be under the influence of an intoxicant.

Custody Interventions

10. The Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) was launched in 2003 and established partnership working between Criminal Justice, treatment and aftercare agencies to support drug users / addicts. Support is given from the point of arrest to sentencing and beyond to maximise opportunities to prevent further offending.
11. The programme offers intensive treatment encompassing the prescription of methadone to lower level interventions such as counselling combined with support to address underlying triggers to drug misuse, e.g. housing, mental ill-health and relationship issues.
12. The police are usually a detainee's first contact with the Criminal Justice System and have the opportunity to identify appropriate individuals to be part of the programme. This could be through referral to supportive agencies or statutory requirements.
13. West Yorkshire Police currently utilise two criteria to perform tests of detained individuals for drugs leading to a referral to the Drugs Intervention Programme. The first is where an offender aged 18 years or older is tested for a class "A" drug as a result of being arrested for a trigger offence. The second requires an Inspector to authorise the test of a person over 18 years of age who has been arrested or charged with any offence providing that the Inspector has reasonable grounds to suspect that use by that person of a class A drug contributed to the offence.
14. Should the detainee provide a positive result upon drug test they are required to attend an assessment to discuss their drug misuse with a member of the intervention staff. Should the individual be charged, the drug test result is passed to the courts to assist in any decision, should they be convicted, on bail and sentencing. This statutory provision also requires the detainee to attend and remain for a secondary assessment with DIP staff. Failure to comply with the requirements can lead to further arrest.

15. Between 1st February 2017 and 31st January 2018 4,296 detainees were tested whilst in police custody in West Yorkshire.
16. Arrest Referral Workers are based in West Yorkshire Police cell areas to provide guidance and advice to detainees with drug and / or alcohol addictions. Their services are offered to detainees or they can be seen on request of a detainee to discuss addictions and obtain referrals to external agencies able to assist with support.
17. Conditional Cautions are available to be used as an alternative to charge in certain circumstances. They can place a requirement on the individual to attend an appropriate course of treatment or awareness in respect of drug and / or alcohol addiction and are actively used.
18. Leeds Community Healthcare (LCH) are the medical provision embedded within West Yorkshire Police cell areas. They provide 24/7 staff to deal with all medical issues including alcoholism and drug addiction. They provide advice to custody staff on welfare issues and have access to the NHS System 1 database providing them with a detainee's medical history to ensure an appropriate diagnosis. LCH will refer detainee's to appropriate agencies to provide support after release.
19. Liaison and Diversion Project (L + D) intends to improve health and criminal justice outcome for adults and children in the justice system who have complex needs as factors in their offending behaviour. This includes alcohol and drug addiction, learning disabilities and Mental Ill-Health. Currently available in Wakefield and Leeds, this is being developed across West Yorkshire.
20. Upon release from custody, all detainees undergo a Pre-Release Risk Assessment which encompasses the consideration of drugs and alcohol addiction amongst others. The detainee is provided the opportunity of information, leaflets and contact details of suitable agencies who can support them after release. The responsibility to make contact and engage with the support service lies with the individual although custody officers will make contact with agencies by phone on behalf of the individual if appropriate.
21. The Together Women's Project operate in Leeds/Bradford and have a hub in New Hall Prison offering a bespoke intervention service to women over the age of 18 years to assist in reducing offending. Various support services are offered including alcohol and drug intervention.

Preventative Actions

Integrated Offender Management (IOM)

22. West Yorkshire Police uses a 3 cohort IOM model of managing offenders to reduce re-offending. This is a partnership approach to ensure:
 - local delivery which meets local needs,
 - offenders are selected based on the risk they pose to the community,
 - offenders are responsible for their own engagement and understand the consequences of disengaging which is backed up by a robust criminal justice process,
 - current governance and programmes are used efficiently,
 - all involved work towards the cessation of offending.

23. IOM Teams engage with offenders to identify their triggers to offending and provide referrals and pathways to agencies (e.g. housing, substance abuse, Mental Ill-Health, training and employment etc.) who support and guide offenders towards the removal of such triggers.
24. IOM teams have strong links to the Drugs Intervention Programme but also refer offenders to voluntary and funded agencies who support offenders to manage their addictions and thus reduce the risk of offending.

Mental Ill-Health

25. Research suggests that alcohol and drug addiction is common place with persons who suffer mental health issues but although closely linked one does not directly cause the other. Persons with mental health issues often use alcohol and drugs to self-medicate leading to a worsening of symptoms.
26. Such persons often come to the attention of the police due to committing crimes or a need for officers to secure the persons safety in their own best interests.
27. West Yorkshire Police work closely with Mental Health Services to provide the best possible care for such individuals putting their needs first by utilising the Street Triage Service and having mental health professionals based in District Hubs to provide advice and guidance to district staff.
28. Bradford is piloting the use of a Special Constabulary / Mental Health response vehicle, partnering a Police Constable and Mental Health Professional Special Constable, attending appropriate incidents and providing immediate Mental Health intervention direct to those in crisis.
29. This collaborative approach between the police and Mental Health Services provides a sharing of information, appropriate interventions to be applied and clear lines of communication between the partners ensuring individuals are dealt with effectively and efficiently.

Neighbourhood Teams

30. The issues of drug and alcohol abuse tend to be associated with Anti-Social Behaviour which directly impacts on the community. Neighbourhood teams collaborate with partners to address the various triggers of ASB and make referrals where appropriate. This includes providing information on drug and alcohol support services.
31. Neighbourhood Teams' partnership with the Local Authority often utilise Public Space Protection Orders (which replaced Designated Place Prevention Orders) to address behaviour which is or is likely to have a detrimental effect on the quality of life of those in the locality, be persistent or continuing in nature and be unreasonable. For example Leeds has 18 locations with such orders, one being the Inner South Neighbourhood team (covering the city centre) which provide police with discretionary powers to stop persons from drinking alcohol and to seize alcohol in public places. These orders also encompass intoxicating substances allowing the police and partners to address the issue of legal highs.

Reference

Office for National Statistics - Crime in England and Wales – published January 2018.

STRATEGIC RISK IMPLICATIONS

Reducing crime and attacking criminality are part of the Police and Crime Commissioners and West Yorkshire Police Force Policing Strategy. The link between alcohol and drugs addiction and demand for service on the police are well documented and it would be a risk not to engage collaboratively to address these issues.