

Reducing Drug Related Litter in Southampton Terms of Reference and Inquiry Plan

1. Scrutiny Panel membership:

- a. Councillor
- b. Councillor
- c. Councillor
- d. Councillor
- e. Councillor
- f. Councillor
- g. Councillor

2. Purpose:

To identify opportunities to reduce incidence of drug related litter in Southampton.

3. Background:

- Litter related to drug use can cover a range of materials – including syringes, foils, swabs, spoons, plastic bottles and cans.
- Drug litter presents a health risk to the public and council employees, the discovery of which can cause fear, upset and anxiety for individuals and the wider community as well as causing physical injury.
- Action has been taken in Southampton, involving a number of agencies, to reduce incidence of drug related litter.
- Since February 2016 Community Safety have been logging drug litter finds across Southampton. From April 2016 – March 2017 the total number of finds was 7,620 including 7,037 discarded needles.
- Reflecting concerns the recently approved Southampton Drugs Strategy includes, as a key outcome, '*to reduce the amount of drug related litter in the city*'.
- Alternative and innovative approaches exist to improve awareness, reduce the amount of drug litter being discarded, and to lessen the risks and impact on local communities and those employed to clean up the litter.

4. Objectives:

- a) To understand the prevalence and impact of drug related litter in Southampton.
- b) To understand the reasons for the prevalence of drug related litter.
- c) To review progress being made in Southampton to tackle drug related litter.
- d) To understand what is being done to reduce drug related litter elsewhere.
- e) To identify what additional initiatives could work in the city to reduce drug related litter.

5. Methodology:

- a) Benchmarking the current position against other cities
- b) Seek stakeholder views
- c) Undertake desktop research
- d) Identify best practice

6. Proposed Timetable:

Four meetings between September 2017 and December 2017.

7. Draft Inquiry Plan (subject to the availability of speakers)

Meeting 1: September 2017

- Introduction, context and background
 - What is the current position regarding drug related litter in Southampton?
 - Number of finds / trends / comparisons
 - Worst affected areas in Southampton
 - Identification of the groups of people who are discarding the drug related litter
 - Prevalence of drug injecting in the city
 - Impact of drug related litter
- Overview of approaches employed in Southampton to reduce drug related litter
- To identify what is working well and what can be improved in Southampton in relation to approaches employed to reduce drug related litter.

To be invited:

- Cabinet Member
- Public Health / NHS Support Services
- Representatives from City Services / Community Safety / Housing / Integrated Commissioning Unit
- Hampshire Constabulary
- Residents groups

Meeting 2: October 2017

- Examples of good practice and innovation
 - Communicating / reporting
 - Co-ordination of partners
 - Design of public spaces
 - Use and placement of sharps bins
 - Raising awareness / liaising with people injecting drugs

To be invited:

- To be confirmed

Meeting 3: November 2017

- Examples of good practice and innovation
 - Alternatives to public injecting

To be invited:

- To be confirmed

Meeting 4: December 2017

To approve the final report of the inquiry and recommendations.