

Health and Wellbeing Board

8th January 2020

Drugs and Alcohol Services Update 2019/20

1.0 **Recommendations:**

That the Board:

- 1.1 Receives and reviews the updates provided in relation to drugs and alcohol.
- 1.2 Seeks to promote the services commissioned for drugs and alcohol within their respective organisations.
- 1.3 Considers the frequency required of any further updates to the Board.

2.0 **Background:**

- 2.1 In 2017 Warwickshire County Council embarked on a review and redesign of the commissioned services for drugs and alcohol services. This was based on changes in prevalence levels and needs, new and emerging substance misuse patterns and an increase in complex, co-existing issues.
- 2.2 Informed by a comprehensive assessment of need which involved stakeholder engagement and consultation with users and their families, a new delivery model emerged, focusing on prevention, wellbeing and sustainable recovery. This was followed by a procurement process that culminated in the award of new contracts and redesigned services. These services were embedded under the concept of 'Warwickshire Pathways' which sought to offer an integrated approach to drugs and alcohol services and was launched in May 2018.

3.0 **Scene setting – an overview of drugs and alcohol prevalence in Warwickshire**

- 3.1 The data provided within this section comes from a number of nationally recognised and validated sources and for the purposes of this report is outlined separately between the categories of 'Drug' and 'Alcohol'. It does not correlate to the period of time the current drugs and alcohol service providers have been delivering their services, as it is based on detail recorded prior to their contract starting within Warwickshire. Current Information Disclosure Guidelines prohibit the use of the most recent data.

3.2 Drug prevalence:¹

- 3.2.1 The 2016-17 local prevalence estimates for those aged between 15 and 64 years highlighted that the estimated number of Opiate and/or Crack users (OCU) in Warwickshire was 1,839; representing a rate of 5.3 per 1,000 population. This is lower than the national prevalence rate of 8.9 per 1,000.
- 3.2.2 The level of unmet need in Warwickshire, in 2016-17, is estimated to be 47% for OCU which is below the national level of approximately 53%.
- 3.2.3 In 2017-18 the number of people in drug treatment was 1,290 of which 74% were male and 26% female; 87% of new presentations during this year were White British.
- 3.2.4 45% of adults who entered treatment in 2017/18 were identified as having a mental health treatment need which is above the national level figure of 41%. 74% of those in treatment who were identified as having a mental health treatment need were receiving treatment for their mental health; this is higher than national figure of 71%.
- 3.2.5 The self-reported employment status at the start of treatment, highlighted that 26% of new presentations in 2017/18 were in regular employment was - above the national level of 22%.
- 3.2.6 The length of time in treatment during 2017/18 was variable, with 54% of opiate clients in treatment for less than two years compared to 48% nationally. The proportion of opiate clients in treatment for six years or more is 22% which is lower than the national level of 27%.
- 3.2.7 For non-opiate clients, 1% were in treatment for two or more years compared to 3% nationally. For non-opiate and alcohol, the figure was 2% in treatment two years or more, compared to a national figure of 3%.
- 3.2.8 The number of successful completions as a proportion of the total number of people in treatment was 15.5% for Warwickshire, mirroring the national level of 14.8%.
- 3.2.9 The proportion of those who successfully completed treatment and did not re-present within six months equated to 8.4% of opiate users and 37.7% for non-opiate users. This was better than the national level of 6.5% and 36.9% respectively.

¹ Source: PCC support pack 2019-20: key drug and alcohol data

3.3 Alcohol prevalence overview²

- 3.3.1 During 2017/18, 729 clients were in alcohol treatment; 60% were male and 40% female.
- 3.3.2 The greatest proportion of adults were aged between 40 – 59 years, with 58% of clients in this aged group mirroring national trends. 90% of new presentations to alcohol services were White British.
- 3.3.3 It was reported that 41% of those entering treatment were identified as having a mental health treatment need; this reflects the national trend (also 41%).
- 3.3.4 The number of people in regular employment was 42%, above the national level of 32%.
- 3.3.5 For Warwickshire, the average number of days spent in treatment was 218, above the national figure of 190 days.
- 3.3.6 Rates of abstinence for alcohol users in treatment in Warwickshire stood at 46%, less than the national proportion of 51%
- 3.3.7 Public Health England data³ shows that there were 3,459 all age admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions in Warwickshire in 2017/18 (Alcohol-related admissions are where the primary diagnosis is an alcohol-attributable code, or a secondary diagnosis is an alcohol-attributable external cause code) (NB: Rates are not available for those aged under 18). Equating to a rate of 610 per 100,000 population – the second lowest rate of any upper tier local authority in the West Midlands. Trend data shows directly standardised have been increasing both locally and nationally, however, Warwickshire rates are consistently lower (and better) than England.
- 3.3.8 Under 18 levels of alcohol-specific hospital admissions (where the primary diagnosis or any of the secondary diagnoses are an alcohol-specific wholly attributable condition) are an issue in Warwickshire with particular concerns in Nuneaton & Bedworth Borough. There were 169 alcohol-specific hospital admissions in Warwickshire from 2015/16 to 2017/18 equating to a rate of 49.6 per 100,000 population – the highest of any upper tier authority in the West Midlands and the only area statistically worse than England (32.9 per 100,000).

² Source: PCC support pack 2019-20: key drug and alcohol data

³ Source Local Alcohol Profiles for England 2019

3.4 Impact on community safety

3.4.1 Drugs and alcohol are identified as two of the key drivers of crime and disorder in the Home Office Modern Crime Prevention Strategy (2016). National data highlights that OCU are responsible for an estimated 45% of acquisitive crime (shoplifting, burglary, vehicle crime and robbery), equating to more than 2,000,000 offences. Around 40% of all violent crimes are alcohol-related, which translates into almost 500,000 violent incidences per year. Drug and alcohol misuse are related to other issues such as child protection, impaired driving, anti-social behaviour and domestic abuse.

To illustrate the local picture, countywide data between 1st April 2019 and 30th September 2019 period is used in the section below.⁴

3.4.2 There were a total of 2,333 'violence with injury offences', of which 424 were alcohol related, representing 18.2%. The number of drug related offences was 30; representing 1.3% of the total 'violence with injury' offences.

3.4.3. There was a total of 4,718 'violence without injury offences', of which 391 were alcohol related, representing 8.3%. Drug related offences equated to 48; representing 1.02% of the total 'violence without injury' offences.

3.4.4. For Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) there were a total of 6,715 incidents. 323 of these were related to alcohol, representing 4.8%. No data was available for drug related ASB.

4.0 Services and Providers:

4.1 The Services provide provision across all ages, offering a whole system approach with an integrated pathway of community-based treatment and support. Prevention, wellbeing and sustained recovery are integral to this model of service provision.

Key elements include:

- Young adults between (18-25) years have a planned and transitional pathway between Children and Young person's services and the adult service.
- 'Hidden Harm' is addressed via an approach to actively prevent intergenerational substance misuse within families.
- Family support offers a range of advice and support to families and friends of people with substance misuse problems.
- Recovery is promoted, supported and sustained by focussing on community-based peer and mentor programmes.

⁴ Source: Warwickshire Police data 2019/20

4.2 The Services have been developed to allow for synergies between wider engagement across a breadth of strategic and operational partners. Examples of this include links to homelessness, mental health, county drug lines and alcohol related violent crime.

4.3 Commissioned across a number of providers, the Services include:

- **Adult drug and alcohol service**, which includes needle exchange and all age recovery and wellbeing is provided by Change Grow Live (CGL)
- **Children and young people drugs and alcohol service**, delivered by Compass

In addition to these two above main commissioned services for adult and children, other services commissioned include:

- **Detoxification** – delivered via a framework for inpatient detoxification
- **Rehabilitation** – delivered via a framework for residential rehabilitation; a separate contract also exists with ESH (Experience, Strength, Hope) who provide a new residential facility within the County
- **Supervised consumption and needle exchange** – delivered by Pharmoutcomes

5.0 Updates on Services:

5.1 **Adult Drug and Alcohol Service and an all age wellbeing and recovery network.**

5.1.1 CGL operate countywide across three Service hubs which are based in Leamington, Rugby and Nuneaton. The standard of the accommodation has transformed significantly, with enhancements to their premises taking within each area The Nuneaton base changed in early 2019 delivering an improved environment and access to services. Rugby relocated to new premises in 2018 and the existing premises in Leamington has recently been refurbished. There is a single point of access for adult services that directs clients/ callers to the relevant hub. The website also provides guidance, advice and a referral form. <https://www.changegrowlive.org/drug-alcohol-service-warwickshire>

5.1.2 Close links are maintained with Compass, the children and young people's service provider and were required, a smoother and more appropriate transfer into adult services in accordance with their needs up to the age of 25 years is in place.

5.1.3 Family and friends of the individual in treatment are offered and receive their own support and guidance on complex addiction issues. Guidance sessions are provided to help family and friends understand what happens through the treatment cycle, and, armed with this understanding family members are given the tools to be able to support and sustain those in recovery.

5.2 Children and Young Persons' Drug and Alcohol Service.

5.2.1 Compass provide this service with an extended offer to Children and Young People between the ages of 18 and 25 years to ensure that those in need of Adult Services are transferred when this is in the best interests of the individual. Working closely with schools and in local community locations on an outreach, education/ learning and development basis, the service focuses on prevention and early intervention as well as group sessions for those who use drugs and/or alcohol.

5.2.2 During 2018/19, around 334⁵ young people across Warwickshire accessed either targeted or specialist interventions. 3628 children and young people received substance misuse awareness group intervention (by way of assemblies, preventative or targeted group work) during 2018-19. The service has seen a 57% increase in referrals specifically in relation to children being affected by parent/carer substance misuse during 2018-19. As a result, Compass are working alongside CGL focusing on family group work and have established a Parental Network in the north of the County.

5.2.3 Compass priorities for 2019-20 include:

- **Under 18 hospital admissions:** Working with Hospital Liaison Teams, community groups and community safety partnerships to identify opportunities to reduce alcohol specific hospital admissions.
- **Hidden Harm:** engaging with partners to build awareness, Compass will continue to deliver this highly complex intervention type through their specialist knowledge and experience.
- **Family Work/Parent/Carers:** implementing their family offer, specifically regarding raising parent/carer awareness of substance misuse. Parental engagement events have been offered to all schools where they provide Health Needs Delivery.
- **Community Engagement:** continuing to prioritise the engagement of local communities. The service has engaged with a huge number of children, young people, professionals and localities to promote prevention messages and healthy lifestyle behaviours. The Service will continue to build upon its progress identifying and engaging Youth Health Champions throughout Warwickshire to

⁵ Compass Quarter four performance report 2018/19

ensure young people remain central to how the service is delivered. Young people must co-produce and have a voice in the continued accessibility, provision and locality-specific interventions delivered by Compass.

- **Digital Offer:** promoting their website in order to provide children, young people, parent/carers and professionals with a clear and easy way to access information quickly. The website provides a universal access point into the Service either through self-help or self-referral tools. It has been co-produced with young people, who will continue to influence the content and promotional material held on the website, so it remains relative, engaging and informative. <https://www.compass-uk.org/services/warwickshire-cypdas/>
- **Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC):** Compass has been successfully awarded the Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Children and Young People's Criminal Justice Substance Misuse Service, which launched in April 2019. This has provided Compass with an opportunity to integrate and build upon the partnerships within criminal justice services ensuring young people are able to access Compass services at the earliest opportunity.

5.3 Inpatient detoxification

- 5.3.1 Inpatient detoxification is offered when community detoxification is not appropriate or achieving the desired outcomes for individuals. An Inpatient Detoxification supplier framework exists in Warwickshire with the budget maintained by the Commissioner.
- 5.3.2 There are currently five service providers based across England on the Framework. Between April and December 2019 there have been approximately 30 referrals accepted to inpatient detoxification. Generally, an in-patient detoxification can be 4-10 days for alcohol and longer for drugs. The placements for residential rehabilitation often follow these placements or community support will resume locally.

5.4 Residential rehabilitation

- 5.4.1 A framework agreement with around 20 national providers exists which is jointly commissioned between Coventry City Council, Leicester County Council and Warwickshire County Council (with the local budget maintained by each Commissioner). The framework has secured fixed and competitively priced residential rehabilitation services which are provided in venues across England.
- 5.4.2 Individuals are assessed within the Warwickshire Residential Detoxification and Rehabilitation Panel before being placed within a residential facility to ensure that all community-based options have been considered prior to this being provided. Between April and December 2019, there have been 29 referrals supported into residential rehabilitation. As a comparison, 34 people received this in 2018 – 19; 40 people in 2017/18 and 20 in 2016/17.
- 5.4.3 Warwickshire has its own local, community-based drug and alcohol rehabilitation service. Supported by a Public Health England Grant, awarded in 2015 and a contribution by Warwickshire County Council, the service was

developed and is led by Experience, Strength and Hope (ESH). This service provides a valuable and high standard offer, is Care Quality Commission (CQC) registered and accepts referrals across the country from independent and publicly funded referrals.

5.5 Supervised consumption and needle exchange

5.5.1 The provision of supervised consumption and needle exchange within community pharmacies has been commissioned across Warwickshire.

5.5.2 The supervision of consumption in the community of substitute medications by an appropriate professional, such as a Pharmacist, provides the best guarantee that a medicine is being taken as prescribed and that the client's recovery journey is being monitored. Service users are referred to appropriate Needle Exchange locations via CGL.

5.5.3 Accredited providers exist in all localities. There are approximately 60 pharmacies currently providing these services across the county.

6.0 Future opportunities and challenges

6.1 With the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, and the requirement of all Housing Agencies to facilitate and support the reduction of homelessness, partnership arrangements have been developed that seek to address the multiple needs that those who are homeless experience. The 'Preventing and Tackling Homelessness' group aims to facilitate greater collaborative working between Housing Providers and a range of partner agencies including drug and alcohol practitioners, to ensure that support, timely referral and access to treatment can be implemented effectively, with the ambition that more people retain their tenancies.

6.2 Engagement with the Reducing Reoffending Board has been maintained, particularly in relation to the 'Continuity of Care for Prison Releases'. A partnership group has been established across Coventry, Warwickshire and Sandwell to audit the pathways of those leaving prison establishments. It seeks to identify a series of recommendations needed to enhance the take up of community-based drug and alcohol services on release.

6.3 Digital offers for the wider population over the next 12 months will be explored to ensure that discrete advice, support and access to treatment can be offered to all. The approach is directly related to the role of prevention and early intervention.

6.4 A 'Dual Diagnosis' policy for those with mental health and drug and alcohol needs has been introduced across Coventry and Warwickshire, this seeks to facilitate effective pathways of care between and across providers. If successful, consideration may be given to extending this to include victims or perpetrators of Domestic Abuse.

7.0 Financial Implications:

- 7.1 Commissioners and providers have been told to expect rises in costs for treatment. This is reflected nationally and while Service Providers and Public Health England continue to work closely with drug treatment providers to understand the issues and their impact and what can be done to mitigate any resulting problems, this will continue to be an ongoing area of concern – somewhat exacerbated by Brexit.
- 7.2 The Drugs and Alcohol service had a £923,000 savings target as part of OOP 2020. £387,000 of these savings were made through the reduction of the Adult Substance Misuse contract. Due to increases in demand for the Adults Service it was felt that this contract could not be decreased any further. The remaining savings were therefore made by taking the inflationary increases from 2019/20 for contracts that were not being re-tendered in 2019/20.

8.0 Environmental Implications:

- 8.1 None known.

Background papers

1. No background papers

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Local Member(s): none

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