

REPORT TO: Safer Policy and Performance Board

DATE: 15th September 2020

REPORTING OFFICER Strategic Director – Enterprise, Community and Resources

PORTFOLIO: Community Safety

SUBJECT: Alcohol and Substance Misuse in Halton

WARDS: Borough Wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To update the board on both ALCOHOL and SUBSTANCE MISUSE services work that provided support for vulnerable local people during the COVID 19 pandemic. Work is now underway to remobilise service provision and to learn from the innovative practices, such as video consultations and digital support to ensure they can be developed into local best practice.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

2.1 The report be noted; and

2.2 The Board consider the information presented and raise any questions of interest or points of clarification following the presentation.

3.0 ADULT SERVICES

- 3.1 Adult services are now moving back towards business as usual but with social distancing and COVID secure measures in place. A reduced staff team is working from Aston Dane, prioritising emergency appointments and there has been a significant switch to telephone and online support. The Runcorn Hub is closed at this time, but remains as a COVID secure facility should anything happen to the Widnes office.

Since lockdown (to 09/07/20), **15,164** attempted contacts have been made with **8,389** successful contacts by telephone, **231** successful contacts by video and **335** successful face to face contacts.

3.2 Alcohol

A temporary alcohol pathway has been put in place and the service is still able to offer alcohol detoxes where appropriate.

An area of concern is for alcohol dependant service users who are required to self-isolate but are unable to purchase alcohol/receive alcohol from friends/relative when detox is not wanted by service user. A review of what other local areas are doing to coordinate/support/address this is underway whilst we await national guidance.

3.3 Opiate Substitution Therapy

The service has suspended the “Supervised Consumption of Methadone” to reduce social contact and pressure upon local pharmacies. A multi-disciplinary team including prescriber and safeguarding lead has risk assessed all service users for suitability of larger amounts of take home medication as a part of the process of changing take home doses.

Since the changes there have been no deaths due to the changes in prescribing and dispensing and only one incident of lost medication (espranor) and one incident whereby a service user contacted to advise they have taken over their prescribed dose to date (not resulting in overdose but a subsequent shortage of medication).

All clients are being contacted regularly (at least weekly) and have had locked storage boxes and naloxone if they didn't already have them. There is also an outreach team who are visiting the few people that cannot be contacted by telephone and CGL (Halton Integrated Recovery Service) have provided some service users with mobile phones when this has been a barrier to being able to contact. All Opiate Substitute prescribed service users are required to have a full risk review completed every 12 weeks or if there is a change to risk, updated immediately. Our service is currently at **100%** of prescribed service users having their risk in light of dispensing changes, reviewed within the last 12 weeks.

3.4 Prisons

In relation to prison releases good communication networks exist with the prisons and the releases have been staggered in a way that has been manageable. All prison release service users are receiving daily dispensing on release for a period. The majority of Halton residents who are on short term sentences have been resettled in to the community. There are just a small number who have gone back in to the custodial setting.

3.5 Needle Exchanges

Additional stocks have been delivered to pharmacies. The team have also contacted those on their caseload who regularly utilise the Needle Exchange to ensure they receive equipment.

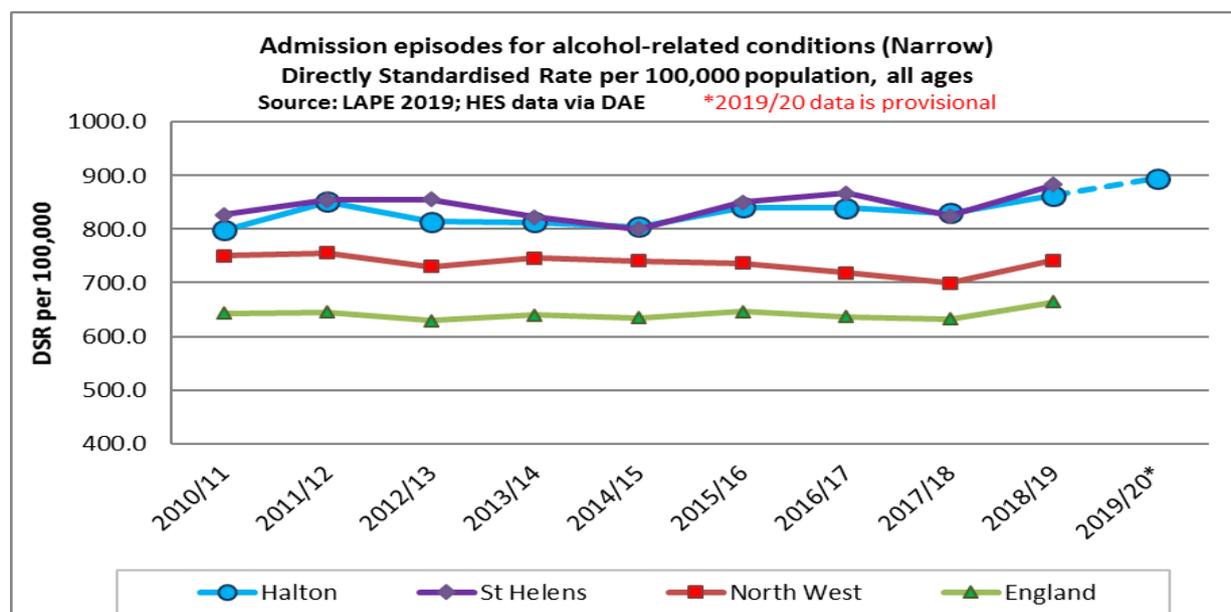
3.6 Care Packages

CGL have been granted £1,000 funding from the Police & Crime Commissioner to create care packages for vulnerable service users which will include COVID advice and other essential equipment.

3.7 Hospital admission data

Admissions due to alcohol related conditions (narrow) decreased from a peak in 2011/12; however, the rate has increased since 2014/15, and remains significantly higher than the England average. Data for 2018/19 shows that the Halton rate increased from 2017/18, however, the North West, England and St Helens rates also increased.

Provisional Halton data for 2019/20 also suggest that the rate has increased again.



4.0 SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES

4.1 The specialist support service has continued to support young people remotely through the pandemic.

Within Halton there will be changes to the provision of Youth Services from 1st August 2020. The two current contracts, one for Specialist Youth Support and Treatment Service and the second contract for Integrated Youth service will cease on 31st July 2020. The Council has taken the opportunity to consider how it provides youth support in Halton in the future and from 1st August 2020 Halton Borough Council's Early Help and Intervention team will provide dedicated support to young people in a holistic family way (known as the youth support and treatment service).

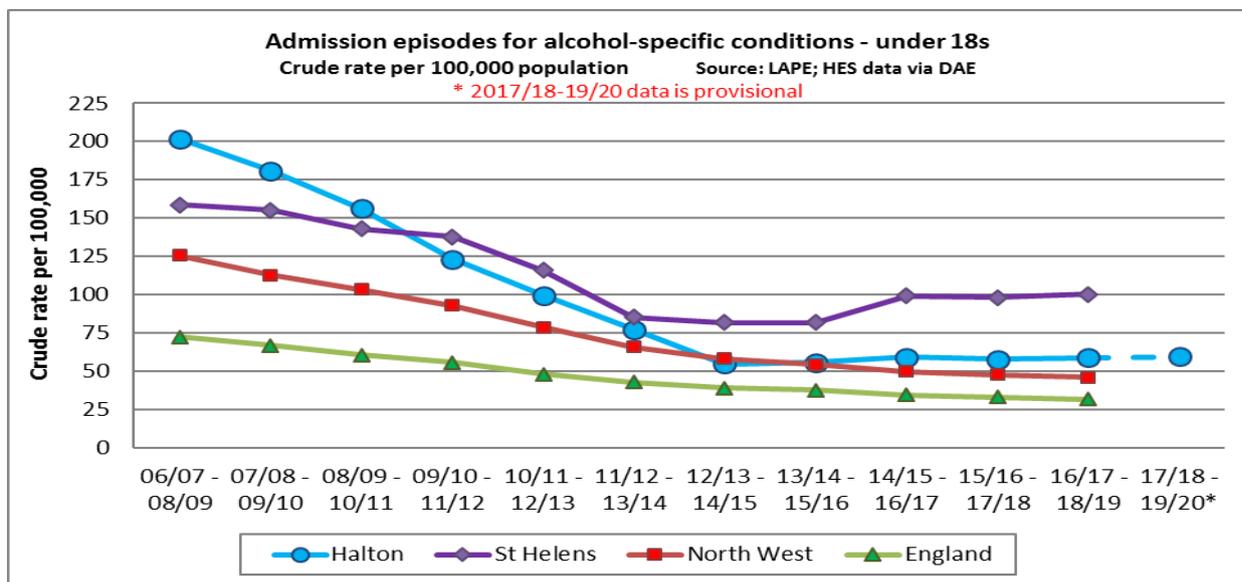
Over the next few months the Council will be working in partnership with young people and partners to develop an Integrated Youth Offer. This service currently includes Duke of Edinburgh, Mayor Award and Youth Centre provision and any

work on developing a new service will need to recognise financial challenges, the changing service needs and the current and future landscape due to COVID 19.

4.2 Under 18 alcohol-specific admission episodes

The provisional data for 2017/18-19/20 suggests that the Halton rate has increased slightly from the previous year.

Overall, Halton saw a greater reduction (71%) compared to England (56%), the North West (63%) and St Helens (37%), from 2006/07-2008/09 to 2015/16-2018/19. Despite this overall decrease, the Halton rate remains significantly higher than the England average. However, the rate is similar to the North West average and significantly lower than the St Helens rate.



4.3 PROGRESS AGAINST RELATED LAA TARGETS

Formal reporting against KPIs has been suspended during the pandemic although services have continued to collect performance information. A full report on progress against LAA targets will be submitted upon resumption of normal reporting structures.

Ref	Objective
PH 04	Reduction in the harm from alcohol: Working with key partners, frontline professionals, and the local community to address the health and social impact of alcohol misuse:
Milestone	Progress
	Supporting Commentary

Milestone		Progress	Supporting Commentary			
Implement the Halton alcohol strategy action plan working with a range of partners in order to minimise the harm from alcohol and deliver on three interlinked outcomes: reducing alcohol-related health harms; reducing alcohol-related crime, antisocial behaviour and domestic abuse and establishing a diverse, vibrant and safe night-time economy.			<p>Good progress is being made towards implementing the Halton alcohol strategy action plan. Key activity includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Developing a coordinated alcohol awareness campaign plan. ▪ Delivery of alcohol education within local school settings (Healthitude, 0-19 Service, Young Addaction, Amy Winehouse Foundation, Cheshire Police). ▪ Ensuring the early identification and support of those drinking above recommended levels through training key staff members in alcohol identification and brief advice (alcohol IBA). ▪ Reviewing alcohol treatment pathways ▪ Working closely with colleagues from licensing, the community safety team, trading standards and Cheshire Police to ensure that the local licensing policy supports the alcohol harm reduction agenda, promoting more responsible approaches to the sale of alcohol and promoting a diverse night-time economy. ▪ Working to influence government policy and initiatives around alcohol: 50p minimum unit price for alcohol, restrictions of all alcohol marketing, public health as a fifth licensing objective. 			
Ref	Description	Actual 2018/19	Target 2019/20	2019/20	Direction of Travel	Supporting Commentary
PH LI 07 (SCS HH 1)	Admission to hospital episodes for alcohol-related conditions (narrow) <i>(Rate per 100,000 population)</i>	862.7	848.0	894.6 <i>(provisional)</i>		The provisional 2019/20 data suggests that the admission rate has increased from 2018/19.

5.0 FINANCIAL UPDATE

No significant impacts within the quarter from a financial perspective.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the health, safety and well-being of young people.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

None

6.3 A Healthy Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.4 A Safer Halton

The Community Safety Service as a universal service impacts on the Health, safety and well-being of the residents of Halton.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

6.6 RISK ANALYSIS

None

6.7 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

None

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

There are no background papers under the meaning of the Act.