

Meeting	Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group
Date of meeting:	17 th August 2022
Report title:	Configuration of the Combatting Drugs Partnership Board
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Executive Summary

This report provides a summary of the latest national substance misuse plan, key points, and requirements upon the Local Authority to deliver this plan. It also sets out the expectations upon local authorities to deliver this plan, and the governance arrangements required within this.

1. Update

1.1 Background to the Drug and Alcohol Strategy

Dame Carol was commissioned by the Home Office and the Department of Health and Social Care to undertake a two-part Independent review of drugs, to inform the government's thinking on what more can be done to tackle the harm that drugs cause. The aim is to make sure that vulnerable people with substance misuse problems get the support they need to recover and turn their lives around, in the community and in prison.

The review details significant increases in drug related harm, alongside a significant reduction in funding nationally of substance misuse services. It contains 32 recommendations for change across various government departments and other organisations, to improve the effectiveness of drug prevention and treatment and to help more people recover from dependence

1.2 The Drug and Alcohol Strategy

On 6 December 2021 the drugs strategy, *From Harm to Hope*, was published. A 10 year plan for real change, with an ambition to reduce overall drug use towards a historic 30-year low. Each of Dame Carol Blacks' 32 recommendations were accepted.

The strategy details 3 core priorities:

1. Break drug supply chains
2. Deliver a world class treatment and recovery system, and
3. Achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs.

This plan was supported by a record investment of nearly £900 million of funding over the dedicated Spending Review period, taking the total investment over 3 years to £3 billion. Details of how the grant awarded to LBB will be used to uplift our services are available [here](#).

1.3 Local Delivery of the National Strategy

Guidance for local delivery partners was published 15 June 2022 [here](#). It sets out the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework to monitor 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.

It identifies key principles and structures to support the formation of Combating Drugs Partnerships, asking local areas to:

- Form a clearly defined partnership based on a geographical area that is logical to local residents and consistent with existing relevant arrangements.
- Select a Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) who can represent the partnership nationally, reporting to central government for its performance, and who can offer challenge and support to local partners to drive improvement and unblock issues when necessary.
- Involve all those people and organisations affected by drugs in developing joint solutions to these issues.

1.4 A Partnership Approach

Substance misuse is a cross-cutting issue requiring partners from across the three priorities (supply, demand, treatment) to work together at a local level. The three priorities interact and require close coordination to maximise impact and efficiency. The National Joint Combating Drugs Unit - created to end illegal drug-related illnesses and deaths - recognises this, being formed of 7 different government departments. Almost all aspirations of the drugs strategy require local delivery (police forces, local authority, schools, prison, probation). Dame Carol Black stated that 'greater co-ordination and accountability at national level must also flow through to the local level'.

The guidance for setting up the local Combating Drugs Partnership provides suggestions on the potential candidates as members of the Partnership with outline of the role of the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO).

1.5 Expectations upon the Partnership

Demanding timescales have been set out requiring rapid progress, focusing on demonstrating positive, joined-up activity – a continuous process of planning and improvement with the expectation that these are never finally 'completed' but rather an ongoing way of working

- **1 August 2022** Partnership geography, membership and local SRO to be submitted to the Joint Combating Drugs Unit.
- **30 September 2022** New local multi-agency partnership Terms of Reference and governance agreed.
- **30 November 2022** Partners carry out joint assessment of local evidence, data and need.
- **31 December 2022** Delivery Plan and Performance Framework developed across supply, demand, treatment and recovery.
- **30 April 2022** review progress against plan and local outcomes.
- **Ongoing work** with central government support to update and improve.

Examples of how other local government partners have worked collaboratively to drive similar outcomes are available [here](#).

1.6. How does this arrangement look in Bromley?

Following a brief review of all partnership groups currently established in Bromley, it is apparent that we do not have a suitable partnership board already configured. Other configurations will not offer sufficient focus and dedicated resource to deliver the significant improvement required and evidence the outcomes within the expected timeframe.

Using the Police Borough Command Unit or the local Integrated Care System as the footprint, covering a number of boroughs with a diverse population profile and a wide range of specific local issues, does not seem feasible with real potential of diluting the required dedicated resource and focus for the wider footprint. However, the proposed borough wide partnership with a broad range of senior officers and Members drawing from existing partnerships of Bromley Safeguarding Adult's Board, Mental Health Partnership Board, Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group and the Health and Wellbeing Board will have the authority and standing to find joint solutions that make a real difference and transform in partnership the local drugs and alcohol service.

For this reason, it is proposed a standalone Combating Drugs Partnership with Dr Nada Lemic, Director of Public Health, as the Senior Responsible Officer.

The following senior leaders who are change agents within their representative organisations were invited join the Partnership ahead of being submitted to the Joint Combating Drugs Unit on 1 August 2022.

Membership of the Bromley Combating Drugs Partnership:

Name	Job Title	Organisation	Email
Nada Lemic (chair)	Director of PH	LBB	Nada.lemic@bromley.gov.uk
Lucien Spencer (Vice-chair)	Head of Service, Bromley	Probation Service	Lucien.Spencer@justice.gov.uk
Mimi Morris-Cotterill	Assistant Director, Public Health	LBB	mimi.morris-cotterill@bromley.gov.uk
Lynnette Chamielec	Assistant Director, Housing	LBB	lynette.chamielec@bromley.gov.uk
Finola O'Driscoll	Senior Strategist, Public Health	LBB	finola.o'driscoll@bromley.gov.uk
Ken Loyal	Inspector of N'hood Policing	Police	Ken.loyal@met.police.uk
Sarah Newman	Head of Domestic Regulation	LBB	Sarah.newman@bromley.gov.uk
James Postgate	Assistant Director for Integrated Commissioning	LBB	James.postgate@bromley.gov.uk
Anne-Marie Douglas MBE	Bromley Partnership Manager	DWP	anne-marie.douglas@dwp.gov.uk
Trevor Harper	Disability Employment Leader	DWP	TREVOR.HARPER@DWP.GOV.UK
Jackie Fairweather	Health & Disability Lead	DWP	JACKIE.FAIRWEATHER@DWP.GOV.UK
Emily Duignan	Service Manager	BDAS	Emily.Duignan@cgl.org.uk
Jesse Petherick	Service User Representative	Oxleas	jesse.petherick@nhs.net
Helen Jones	Associate Director, Community Mental Health	Oxleas	helen.jones139@nhs.net
Louise Watkinson	Assistant Director, Public Protection	LBB	Louise.Watkinson@bromley.gov.uk
	London Ambulance Service	NHS	
	Safeguarding Adults	LBB	

The membership will be reviewed and updated when the SRO develops the Terms of Reference in September 2022. Additional potential members can also be considered at the same time.

3. Recommendations and Next Steps

3.1 The Safer Bromley Partnership Strategic Group are recommended to:

- Note and comment on the contents of the report

3.2 Next Steps:

- To call for the first meeting of the Combatting Drugs Partnership Board scheduled to take place on 6th September during which the Terms of Reference and governance arrangement will be considered.