



CABINET MEMBER DECISION

Worcestershire is being affected by increasing violence associated with drug supply and exploitation of vulnerable people among County Lines affecting safer communities. There has been a reduction in alcohol-specific mortality overall in Worcestershire compared to England, but this varies across the County. There is an increase in alcohol-related liver disease significantly above the England average and alcohol-related hospital admissions are increasing in certain parts of the County. Young people are increasingly in need of prevention, engagement with treatment and support to access housing and employment to maintain recovery. There are close associations between family safeguarding and drug and alcohol misuse impacting on outcomes for young people and parents, particularly associated with trauma requiring a specialised multi agency response. In addition, demographics indicate an ageing cohort of people with complexity associated with drug and alcohol is increasing which will impact in the future on health and social care.

8. In 2017, Public Health England published an updated national Drug Strategy. This places renewed focus on delivering co-ordinated interventions to help people maintain their recovery from drugs and alcohol by ensuring that there are close links to physical and mental health care, housing and employment. The guidance recommends close co-operation between drug and alcohol services and the police in addressing the increasing harm posed by Novel Psychoactive Substances and County Lines drug dealing. The strategy details evidence associated with harm for children affected by parental substance misuse, links with domestic violence and the need for close co-operation between local authority safeguarding, drug and alcohol services. There is also a recommendation to expand drug dependency treatment to include over the counter medication and prescription drugs. In 2019 a revised national Alcohol Strategy is expected to be published which will help inform the future strategic direction of the new service.

9. The current service model and performance need further improvement and alignment with new commissioned services for children, young people and families and to implement new national guidance. It is therefore, necessary to rework the service specification and proceed with a full procurement exercise. This will be based on evidence from a full needs assessment and from engagement with service users and stakeholders. The service will re-focus on priorities including alcohol (a priority for the Health and Wellbeing Board) and work with children and young people, one of the 4 corporate priorities for the Council in addition to closer working with Worcester Children First. Recommendations will be made to inform prevention, reduce harm and improve recovery for young people and adults affected by drug and alcohol problems. Findings will influence the design of the new service specification to inform future procurement arrangements.

10. Recent consultation with partner agencies, service users and carers has proposed some specific areas for change including closer working with the new Prevention and Early Intervention Service to include upskilling of the wider workforce, continued availability of GP and pharmacy services; specialist prescribing services; close working with children and adults safeguarding including Worcester Children First using trauma informed approaches; more work on prevention and reduction of alcohol related harm including close liaison with acute hospitals, mental health, midwifery and primary care; closer working with police and criminal justice services; a dedicated children and young people's service; targeted outreach to "at risk" populations using multi-agency approaches including links with homeless

services; upskilling of peer mentors to support retention in treatment and pathways to recovery including employment and sustainable accommodation.

11. The new integrated service will expand its approach and be responsive to changing needs of people experiencing problems with addiction and dependency. There will be a dedicated young person's prevention, early intervention and

