

ADULTS SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
9 JANUARY 2024

**SUBSTANCE MISUSE SERVICE UPDATE: SUPPORT TREATMENT AND RECOVERY IN
DARLINGTON THROUGH EMPOWERMENT (STRIDE)**

SUMMARY REPORT

Purpose of the Report

1. To provide an update to Adult Scrutiny Committee members on the current performance, provision and composition of STRIDE specialist substance misuse treatment and recovery services delivered within Darlington.

Summary

2. Following the publication of the National Drugs Strategy; From Harm to Hope in December 2021, the Government published guidance for local delivery partners in May 2022 outlining the recommended steps that local areas should take to help deliver the three main priorities of the Strategy: breaking drug supply chains; delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system and achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs.
3. To support the improvements described in the National Drug Strategy, three years of additional ring-fenced funding for treatment and recovery have been allocated to local areas as the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) from 2022 until 2025.
4. This increased funding has enabled a step change in increasing both clinical and non-clinical treatment capacity including an improved treatment offer for Young People. It has also supported the provision of a comprehensive recovery secure and greater capacity for both drugs and alcohol detoxification which is planned for 2024.
5. To date although whilst progress has been slower than expected, particularly due to recruitment, training and retention of an expanded workforce, our performance in Darlington has improved from the baseline and is consistent with progress both regionally and nationally.

Recommendation

6. The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report and the progress made in the planning and delivery of substance misuse treatment and recovery services in Darlington.

Miriam Davidson
Interim Director of Public Health

Background Papers

All Members Briefing Substance Misuse Services Darlington

Author: Mark Harrison – Public Health Portfolio Lead

S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific crime and disorder implications in this report.
Health and Well Being	There are no issues relating to health and wellbeing which this report needs to address.
Carbon Impact	There are no specific carbon impact issues in this report.
Diversity	The report does not contain any proposals that impact on diversity issues.
Wards Affected	All wards are affected.
Groups Affected	No specific groups are particularly affected.
Budget and Policy Framework	This decision does not represent a change to the budget and policy framework.
Key Decision	The report does not require a key decision.
Urgent Decision	The report does not require an urgent decision.
Council Plan	The report contributes to the Council Plan in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the Plan.
Efficiency	This report has no impact regarding efficiency savings contained in the MTFP.
Impact on Looked After Children and Care Leavers	This report has no impact on Looked After Children or Care Leavers

MAIN REPORT

Information and Analysis

7. Following the publication of the National Drugs Strategy; From Harm to Hope in December 2021, the Government published guidance for local delivery partners in May 2022 outlining the recommended steps that local areas should take to help deliver the three main priorities of the Strategy: breaking drug supply chains; delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system and achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs.
8. In response to the National Drugs Strategy Darlington and Durham have established a Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (CDAP) for which the Police and Crime Commissioner is Chair and Senior Responsible Owner. This partnership reports into the Darlington Community Safety Partnership and Safer Durham Partnership and has responsibility for oversight of the delivery of the Grant Plans as part of the wider Combatting Drugs Action Plan.

9. In August 2022 the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities published the 'Commissioning quality standard: alcohol and drug treatment and recovery guidance' which supports the national drug strategy aim of having accessible, high quality, effective, person-centred alcohol and drug treatment and recovery systems.
10. To support the improvements described in the National Drug Strategy, three years of additional ring-fenced funding for treatment and recovery have been allocated to local areas as the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) from 2022 until 2025.
11. A condition of this grant is that Local Authorities maintain or build upon their existing core Public Health grant investment in drug and alcohol treatment reported in the authorities Revenue Outturn (RO) submitted for 2020-21.
12. Funding allocations for Darlington's treatment system are detailed below in table 1 and have supported some key enhancements and improvements in service provision.
13. This has included increased availability and access to Naloxone, the prescribing of long-acting Buprenorphine and the development of the new ACCESS (Assertive Community Connection, Engagement and Support) team in 2022.
14. This increased funding has also enabled an increase in both clinical and non-clinical treatment capacity and an improved treatment offer for Young People. It has also supported the provision of enhanced pharmacy dispensing and supervision arrangements.
15. There has been a new Drug and Alcohol Care Team (DACT) commissioned jointly with Tees Esk and Wear Valley (TEWV) mental health trust and a new community recovery offer and 'Dayhab' programme now being delivered via Recovery Connections in 2023.

Table 1

Darlington SSMTRG Allocations 2022 - 2025	£
2022/23	
Drug strategy allocation	£316,193
Inpatient detoxification allocation	£27,021
2023/24	
Drug strategy allocation	£518,179
Drug strategy allocation	£27,021
2024/25	
Drug strategy allocation	£1,000,006
Inpatient detoxification allocation	£27,021
Total SSMTRG funding over 3 years	£1,915,441

16. Historically the uptake of In Patient Detoxification has been low. The National Drug Strategy has identified this as a key area for improvement. The authority has utilised the funding from the SSMTRG and currently co-commissions In Patient Detoxification (IPD) as part of a 'consortia' arrangement along with Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland councils. This is provided by North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust who currently provide a single bed dedicated to alcohol detoxification.
17. There is a joint procurement process underway which now includes the four additional partners of Durham County Council, Gateshead, Sunderland, and South Tyneside councils to procure greater capacity and the ability to undertake both drugs and alcohol detoxification which is planned to be available in 2024.
18. As part of the national performance expectations within the Drug Strategy, local areas have been directed by the government to set local stretch targets in order to deliver the national outcomes and improvements set out in the Strategy.
19. These include includes increasing access to more high quality drug and alcohol treatment places for a range of substances, improving pathways into treatment including from Prisons and Probation Service to ensure the provision of a treatment place for every offender with an addiction as well as significant increases in the numbers of those using substances who achieve and sustain long term recovery from addiction compared to performance and outcomes in the past years.
20. The outcomes and conditions applied to the SSMTRG directs the authority to ensure that we provide and deliver effective harm reduction interventions and treatment options and deliver a reduction in drug related deaths.
21. Local performance against the key national performance measures are detailed below in table 2.

Numbers in Treatment	Baseline (March 2022)	Latest Performance	Change from Baseline	Year 3 Ambition 2024/25
All adults "in structured treatment"	877	901	24	1100
Opiates	415	387	-28	450
Combined non-opiate only and non-opiates and alcohol	170	195	25	260
Alcohol	292	319	27	390
Young people "in treatment"	55	76	21	90
Continuity of care (% of prison leavers with a continued treatment need picked up within 3 weeks)	Baseline (March 2022)	Latest Performance	Change from Baseline	Year 3 Ambition 2024/25
Local planning (%)	60%	62%	2%	80%
Res. Rehabilitation	Baseline (March 2022)	Latest Performance	Change from Baseline	Year 3 Ambition 2024/25

Local planning (number)	0	1	1	22
-------------------------	---	---	---	----

22. To date although whilst progress has been slower than expected, particularly due to recruitment, training and retention of an expanded workforce, our performance in Darlington is consistent with progress both regionally and nationally.
23. There have been some regional and national issues highlighted in relation to commissioning and access to high quality residential rehabilitation services along with the legacy of the impact of the pandemic and its control measures on existing pathways and services.
24. There has been work with partners and stakeholders in the development of multiple pathways into treatment services, with the ACCESS team **providing rapid initial assessment more timely** access to specialist treatment and recovery provision.
25. There has also been significant work over the past year to reduce barriers into accessing treatment and recovery with the ACCESS team supporting individuals navigate the existing system and facilitate engagement into structured treatment to improve the chances of successfully completing treatment and sustaining long term recovery. This provides for individuals, families, and the wider community.
26. This approach ensures individuals are offered fair access to services and where it exists, challenge stigma, discrimination, and less favourable treatment. The team deliver time limited person-centred support, tailored to an individual's needs.
27. In relation to harm reduction, clinical services and psychosocial interventions provided by We Are With You have seen increased numbers accessing treatment. This service in Darlington has successfully achieved micro-elimination of hepatitis C in those who have a history of injecting drugs. This is the first We Are With You service to achieve this nationally and is only the second treatment service within the North East to have achieved this. This means that Darlington has made a significant contribution towards NHS England's target to eliminate the virus by 2025.
28. The Tubwell Row site managed by We Are With You, now provides complex clinical, harm reduction and prescribing services with all new referrals are being seen there. Planning is also underway to establish a more centrally based recovery centre which will replace the current remaining provision at Coniscliffe Road.
29. The local recovery provision is provided by Recovery Connections who have instigated a significant expansion to recovery activity within the borough resulting in a rapid uptake of these services, which has surpassed performance expectations and gives a clear indication of the level of demand for these services. The development of visible Recovery Communities is now demonstrating the positive impact of treatment and that recovery is a real possibility for the people of Darlington.
30. There is a high prevalence of unemployment among people with illicit drug and alcohol dependence and many of the people in this group want to work but struggle to access the open job market and achieve stable employment.
31. It has been a consistent policy objective of successive governments to support people who are in substance misuse treatment back into work. There is strong evidence of a multitude

of different positive outcomes including improved treatment outcomes, greater independence, financial resilience, new social networks. These benefits persist with an individual long after the treatment ends.

32. Recovery Connections also provide Individual Placement Support, which supports people looking for employment at the earliest opportunity. This service uses trained employment specialists who work alongside those client's accessing treatment for substance misuse as part of a multi-disciplinary treatment team. This is in addition to the generic Jobcentre Plus or Work and Health Programme