



Community Services

Briefing Paper

Report of: Kathryn Hebbert, Community Safety & Partnerships Officer

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Open

Worcestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2008-11

1. Summary

- 1.1 The Worcestershire Substance Misuse Strategy sets out the priorities for the next three years to achieve the mission: 'Reducing the harm that drugs and alcohol cause to individuals, families and communities within Worcestershire'.

2. Background

- 2.1 Drug and alcohol misuse causes considerable harm to society.
- 2.2 The most harmful drugs, including heroin and crack cocaine, bring untold misery to individuals, their families and communities.
- 2.3 90% of the adult population drink alcohol and the majority drink sensibly. However, excessive alcohol consumption by a proportion of the population is causing considerable concern to the Government and society.
- 2.4 The purpose of the strategy is to set out the agreed direction that agencies will work towards and the outcomes and objectives to be achieved. This will guide planning and commissioning to ensure that collectively we are reducing the harm that drugs and alcohol cause to individuals, families and communities within Worcestershire.
- 2.5 The strategy has been developed because it is an opportunity to ensure that all Worcestershire Substance Misuse Action Team (SMAT) partner organisations, service providers and Community Safety Partnerships in Worcestershire are working to a common strategy with a shared understanding.

3. Key Issues

3.1 The strategy provides an overarching framework of objectives and actions.

3.2 Also within the strategy is:

- A rationale for the need for a local Substance Misuse strategy;
- A description of the Partnership structures in place to tackle substance misuse;
- A breakdown of the agencies with responsibility for addressing substance misuse related harm in Worcestershire and their roles;
- An overview of the key targets that the strategy supports. This includes the priorities within the Local Area Agreement, national and Primary Care Trust targets;
- An overview regarding how the strategy at a local level will support the delivery of national strategies to address drug and alcohol related harm. This local strategy must mirror the national strategies wherever possible;
- A profile of Worcestershire regarding drug and alcohol misuse for adults and young people;
- A review of the current responses to local substance misuse related harm;
- A table outlining the key targets that the agencies will work towards over the next 3 years;
- A list of the local priorities to tackle drug and alcohol related harm;
- A description of how the strategy will be implemented; and
- A list of contacts for substance misuse related agencies and services in Worcestershire.

4. Options

4.1 Community Services is asked to recommend to Cabinet that the Worcestershire Substance Misuse Strategy is adopted by Council.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 Cabinet Member for Community and Corporate Services
- 5.2 Head of Community and Partnership Services
- 5.3 Community Services is part of the consultation process.

6. Relevant Council Policies/Strategies

- 6.1 Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-11.

7. Implications

- 7.1 There are no funding implications to Wyre Forest District Council as the strategy will be delivered by the substance misuse agencies in Worcestershire.
- 7.2 The Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership, out of existing budgets, will work closely with SMAT and the other Community Safety Partnerships in the county to support the delivery of the strategy.

8. Wards affected

- 8.1 All wards.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Worcestershire Substance Misuse Strategy 2008-11.

10. Background Papers

- 10.1 Wyre Forest Community Safety Partnership Plan 2008-11.

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