

REPORT TO: Executive Board

DATE: 21 November 2013

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director, Communities

PORTFOLIO: Health & Wellbeing / Community Safety

SUBJECT: Safer Halton Partnership Drug Strategy
2014-2018

WARD(S) Borough-wide

1.0 **PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to present the Safer Halton Partnership Drug Strategy 2014-2018 and accompanying evidence document.

2.0 **RECOMMENDATION : That Executive Board**

1) note the contents of the report; and

2) comment on the Safer Halton Partnership Drug Strategy.

3.0 **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 The National Drug Strategy 2010 changed the focus of drug service delivery from maintenance of individual's dependent misusing drugs to enabling and promoting recovery. The Substance Misuse Service is a partnership approach to improve the outcomes for individuals and families affected by drug misuse problems as well as reducing the impact of drug related crime and anti-social behaviour for the communities of Halton.

3.2 The Strategy has been drafted during a period of change as drug budgets and services transfer to Public Health England and the Police and Crime Commissioners. This provides an opportunity to draft a four year Drug Strategy with an action plan that all key partners can deliver upon.

3.3 The Strategy has been extensively consulted upon with a range of partner agencies, service users, carer groups and voluntary agencies.

3.4. The Strategy (Appendix A) is designed to be a short document that focuses on the strategic objectives and priorities linking to a drugs service action plan that will become the focus of the Substance Misuse task group with quarterly themed updates to the Safer Halton Partnership Board and annual amendments and updates.

3.5 The strategy is supported by an evidence paper (Appendix B) that sets out the context in which the strategy has been developed including national and local context and supporting data and information on the issues of drug misuse within Halton.

3.6 It is important to note that the strategy has been developed during a significant period of change, as Public Health transfers to the Local Authority and the National Treatment Agency transfers to Public Health England (April 2013)

3.7 The following provides a vision, objectives and priorities for the Drugs Strategy:

- 1) Prevent illicit and harmful drug use through positive education.
- 2) Reduce Illicit and other harmful drug use.
- 3) Restrict supply and tackle illegal activities.
- 4) Increase the number of people recovering from dependency on drugs.
- 5) Continue to make the efficient and effective use of resources

3.8 The evidence document has been enhanced by the Public Health Evidence and Intelligence team, providing a more robust overview of substance misuse within Halton.

4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The Drug Strategy will set the context for partnership working to prevent and tackle the impact of drug misuse for individuals, families and the communities of Halton.

5.0 **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The budget for Substance Misuse Services are identified within the evidence paper, the action plan can be delivered within the existing budget, and staff resources at the time of drafting the Strategy, any changes in the drug service budget may impact on the delivery of the Strategy action plan.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

These are contained within the attached Strategy and Evidence Paper (Appendix A & B).

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

These are contained within the attached Strategy and Evidence Paper (Appendix A & B).

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

These are contained within the attached Strategy and Evidence Paper (Appendix A & B).

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

These are contained within the attached Strategy and Evidence Paper (Appendix A & B).

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

These are contained within the attached Strategy and Evidence Paper (Appendix A & B).

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 As described in 5.1 the Strategy is capable of delivering within existing resource, however, a reduction in budget or staffing levels will impact on service delivery.

7.2 Any reductions in drug allocations in the financial years that the Strategy covers could have an impact in delivering on key objectives.

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 The Strategy specifically aims to meet the needs of drug users within the Halton area.

9.0 **REASON(S) FOR DECISION**

9.1 To ensure that Halton continues to meet the requirements of the National Drug Agenda, to ensure effective prevention and treatment services are delivered locally to tackle the issues associated with drug misuses and the impact on individuals, families and communities of Halton.

10.0 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED**

10.1 Other approaches to the drug strategy had been considered including a Local Authority only strategy. It is clear that drug misuse impacts on all areas of society and a joint approach to the drug strategy is the most appropriate way to co-ordinate all partners' responses to address the identified areas.

11.0 **IMPLEMENTATION DATE**

11.1 January 2014

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

None.