

Committee: Executive
Meeting or Proposed Decision Date –
2nd September 2024
Key Decision – No



Somerset Strategic Drug and Alcohol Partnership (SSDAP) Annual Report

Chair of Committee: Cllr Bill Revans

Executive Member(s): Cllr Bill Revans

Local Member(s) and Division(s) affected: All

Executive Director: Trudi Grant

Executive Summary

This annual report details the progress made in 2023/24 by the Somerset Strategic Drug and Alcohol Partnership (SSDAP), documenting the progress made during Year 2 of the additional funding to local authorities, to support the implementation of the national drugs strategy 'Harm to Hope.'

The report evidences the progress against the following Partnerships Priorities:

- 1. Prevention Early Intervention and Harm Reduction:** reducing the demand for drugs, training target workforces, minimising substance use harms and promoting the carriage and use of naloxone.
- 2. Increasing the access to specialist drug and alcohol treatment:** increasing specialist treatment service capacity, developing an outreach offer for vulnerable groups, developing joint working between SDAS, mental health services, acute hospitals and enhancing joint working across the criminal justice system.
- 3. Enforcement:** to develop intelligence to inform decision making in relation to the nature and scale of supply and demand for substances within Somerset, to investigate and disrupt criminal activity and to protect individuals and communities from the risk, harm and exploitation associated with substances.
- 4. Recovery:** develop and embed peer led recovery initiatives with the specialist service and the wider partnership, to support and signpost to mutual aid provision and develop sustainable recovery communities to increase the likelihood of sustained recovery.

Recommendations

To endorse the content of the report and support the Somerset Drug & Alcohol Partnership focus areas for 2024-25:

1. Targeting and supporting people who are using alcohol to problematic levels and not accessing treatment.
2. Targeting people within the criminal justice system who have a treatment need but who are not engaged in treatment.

3. Reaching the Continuity of Care target of 47% (people successfully transitioning from custody-based treatment to community treatment).
4. Piloting a local detoxification initiative.
5. Evolving lived experience initiatives.
6. Raising awareness of Recovery support in all communities.
7. Developing a multi-agency Drug and Alcohol Deaths review process.
8. Implementing the Local Drug Intelligence System (LDIS) to facilitate a prompt response to any contaminated drugs in Somerset.

Reasons for Proposals

Priorities identified by the Somerset Strategic Drug and Alcohol Partnership and in line with the national drugs strategy.

Report Author: Jodie Reading/Alison Bell

Contact Details: Jodie.reading@somerset.gov.uk alison.bell@somerset.gov.uk

Main report and supporting information



Background and purpose of report

In December 2021, the previous Government published 'From Harm to Hope: a 10-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives.' To support its implementation, central government allocated additional funding to Upper Tier, or unitary authorities over a 3-year period 2022/23 – 2024-25.

The national strategy was based on a two-part review undertaken by Professor Dame Carol Black, which set out the evidence of the benefits to society of investment in high-quality drug treatment and recovery and tackling crime associated with drug use. Dame Carol recognised that:

'successful delivery of the governments drugs strategy, 'From Harm to Hope' relies on coordinated action across a range of local partners including in enforcement, treatment, recovery and prevention... local providers in England should work together to reduce drug-related harm.'

In recognition of this, in 2022 Somerset relaunched its Drug and Alcohol Partnership and worked together to produce a strategy and project plan to tackle the harms associated with both drugs and alcohol, framed within the priorities noted above.

The report being presented to Somerset Council Executive provides an update on the delivery of the Somerset Drug and Alcohol Strategy between 1st April 2023 – 31st March 2024.

There is uncertainty regarding supplementary drug and alcohol funding that ends in March 2025, which is additional to the public health grant funding that supports the core Somerset Drug & Alcohol Service (SDAS)

Links to Council Plan and Medium-Term Financial Plan

The work of the SSDAP supports the County Vision, specifically:

- A thriving and productive County that is ambitious, confident and focussed in improving people's lives.
- A county of resilient, well-connected and compassionate communities working to reduce inequalities.
- A County that provides you with right information, advice and guidance to help you help yourself and targets support to those who need it most.

Other options considered

N/A

Key considerations for the Council

Scrutiny comments / recommendations:

The Report was presented at Adults and Health Scrutiny on 15th August 2024, by representative from SDAS, Avon & Somerset Police and Somerset Council Public Health team. Elected members endorsed the content of the report and thanked the team for their efforts and commitment to this area of work. The following observations were also made:

- Stability of the funding streams and the concern regarding the increasing demand for support needed for people misusing drugs or alcohol.
- The need to monitor the administration and follow up regarding the use of Naloxone and to use data sets to inform future implementation of this life saving medication. Also to consider the link between administration of naloxone and wider treatment outcomes.
- How to implement the enforcement dimension relating to the supply of drugs in Somerset and responding proportionately to intelligence pertaining to the distribution of substances.
- The need to put the demand for services in the context of the wider somerset population, to enable members to judge the scale of the problem
- The need to ensure that Children and Young People feature in the strategy and plans and that work needs to start early in childhood to educate children and parents regarding the risks of substances and their misuse.

Consultation and feedback

Members of the Somerset Strategic Drug and Alcohol Partners have discussed, viewed and agreed the contents of the report. Service users from the commissioned specialist drug and alcohol treatment service have also been consulted and contributed to the report.

Financial and Risk Implications

Performance – we are nearing achievement of the government trajectory for performance and so there are limited risks in this area that are being managed. As this is a backward looking report, the future funding risk beyond April 2025 is not relevant to the Executive approving this progress report which is presented for information.

Having consulted the Council's Risk Manager it has been agreed the information above negates need to complete risk scoring below.

Current Risk Score:

Likelihood	N/A	Impact	N/A	Risk Score	N/A
-------------------	------------	---------------	------------	-------------------	------------

Projected risk score if recommended actions are agreed and delivered:

Likelihood	N/A	Impact	N/A	Risk Score	N/A
-------------------	------------	---------------	------------	-------------------	------------

Legal and Procurement Implications

There are no direct legal implications as a result of this report.

HR / Workforce Implications

There are no direct HR/workforce implications as a result of this report.

Equalities Implications

There are no direct equalities implications arising directly from accepting this report. It is hoped that the work of the partnership reduces health inequalities by offering holistic and systemic support to target populations who are struggling with or vulnerable to addiction.

Community Safety Implications

There are no community safety implications as a direct result of accepting this report. The work of the Partnership, specifically within the Enforcement strand, align closely with the Community Safety Partnership and we are working closely with this strategic group and the development of the Violence Reduction Partnership.

Climate Change and Sustainability Implications

There are no climate change and sustainability implications as a direct result of accepting this report.

Health and Safety Implications

There are no Health and Safety implications arising directly from accepting this report.

Health and Wellbeing Implications

The work of the Partnership is to take steps to minimise the harms associated with drug and alcohol use and promote positive physical, social, emotional and mental well-being. By working collaboratively with key agencies, particularly the NHS and DWP, the work of the Partnership is aimed at reducing drug and alcohol related deaths and other harms caused by substance use.

Social Value

No procurement dimension – update report and no change of service.

Background Papers

- [National Drugs Strategy: Harm to Hope](#)
- [Somerset Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2022-2025](#)

Appendices

None

Report assurance checklist ahead of report publication (for Audit, Executive, Full Council and Scrutiny Committees)

	Officer Name	Date Completed
Legal & Governance Implications	Scott Wooldridge	22.08.24
Finance & Procurement	Nicola Hix	20.08.24
Workforce (*)	Dawn Bettridge	20.08.24
Asset Management (*)	Oliver Woodhams	N/A
Executive Director	Professor Trudi Grant	1.8.2024
Executive Lead Member	Cllr Bill Revans	
Consulted:	Councillor Name	
Local Division Members	List local members	N/A
Opposition Spokesperson(s)	Cllr Lucy Trimmell	
Relevant Scrutiny Chair(s)	Relevant Chair – Gill Slocombe has received the paper, but is on leave currently, her deputy Cllr Graham Oakes chaired the meeting we attended	15.8.2024

Note:

Directors may nominate additional officers to act on their behalf

(*) – these areas only need to be consulted on proposals if the proposals have workforce or asset management implications

Reports will not be published if assurance checklist has not been adequately completed – report author to liaise with Democratic Services well ahead of publication deadlines

