

REPORT TO: Safer Policy & Performance Board
DATE: 16 June 2015
REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities
PORTFOLIO: Health and Wellbeing
SUBJECT: Topic Group Update - Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)- Legal Highs
WARD(S): Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The Board will receive a verbal update on the progress of the NPC (Legal Highs) Topic Group.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That the Board Note the verbal report.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 At the last meeting, the Safer PPB established a Topic Group to address the issue of NPC (Legal Highs) in the Borough. A verbal update will be given on progress that has been made to date.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 None identified

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 None identified

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children & Young People in Halton

The Novel/New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) impacts on children, young people and their families and partners are working to provide education and advice to schools and other services.

6.2 Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton

None identified.

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The prevalence and impact of NPS on the health of Halton residents will continue to be monitored. Reducing the harm caused by substance misuse will continue to be a priority for all partners and will form a component of children and young people and adult services, as well as wider education and awareness

activities.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Novel/New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) may have an impact on levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in Halton. As well as providing appropriate legal enforcement, partners are working to provide education and advice to reduce the impact of harm and anti-social behaviour.

6.5 **Environment and Regeneration**

None identified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 Novel Psychoactive Substances presents a risk to a person's health and wellbeing, the national death rate due to NPS continues to increase year on year. The long term impact continues to be investigated by national agencies.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 There are no Equality and Diversity issues associated with this report

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

9.1 None under the Meaning of the Act.