**Agenda Item No. 5**

**COMMUNITY OUTCOMES MEETING**

**29 July 2024**

**SUBJECT: Drugs and Alcohol**

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| **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT PRODUCED BY WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE**   1. The attached report outlines work undertaken by West Yorkshire Police in respect of tackling Drugs and Alcohol. 2. This cover paper highlights the importance of the report topic in respect of the Police and Crime plan and also includes the delivery of the Mayor and her office. Together the West Yorkshire Police (WYP) report and the cover paper provide readers with a comprehensive understanding of work underway to tackle Drugs and Alcohol related crime. |
| **RECOMMENDATION**   1. That the Mayor/DMPC uses the report to scrutinise Force performance in respect of tackling Drugs and Alcohol. |
| **POLICE AND CRIME PLAN 24-28**   1. The Police and Crime Plan was developed after extensive public and partner consultation culminating in the creation of ‘The Voice of West Yorkshire’.  The Voice of West Yorkshire represents the views of over 6,500 respondents and includes the views of children and young people.  It is part of a series of documents which includes a summary needs assessment.  You can review the documents here: [West Yorkshire Combined Authority](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/the-police-and-crime-plan/)      1. The Police and Crime Plan 24-28 has a spotlight on Serious Violence and in the Mayor’s manifesto she stated she would make tackling serious violence a priority and deliver a Co-produced Serious Violence Strategy. Drugs and alcohol are often linked to serious and violent crime and the Voice of West Yorkshire (insert link) highlights the huge impact that Drugs and Alcohol have on feelings of safety.      1. Supporting Victims and Witnesses - The West Yorkshire Combatting Drugs Partnership Board was highlighted, emphasising the need for a co-ordinated response from key partners, the Mayor has said she will use her convening powers to bring together Combatting Drugs Partnerships across West Yorkshire to ensure consistency of response. 2. As Serious Violence is a spotlight in the Police and Crime Plan 24-28, the topic of tackling Drugs and Alcohol sits across all 3 priorities:      * Keeping People Safe * Safer Places and Thriving Communities * Supporting Victims and Witnesses     and all 5 cross-cutting themes:     * Safety of Women and Girls * Effective response to men and boys * Children and Young people * Reducing Vulnerability * Equity, Diversity and Inclusion      1. There are specific objectives and outcomes regarding Serious Violence (Homicide, Knife Crime, Hospital Admissions, Knife Enabled Robberies and Serious Violence Duty Measures) within the Police and Crime Plan’s performance measures. 2. There are also key police and community performance measures in relation to Drug and alcohol treatment in the Police and Crime Plan.   A detailed Equality Impact Assessment which looked at how the themes and priories impacted communities was completed for the 2024-28 plan, you can read it here:  [eqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2F4tijlbky%2Feqia-stage-1-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)  [eqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.westyorks-ca.gov.uk%2Fmedia%2Fd5hcfsqw%2Feqia-stage-2-pc-plan-final-web-version.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK) |
| **KEY INFORMATION**   1. Mayoral/DMPC activity to date includes:   Drugs and alcohol misuse are part of the wider determinants of crime and community safety which require the designing and commissioning of appropriate services to reduce the harm on individuals and communities. To support harm reduction, the Mayor has continued to provide funding through her Community Safety Fund, both to support local initiatives to educate people of the harm of drug use, but also to support groups who address the serious and organised crime which can be linked to drug supply (for example the MSCF’s support of the West Yorkshire ‘Clear, Hold, Build’ programme).  The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime takes an important role in calling together district partners working on drug and alcohol issues in communities through her chairing of the WY Combating Drugs Partnership Strategic Board. The Board meets twice-yearly to hear an updates from district partners and representatives for HM Prisons & Probation, and liaison and diversion services, and to look for new partnership opportunities to tackle drug supply and support substance users into treatment.  A sub-group of the Board has been established to help co-ordinate the West Yorkshire response to the danger of ‘Synthetic Opioids’. We have collaborated with partners on our shared objective to devise a West Yorkshire-wide response plan for a potential mass-overdose event linked to synthetic opioids (‘nitazenes’). Nationwide clusters of nitazene poisonings have led to fatalities, including two recent deaths in Leeds.  Further progress had been made in developing an effective relationship with the HM Coroner’s office in the Western district, and in developing a new drug checking service at Leeds University, led by West Yorkshire Police.  In the months ahead we are looking to develop our relationship with the WY Local Resilience Forum and strategic health services engaged with that group, to further embed effective response planning linked to the threat of nitazenes.  Finally, West Yorkshire Police’s pilot programme to test the use of the overdose-reversal treatment ‘Naloxone’ has concluded in Leeds and Wakefield. Following internal review (and the support of district public health partners), WYP expect to extend this project to the remaining West Yorkshire districts later this year.  The Mayor also funds specific dedicated testing of those arrested for offences likely to be linked to Class A substance misuse through the Test on Arrest / custody-based Drug Intervention Programme. A positive test result allows a number of treatment options to be considered to support individuals out of the cycle of drug related offending.  *Humankind* was commissioned by the West Yorkshire Violence Reduction Partnership in November 2021 to research the links between substance use and violence among young people, and how relationships between generations influence those links.  The Mayor has co-ordinated bids locally to the Safer Streets 4 Fund that have resulted in safe spaces being introduced in towns and cities. These safe spaces support people to enjoy the night-time economy and offer a range of services and support, including help to those that become vulnerable due to consuming of drugs and or alcohol.     1. **Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund**     The Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund continues to support projects which tackle Drugs and Alcohol, details of projects funded can be found here ([Mayor’s Safer Communities Fund - West Yorkshire Combined Authority (westyorks-ca.gov.uk)](https://www.westyorks-ca.gov.uk/policing-and-crime/mayor-s-safer-communities-fund/) |
| **PARTNERSHIP CONTRIBUTION**  Drugs and Alcohol interventions and support are undertaken in partnership with Community Safety Partnerships.  The Mayor supports all five local authorities across West Yorkshire through the Community Safety Fund. This enables LAs to identify and fund local priorities. In addition, Drugs Intervention Programme (DIP) Funding is provided to West Yorkshire Police to undertake specific drug services with a focus on drug testing in custody.  In Wakefield District, the Home Office have provided additional funding to support activity known as Project ADDER. This is a national pilot project bringing together enhanced investment in enforcement and drug treatment to reduce the harm caused by drug crime and substance misuse in communities. The Mayor is looking to learn and share best practice from Project ADDER to support the new Combatting Drugs Partnerships across West Yorkshire Districts.  Each district ensures delivery of Drugs and Alcohol services through their local Partnership arrangements.  The DMPC will ensure county-wide join up and oversight through the chairing of the WY Combatting Drugs Partnerships Strategic Board arrangements. |
| **EQUALITY, DIVERSITY, AND INCLUSION**  Drugs and Alcohol is tackled most effectively in partnership. It is known that minority groups and marginalised individuals can be at increased risk of drug and alcohol misuse issues. |
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| **ATTACHMENT**  [Chief Constables report – Drugs and Alcohol](https://theauthorityv13-auth.azurewebsites.net/media/whdlba5f/item-5-com-paper-drugs-and-alcohol-july-2025.docx) |