

Decision Maker: Public Protection and Safety Policy Development and Scrutiny Committee

Date: 6TH March 2018

Decision Type: Non-Urgent Non-Executive Non-Key

Title: **ADULTS WHO MISUSE DRUGS - THE FINDINGS OF A HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT IN BROMLEY 2017**

Contact Officer: Helen Buttivant, Consultant in Public Health
Tel: 020 8461 7240 E-mail: helen.buttivant@bromley.gov.uk

Chief Officer: Dr Nada Lemic, Director of Public Health

Ward: All Wards

1. Reason for report

- 1.1. This report provides a summary of the findings of a health needs assessment of the population of adults with problematic drug use in Bromley.
- 1.2. It is submitted to the committee for information only.
- 1.3. A full version of the report is attached as an appendix.

2. **RECOMMENDATION(S)**

The committee is asked to consider and comment on issues identified in the report.

Impact on Vulnerable Adults and Children

1. Summary of Impact: Vulnerability in adults and children can be a risk factor for drug misuse and a consequence of illicit drug taking behaviour.
-

Corporate Policy

1. Policy Status: Existing Policy
 2. BBB Priority: Children and Young People Quality Environment Safe Bromley Supporting Independence
-

Financial

1. Cost of proposal: Not Applicable
 2. Ongoing costs: Not Applicable
 3. Budget head/performance centre:
 4. Total current budget for this head: £N/A
 5. Source of funding:
-

Personnel

1. Number of staff (current and additional):
 2. If from existing staff resources, number of staff hours:
-

Legal

1. Legal Requirement: None
 2. Call-in: Not Applicable
-

Procurement

1. Summary of Procurement Implications:
-

Customer Impact

1. Estimated number of users/beneficiaries (current and projected):
-

Ward Councillor Views

1. Have Ward Councillors been asked for comments? Not Applicable
2. Summary of Ward Councillors comments:

3. COMMENTARY

Executive Summary:

- 3.1 Bromley has the 7th lowest estimated rate of Opiate and/or Crack use in the region and lower overall rates of drug use compared to the regional and national average.
- 3.2 However the estimated consumption rate for Opiate and/or Crack use in young people in Bromley (age 15-24) is higher than the regional or national average. Rates of combined Opiate and/or Crack use are also rising in the older population (age 35-64).
- 3.3 The rate of hospital admissions for substance misuse in young people in Bromley is significantly higher than the national and regional average. The rates for young people are increasing more steeply in Bromley than across London or England as a whole.
- 3.4 Hospital admission rates for substance misuse in Bromley positively correlate with levels of socioeconomic deprivation. In contrast there is no observable link between drug-related death rates and deprivation in Bromley.
- 3.5 The rate of drug-related deaths in Bromley is among the lowest in the region and lower than local authorities in the same socioeconomic deprivation bracket. There were a total of 50 drug-related deaths in Bromley between 2012 and 2016. The average age at the time of death was 47 years. 67% of local drug-related deaths were classified as accidental poisonings, compared to 55% nationally.
- 3.6 Whilst the illicit use of drugs in Bromley is increasing, the number entering treatment is decreasing. Opiate users still dominate adult treatment, these clients generally face a more complex set of challenges and it is more challenging to achieve positive and sustainable outcomes.
- 3.7 The estimated level of unmet need (those with problematic substance misuse but not currently in contact with treatment services) in Bromley is much higher than the England average. It is estimated that 63% of drug users in Bromley are not known to treatment services, ranking Bromley second highest in the region.
- 3.8 Of those in contact with treatment services in Bromley nearly 50% of clients are age 40+; this is slightly higher than the national average. The age profile of clients newly presenting for treatment has also shifted to an older population.
- 3.9 In 2016/17 there were 100 children known to be living with people misusing drugs in Bromley who had presented to substance misuse services for the first time in that period.
- 3.10 The proportion of clients who engaged with treatment following referral from prison is lower in Bromley than the national average (29% compared to 33%).
- 3.11 Bromley has a higher proportion (37%) of new clients presenting with a co-occurring mental health condition (dual diagnosis) compared to England (24%). Half of all women who present new to treatment, for non-opiate or non-opiate and alcohol misuse, have a co-occurring mental health condition.

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR THE RESIDENTS OF BROMLEY:

- 3.12 Substance misuse is a complex area. Individuals with substance misuse problems may also have other difficulties including; mental health problems, poverty, relationship issues, family breakdown, unemployment and involvement with the criminal justice system. In Bromley, there

is also the challenge of an aging population of opiate users with multiple physical health problems and entrenched use.

- 3.13 Bromley residents require specialist substance misuse services that can respond to the changing nature of substance misuse in the borough. The contract for existing substance misuse services for adults and young people in Bromley are due to expire later in 2018. A new service specification has been designed (incorporating the findings of this needs assessment) and new services will be commissioned to come into effect in December 2018.
- 3.14 The new service will be presented with a number of local challenges to address including the following:
- To increase numbers of individuals in treatment
 - To find innovative ways if working with older opiate users with more complex needs
 - To respond to the emerging needs of individuals using NPS and over the counter/prescribed medications
 - To develop strategies to prevent drug related deaths
 - To engage with problematic alcohol users who may be treatment naïve
 - To enhance partnership working with a view to understand the issues surrounding and ultimately address the needs for dual diagnosis clients and for reducing hospital admissions.
- 3.15 A primary focus for the new service will be the identification and engagement of substance misusers. Partnership working with a range of key partners in the borough will be essential in supporting more individuals into treatment. This will include joint working with the Criminal Justice Services, Hospitals, London Borough of Bromley services including; Children's Services, Community Health Services, the Voluntary Sector and Primary Care.
- 3.16 Aftercare and reintegration has been cited as important for sustained recovery. The new service will offer wraparound support and on-going contact as well as pathways to specialist education, housing and employment support and advice.
- 3.17 It is anticipated that the integrated treatment system will provide a holistic service to support successful and sustained recovery for those who misuse substances in Bromley. Improved partnership working and early identification and referral will improve outcomes and treatment completion rates.

4. IMPACT ON VULNERABLE ADULTS AND CHILDREN

- 4.1 Vulnerability in adults and children can be a risk factor for drug misuse and a consequence of illicit drug taking behaviour.
- 4.2 In addition the association between social factors and illicit drug use is reciprocal; drug misuse can cause social disadvantage, and socio-economic disadvantage may lead to drug use and dependence.
- 4.3 Substance misuse can reduce a parent's ability to provide care. The effects on the child can include neglect, educational problems, emotional difficulties and abuse. Parental problem drug use has been shown to be one of the commonest reasons for children being received into the care system.