

North Tyneside Health & Wellbeing Board Report

Date: 30 June 2022

Title:
**National Drugs Strategy
guidance and
requirements for local
areas**

Report from: North Tyneside Council, Public Health Team

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1. Purpose:

The purpose of the report is to provide an update on the Government's drug strategy "From Harm to Hope" released on the 6th of December 2021 and specifically guidance on developing local partnerships released on the 15th of June 2022. The report will highlight implications and considerations for North Tyneside.

2. Recommendation(s):

The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to consider the implications and considerations required to establish a local combatting drugs partnership for North Tyneside.

3. Policy Framework

This item relates directly to delivery of the vision, objectives and priorities contained within the Equally Well Strategy. People who experience socio-economic disadvantage disproportionately may also experience problematic drug use.

People with problematic drug use are often amongst the most marginalised in society and can have multiple complex needs due to the circumstances in which they live. Addressing wider social inequalities, for example in housing and employment, as well as tackling poverty, can play an important role in the prevention of problematic drug use and associated harms.

4. Information:

The 10-year plan "From Harm to Hope" is the government's strategy and formal response to the Independent Reviews of Drugs led by Dame Carol Black (2021). The 3 key strands of the strategy are:

- To break drug supply chains
- To deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system and
- Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs

Dame Carol Black's independent review of drugs set out the importance of developing and improving local collaboration, with joint assessments of local need and planning for delivery. The guidance sets out in more detail the drugs strategy vision for "Combating Drugs Partnerships" in each locality that span the whole of the strategy; breaking supply, treatment, and recovery, and reducing the demand for drugs.

On 15 June 2022 Rt Hon Kit Malthouse MP, the Combating Drugs Minister, wrote to all local authorities highlighting the publication of new guidance for local partners delivering the cross-government drugs strategy. The guidance sets out the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework and a framework for Combating Drugs Partnerships with an identified Senior Responsible Owners (SRO) required for each area.

The National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework will provide a single mechanism for monitoring progress across central government and in local areas towards delivery of the commitments and ambitions of the 10-year drugs strategy to level up the country. The outcomes and metrics included in the framework aim to provide a link between action and the impact experienced by individuals, families, and neighbourhoods across the country and in local areas (please see appendix 1). Further supporting metrics, will be published alongside a technical guide later in 2022.

The guidance also sets out clear deadlines (please see appendix 2) for local areas to confirm the following:

- The footprint of the partnership.
- A local SRO who should chair the partnership and be responsible for reporting to central government on local cross-cutting delivery against the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework, alongside their own specific organisational objectives.
- The membership of the partnership, which should bring together the different individuals and organisations with responsibility for delivering the strategic priorities of the drug strategy – breaking supply, treatment and recovery and reducing demand (please see appendix 3, example of a minimum partnership as set out by the guidance).

The guidance also stipulates that the proposed geographical footprint, SRO, and membership of the partnership to be signed off by the following key local partners:

- Elected local authority leader
- Police and Crime Commissioner (including Mayors with PCC functions)
- Local authority Chief Executive(s) or Director(s) of Public Health
- Regional Probation Director
- Integrated Care Board Chief Executive

The strategy and guidance offers an opportunity for North Tyneside as a system to work in partnership across a wide cross cutting agenda for drugs (similar to the Alcohol Partnership). The agenda for example could cover:

- Public health impact including the associated health inequalities.
- Community safety elements including tackling county lines and organised crime, ensuring local communities are protected from the impact of associated ASB and crime as a result of drugs. Increased access to treatment and recovery.

The guidance is being discussed at a regional level via the North East Association of DPH's and the Regional Drug & Alcohol Commissioners group. Some of the issues that need to be considered include:

- What should the local area footprint be? What do we mean by local? Should the partnership be local to North Tyneside or part of a sub-regional footprint?
- Who will be the SRO for North Tyneside (as well as identifying a partnership lead, public involvement lead, and data and digital lead as set out in the guidance)?
- How will the PCC's office engage across the force area?
- What should be the governance arrangements for the partnership i.e. where will the group report to e.g., Health and Wellbeing Board or the Community Safety Partnership?
- How does the agenda link to the development of the North East and North Cumbria ICS footprints?

5. Decision options:

The Board is asked to:

- Note the requirements of the guidance issued on 15 June 2022
- Provide some initial views and thoughts on the requirements.
- Agree to receive a further report setting out the proposed arrangements for North Tyneside.

6. Reasons for recommended option:

n/a

7. Appendices:

Appendix 1: National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework

Appendix 2: Key tasks and timeline for Combating Drugs Partnerships as they are established

Appendix 3: Recommended core members of a Combating Drugs Partnership

8. Contact officers:

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9. Background information:

Dame Carol Black review ([first part of the Review](#) & [second part of the Review](#))

From Harm to Hope: A 10-year Drugs Strategy [From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Guidance for local delivery partners [Drugs strategy guidance for local delivery partners - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

10 Finance and other resources

Any financial implications for services or projects arising for drug and alcohol services will be met within current budget envelopes through the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG). SSMTRG is for three years from 2022/23 to 2024/25. There is no additional funding to establish a partnership for North Tyneside.

11 Legal

The report contains no legal implications.

12 Consultation/community engagement

Consultation will need to take place with wider partners and stakeholders about the development of a partnership for North Tyneside. The guidance is clear that any partnership established should ensure the voices of a range of members of the public are heard, whether they are people who have lived or living experience of using drugs and/or support services, are family members of those who do, or are affected by drug-related harm in other ways. Consultation and community engagement will be key as the partnership develops a strategy and local action plan for North Tyneside.

13 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

14 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report. The partnership will need to consider equalities implications and especially the impact of drugs on those in poverty, on different ethnic groups and social class. A full equality impact assessment is not considered necessary at this stage but will be considered as a needs assessment is undertaken and subsequent action plan and strategy is developed.

15 Risk management

There are no risks from the national drugs strategy or local guidance. Risks will be identified by North Tyneside as the partnership is developed and managed as a system.

16 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

SIGN OFF







Chair/Deputy Chair of the Board

X

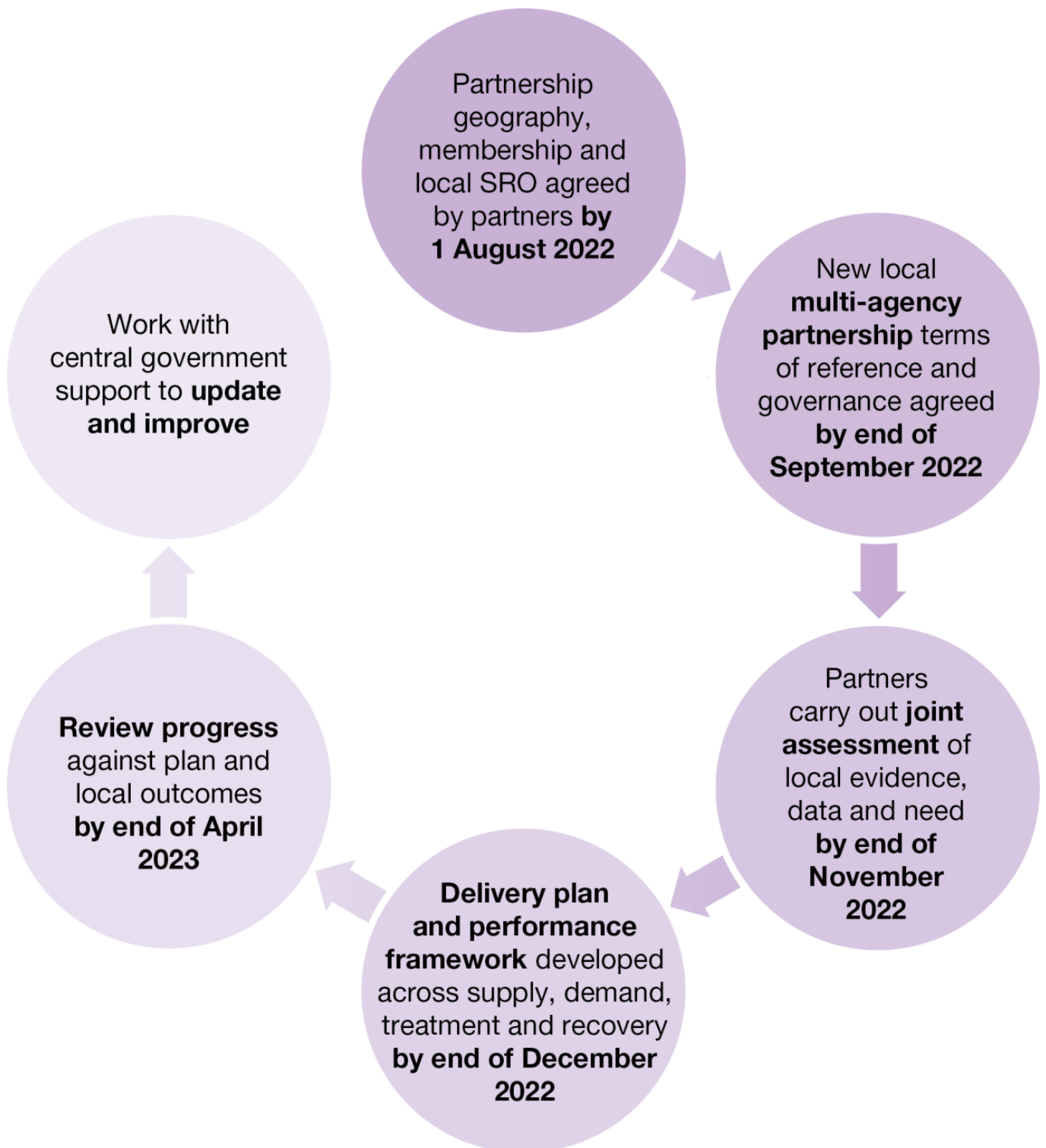
Director of Public Health

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Appendix 1: National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework

National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework Our ambition: a safer, healthier and more productive society by combating illicit drugs	
What we will deliver for citizens (strategic outcomes)	Measured by:
 Reducing drug use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proportion of the population reporting drug use in the last year (reported by age) prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use
 Reducing drug-related crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of drug-related homicides the number of neighbourhood crimes
 Reducing drug-related deaths and harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> deaths related to drug misuse hospital admissions for drug poisoning and drug-related mental health and behavioural disorders (primary diagnosis of selected drugs)
What will help us deliver this (intermediate outcomes)	Measured by:
 Reducing drug supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of county lines closed the number of moderate and major disruptions against organised criminals
 Increasing engagement in drug treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the numbers in treatment (both adults and young people, reported by opiate and crack users, other drugs, and alcohol) continuity of care – engagement with treatment within three weeks of leaving prison
 Improving drug recovery outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proportion who are in stable accommodation and who have completed treatment, are drug-free in treatment, or have sustained reduction in drug use <p>Key additional components integral to recovery include housing, mental health, and employment</p>

Appendix 2: Key tasks and timeline for Combating Drugs Partnerships as they are established



Appendix 3: Recommended core members of a Combating Drugs Partnership

