



Borough of Telford and Wrekin

Cabinet 4 January 2024

Telford and Wrekin Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2024-2029

Cabinet Member:	Cllr Kelly Middleton - Cabinet Member: Healthy, Safer & Stronger Communities & Partnerships
Lead Director:	Liz Noakes - Director: Health & Wellbeing
Service Area:	Health & Wellbeing
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Wards Affected:	All Wards
Key Decision:	Key Decision
Forward Plan:	Yes – 6 December 2023
Report considered by:	SMT - 7 November 2023 Business Briefing - 16 November 2023 Health and Wellbeing Board - 14 December 2023 Cabinet - 4 January 2024

1.0 Recommendations for decision/noting:

Cabinet is asked to:

- 1.1 Approve the Telford & Wrekin Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2024-2029.

2.0 Purpose of Report

- 2.1 This report introduces the refreshed Telford & Wrekin Alcohol and Drugs Strategy 2024-2029 developed by the Telford and Wrekin Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Board during 2023.

3.0 Background

- 3.1 Addiction to alcohol and other drugs use has a huge impact on everyone in society. In England, an estimated 600,000 people are dependent on alcohol and 300,000 on heroin and/or crack cocaine. Addiction to alcohol and other drugs can

be both a cause and a consequence of wider inequalities, especially health inequalities, and the prevalence of addiction is highest in the most deprived communities.

- 3.2 The previous Telford & Wrekin Drug and Alcohol Strategy, approved by the Health & Wellbeing Board, the Community Safety Partnership and Cabinet in 2019, was based on the national Drug Strategy. Telford and Wrekin has successfully achieved the key three aims of its previous 2018-2023 Alcohol and Drugs Strategy; increasing the number of people receiving alcohol treatment, improving outcomes for alcohol and drugs treatment, and providing better support for children and young people affected by their parents' addiction to alcohol and other drugs. However, the COVID-19 pandemic brought major challenges to the implementation of the strategy and had a significant impact on partnerships planning and access to services.
- 3.3 In 2021 the government published the Dame Carol Black Review and a new national strategy, *From Harm to Hope*, setting out an ambitious 10-year plan to prevent, treat and support recovery from addiction to alcohol and other drugs. In 2022 the local Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Board was reformed to oversee the production of a new strategy and is chaired by the Director of Public Health. In 2023 a new Alcohol and Drugs Forum was launched to bring together all partners working with people with alcohol and other drug problems and to co-produce the new strategy with the Partnership Board.
- 3.4 The draft Telford and Wrekin Alcohol and Drugs Strategy was approved by the Telford and Wrekin Community Safety Partnership in September 2023. Alcohol and drugs are a specific priority in the Telford and Wrekin Council Health and Wellbeing Strategy. Alcohol and drugs are also factors in other priorities identified in the Health and Wellbeing strategy, especially domestic abuse, mental health and wellbeing, housing and homelessness, and long-term health conditions

4.0 Summary of main proposals

- 4.1 This strategy has been developed by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Board in the context of the key recommendations of the *Dame Carol Black Review (2021)* and the 10-year national strategy, *From Harm to Hope (2021)*. Throughout the strategy development process, we have engaged with, and listened to, partners, professionals, and people with lived experience in a number of ways including focus groups, a stakeholder event and ongoing consultation and co-production through the new Telford Alcohol and Drugs Forum.
- 4.2 The strategy proposals are set out across the following framework:
- **Prevention:** building resilience in young people to prevent them beginning to use drugs and intervening early to prevent the escalation of problems with alcohol and other drugs among vulnerable young people and families
 - **Reducing harm:** reducing alcohol and drug related harms, especially preventable deaths, hospital admissions and other harms to communities

- **Treatment:** increasing the numbers of people in treatment with an alcohol problem, accessing treatment from all parts of the criminal justice system, and further improving local alcohol and drugs treatment outcomes
- **Recovery support:** expanding recovery support and supporting the growth of a diverse, visible recovery community

4.3 The Strategy document includes a series of sixteen commitments and an overview of how the Strategy commitments will be delivered. A detailed action plan and a set of key performance indicators are being developed by the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Board to monitor the implementation of the strategy.

5.0 Alternative Options

5.1 None.

6.0 Key Risks

6.1 There are clear responsibilities and duties for local authorities in relation to alcohol and drugs services set out in the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, Health and Social Care Act 2012, Public Health Ringfenced Grant conditions and the Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant conditions. This strategy includes local implementation of those expectations. Oversight of the various funding streams to deliver these responsibilities and duties is provided by the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities, who are also a member of the Telford and Wrekin Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Board.

7.0 Council Priorities

7.1 The Alcohol and Drugs Strategy will make a significant contribution to the following Council Priorities:

- Every child, young person and adult lives well in their community
- All neighbourhoods are a great place to live
- A community focused innovative council providing effective, efficient and quality services.

8.0 Financial Implications

8.1 Although the strategy is a plan of action for the period to 2029, a significant amount of the funding remains unknown and unconfirmed for years beyond 2023/24. Government SSMTR grant has recently been announced for 2024/25 with £442k available to the Council, and £31k for inpatient detox, but Public Health grant will be announced later as part of future Local Government grant settlement announcements by Central Government. This is normally in December each year and may be preceded by a spending review or budget announcement which may also give future indications.

Once Government grant settlements are finally announced the Council will determine its Medium Term Financial Strategy, which will propose the budget for the coming year(2024/25) including directing the allocation of Public Health Grant.

- 8.2 The expenditure forecast for 2023/24 is around £2.5m and 2024/25 is expected to be around £2.7m, and this will be met from within existing and planned resources available from Public Health Grant, SSMTR Government grant and contributions from partners.

9.0 Legal and HR Implications

- 9.1 Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 requires local “responsible authorities” to reduce the harms related to the use of drugs, alcohol and other substances in its area and the Telford and Wrekin Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Board fulfils this function on behalf of the Telford and Wrekin Community Safety Partnership.
- 9.2 Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 places a duty on local authorities to improve public health, including providing services designed to prevent and treat addiction to alcohol and other drugs. The Public Health Ringfenced Grant, provided by the government support local authorities in the discharge of these responsibilities, includes a grant condition for local authorities to have regard to the need to improve the take up of, and outcomes from, its drug and alcohol misuse treatment services.

10.0 Ward Implications

- 10.1 None.

11.0 Health, Social and Economic Implications

- 11.1 Alcohol and other drugs is a specific priority in the Telford & Wrekin Health & Wellbeing Strategy.

Alcohol and drugs are also factors in other priorities identified in the Health & Wellbeing strategy, especially domestic abuse, mental health and wellbeing, housing and homelessness, and long-term health conditions.

It is well known that parental problems with alcohol and other drugs is an adverse childhood experience which can have life long effects and that it also has the potential to cause trauma in adults.

There are overlaps between the alcohol and drugs agenda and the Building Safer Stronger agenda and the current Community Safety Strategy also includes tackling alcohol and drug related harm as a priority.

Alcohol and other drugs is also a key inequalities issue, disproportionately affecting the most deprived communities and individuals.

The NHS in Shropshire, Telford & Wrekin have committed to tackle addiction to alcohol in the Integrated Care System Joint Forward Plan. This is an NHS England mandated priority for local areas.

12.0 Equality and Diversity Implications

12.1 Addiction to alcohol and other drugs drives health inequalities and disproportionately affects those from our most deprived communities and within underrepresented groups. An Equality Impact Assessment was carried out alongside the Needs Assessment at the start of the strategy development process and appropriate actions will be incorporated into the annual action plan to address any equality and diversity issues.

13.0 Climate Change and Environmental Implications

13.1 None.

14.0 Background Papers

1 06/06/2023 Health & Wellbeing Board Telford & Wrekin Drug & Alcohol Strategy 2019 - 2023

15.0 Appendices

A Telford & Wrekin Alcohol and Drugs Strategy Draft 2024 – 2029

16.0 Report Sign Off

Signed off by	Date sent	Date signed off	Initials
Legal	01/11/2023	01/11/2023	RP
Finance	11/10/2023	24/10/2023	RP
Director	12/10/2023	19/10/2023	LN