

Title of report: **Substance Use Services In Herefordshire**

Meeting: Adults and Wellbeing Scrutiny Committee

Meeting date: Monday 7 March 2022

Report by: Public health specialist

Classification

This report is open but an appendix is exempt by virtue of the paragraph(s) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the constitution pursuant to Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended:

- 2 Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual – due to small numbers in the data reported in the appendix.

Decision type

This is not an executive decision

Wards affected

(All Wards);

Purpose

To provide members of the Committee with an overview of substance use services in Herefordshire and the work of the new service provider, Turning Point.

Recommendation(s)

That:

- a) **The Committee is asked to note the contents of this report.**

Alternative options

1. There are no alternative options as this is an update report.

Key considerations

2. The integrated drug and alcohol recovery service is run on behalf of Herefordshire council by Turning Point, in partnership with Healthwatch Herefordshire and alongside other recovery organisations, and has replaced the previous provider service, We Are With You. Whilst Turning Point is a new provider to Herefordshire, the organisation has been delivering substance use services throughout the UK for over 50 years. The new service contract, which will run to 31st March 2025, included the transfer of employees and all service users and continues to be an integrated service for both adults and young people seeking support with drug and alcohol addiction.
3. The service has focussed on performance outcomes with significant improvements being made. They have recently reported moving into the third quartile for the alcohol/non-opiate cohort, and trajectories for all other cohorts continue to head in the same positive direction, with a plan which should shortly also move all cohorts into the third quartile. While successful outcomes are a significant achievement, beyond this performance measure they represent people moving out of treatment and moving on with their lives without the significant impact of alcohol or drug addiction.
4. Recruitment for the service has been a challenge, which reflects the national picture for health and social care services, however Turning Point has successfully recruited several new staff into the service who will support the overall development and improvement of delivery.
5. Turning Point has established links with both primary and secondary care. The service will be strengthening various work streams, specifically alcohol pathways; working with primary care to increase early identification of harmful alcohol use and with secondary care to improve the access to community services and work in partnership with complex service users. This is a multi-agency piece of work: Wye Valley Trust now has in place a multi-disciplinary alcohol care team (MDT), with Turning Point as a key partner. Strong links have also been established with mental health services with weekly attendance at team meetings to discuss complex cases.
6. There are plans to purchase a Mobile Outreach Vehicle (MOV) to enhance the offer of harm reduction advice, needle exchange, naloxone, and other outreach support to service users across the county with a focus on providing an 'out there everywhere' offer for people in more remote areas or with limited options to travel to Turning Point hubs.
7. The further development of a young people's service includes the creation of a new brand identity and will offer an emotional wellbeing approach to young people (including young adults). The young people's service will explore greater awareness of treatment options for young people through promotion in schools in youth centres/youth clubs, offering a simple and fast referral/assessment process and access to interventions in a convenient location. The service will utilise social media to further increase awareness, promote harm reduction messages and provide advice to support young people in their decision making. This dedicated service for under-25s offers safe, confidential and non-judgemental support to make positive changes through a range of services, including: training and awareness sessions and short-term sessions in one-to-one or small groups and structured treatment plans.
8. Individuals wanting to access support can refer themselves or alternatively be referred by a GP, or other health professional. Referrals can be made by visiting the [Herefordshire Recovery Service Network website](#) or calling **0300 555 0747**
9. This financial year additional funding has been provided nationally to local authorities to address harm reduction and criminal activity in drug users. This will be used locally to increase resource within the service to provide focussed work to reduce harm in our homeless population, specifically aiming to reduce drug related deaths as well as introducing further interventions targeted to those involved in the criminal justice system.

10. Following the release of the new government drug strategy,
From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)
it has been confirmed that this funding will continue.

Community impact

11. The substance use recovery service is a county-wide service.
12. This specialist service has been shaped and designed by the needs of the local community, and the voices of people with drug and alcohol issues and their carers and families, following consultation exercises carried out by the council in 2019.
13. The new service is working to national and local policies and guidance, including the new national strategy which sets out three core priorities: to break drug supply chains, deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system and achieve a shift in demand for recreational drugs, From harm to hope: A 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Environmental Impact

14. A key principle for the service is to ensure ease of access across the county, providing an 'out there, everywhere' offer. The main premises are located in Hereford, with hubs in Leominster, Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury. The provider will be offering a mobile service to enhance the offer of the harm reduction advice, needle exchange, naloxone, and other outreach support to service users and this vehicle will also be used to support delivery of medication for people isolating or otherwise unable to access local pharmacies, as well promote the service through events. The environmental impact of this will be monitored against service uptake and will be managed and reported through the ongoing contract management.
15. Herefordshire Council provides and purchases a wide range of services for the people of Herefordshire. Together with partner organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors we share a strong commitment to improving our environmental sustainability, achieving carbon neutrality and to protect and enhance Herefordshire's outstanding natural environment.

Equality duty

16. Under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, the 'general duty' on public authorities is set out as follows:

A public authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to –

- a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

17. The public sector equality duty (specific duty) requires us to consider how we can positively contribute to the advancement of equality and good relations, and demonstrate that we are paying 'due regard' in our decision making in the design of policies and in the delivery of services. Our providers will be made aware of their contractual requirements in regards to equality legislation.
18. This service supports individuals many of whom will share a protected characteristic (eg. mental health/disability) and will support the Council in discharging its duty by advancing equality of opportunity for this cohort.

Resource implications

19. The value of the Council's contract with Turning Point is £1,560,570 per annum and the contract is to run for 3 years, at this point.

Legal implications

20. Section 6 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 places a duty on the local authority to implement a strategy for combating the misuse of drugs, alcohol and other substances in the local authority's area. The local authority has a general duty under section 3(1)_ Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way its functions are exercised, such improvement includes effective service delivery, value for money and ensuring the project outcome is achieved.
21. The purpose of the report ensures that the local authority complies with its statutory duties.

Risk management

22. There are no risks associated with the recommendations of this report.
23. The service provider is required to produce a risk register which is managed at service level and through performance monitoring arrangements, with directorate or corporate risks escalated as appropriate.

Consultees

24. The service was informed and designed by the needs of the local community and with engagement with service users and their families and carers, following consultations carried out by the council, including with stakeholders and political groups in 2019.

Appendices

EXEMPT Appendix 1. Report from Turning Point: 'Substance Use Services in Herefordshire – an overview'.

Background papers

None

