

HEALTH AND HOUSING SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2021

STRIDE AND ACCESS TEAM

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Scrutiny Committee on the mobilisation of the new STRIDE (Support, Treatment, Recovery in Darlington through Empowerment) Service and to brief members on the exciting new ACCESS (Assertive Community Connection and Engagement Support Service) Team.

Summary

2. STRIDE became operational on 17th August 2020 and the impact of Covid19 lockdowns has impacted on the Service in terms of engagement with partners and organisations with the Borough. The Service has been providing support and treatment to those who need it throughout both lockdowns and as we move through the Roadmap, will continue to do so and have more of a visible presence within the Community.
3. The ACCESS team has recently been established since mid-May and is grant funded for a period of 12 months from additional PHE monies. The public health team were invited to bid for additional resource to fund new and innovative interventions to support local areas address and reduce elements of crime in local communities associated with the drug market, particularly acquisitive crime and violent crime and reduce drug-related deaths.

Recommendation

4. It is recommended that :-
 - (a) The update on STRIDE be noted; and
 - (b) The new ACCESS team be welcomed.

James Stroyan
Group Director of People

Background Papers

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

S17 Crime and Disorder	This report has no implications for Crime and Disorder
Health and Well Being	The initiative could have a positive impact on people's health and well-being.
Carbon Impact and Climate Change	There are no issues which this report needs to address
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	There are no specific Wards which are affected by this report.
Groups Affected	All
Budget and Policy Framework	This report does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework
Key Decision	Not a key decision
Urgent Decision	Not an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	To enable people to be more healthy and independent, to enable children with the best start in life and to provide a safe and caring community
Efficiency	The outcome of this report does not impact on the Council efficiency agenda
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

STRIDE (Support, Treatment, Recovery in Darlington through Empowerment)

5. The new substance misuse service provided by We Are With You is known as STRIDE and commenced on 17th August 2020.
6. The new service will offer a range of exciting and flexible treatment options, including:
 - (a) A range of ways to access support, dependent on the individual's circumstances and preferences. This includes face to face appointments, as well as online and over the phone.
 - (b) A range of different interventions, groups and activities to support people in their recovery.
 - (c) Support offered in different community settings.
 - (d) The introduction of an exciting Ambassador programme with Intuitive Thinking Skills, using the skills of those with lived experience to support others.
 - (e) There will be the offer of a new 'on-site supervised consumption' option for those who would benefit from daily support through the service.

- (f) Setting-up an exciting Recovery Academy Darlington programme (RADAR) which will provide quasi residential rehab in Darlington.
- 7. The Service model is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- 8. The Covid-19 pandemic has presented some additional challenges when transitioning services. Whilst essential services have continued to be provided, some of the developments outlined above, have been delayed.
- 9. The new Service creates aspiration for recovery and reinforces opportunities to identify with and be part of a recovery community at the end of the structured treatment.
- 10. A recovery community, based in a local, familiar area where individuals can be supported and give back to the community as a peer mentor, a volunteer or being supported to undertake opportunities relating to education, training, or employment.

ACCESS (Assertive Community Connection and Engagement Support Service)

- 11. The ACCESS team will deliver an intensive programme to improve the experience and outcomes for offenders in Darlington. This will be achieved through an enhanced and focussed offer of support, will increase treatment options, enhance recovery capacity, development of new diversionary interventions and accelerate and improve integration and improve care pathways with partners in the borough.
- 12. The innovative interventions at a local level will be monitored and evaluated nationally and learning will be used to inform improved pathways from the criminal justice system, increased use of community sentences and understand the treatment requirements that will be required to support better pathways and outcomes for offenders.