

## Our Vision: Southampton is a city where people work together to make individuals and communities safer and more resilient, by using an evidence based approach to reduce the harm caused by illicit drugs.

Southampton is committed to reducing the harm caused by illicit drugs. This strategy sets out how the Safe City Partnership will achieve this, in liaison with the Health and Wellbeing Board and other partners. The focus of this strategy is on illegal drugs, including psychoactive substances which are illegal to produce or supply but not illegal to possess. The (mis)use of legal or prescribed drugs is beyond the scope of this strategy.

People who use drugs can be at risk of a wide range of different health problems, including lung, liver, heart disease, blood borne viruses and mental health problems. There are strong links between drugs, antisocial behaviour, crime and disorder and the exploitation of vulnerable people. Risk factors for drug misuse in younger people include: school exclusions, not being in education, employment or training, parental drug use, domestic abuse, sexual exploitation and contact with the youth justice system. There is a strong association between homelessness and drug use and people who use drugs in public places are at increased risk of physical harm and cause community safety concerns and drug litter. Some people who beg do so in order to support drug addiction, and a small number of those who beg can act aggressively, which can be intimidating to the public.

Nationally, the number of drug related deaths is the highest ever recorded, and individuals who are not engaged with treatment services are at increased risk. Drug treatment saves an estimated £960m to the public, businesses, criminal justice system and the NHS. Whilst there has been an increase in drug related deaths locally, the increase in Southampton has matched the national trend and not been as significant as in some other comparable cities.

Savings are being made to substance misuse services across the country. This strategy sets out our approach to deliver services more efficiently while continuing to mitigate the harms associated with illicit drugs within this financial context.

### The focus and challenges identified are to:

- Restrict the supply of drugs.
- Reduce the levels of violent crime and antisocial behaviour associated with drugs.
- Promote a culture where people can talk about drug-related concerns and know where to get help.
- Engage more people with substance misuse services and provide targeted treatment.
- Promote targeted treatment services for those who need help.
- Prevent those using illicit drugs for the first time and of those relapsing.

### Illicit drug use in Southampton key facts and figures:

- 1 in 12 (8.4%) adults aged 16 to 59 in England and Wales took an illicit drug in 2015/16. This equates to around 17,000 people in Southampton.
- An estimated 1,649 people in Southampton use opiates and/or crack cocaine and 636 people inject drugs. Local prevalence rates are slightly higher than those estimated nationally but not significantly so.
- The number of drug-related deaths in adults in Southampton is increasing, in line with a national trend. Nationally this is partly due to heroin users growing older with underlying poor health.
- Police drug recorded offences per 1,000 population in Southampton (2.9) are higher than the average in England (2.5) but are below the average for Hampshire (3.1).
- Drug-related violence continues to be an issue in Southampton, rising by nearly 13% in 2015/16, with stabbings in areas which are associated with drug gangs and dealers.
- The risks of firearm acquisition, violence and child sexual exploitation are high due to local links to drug gangs in London.
- The amount of drug litter found has increased since February 2016, when monthly reports began. Drug litter is causing concern to local people.

## ★ Our priorities Why this is important

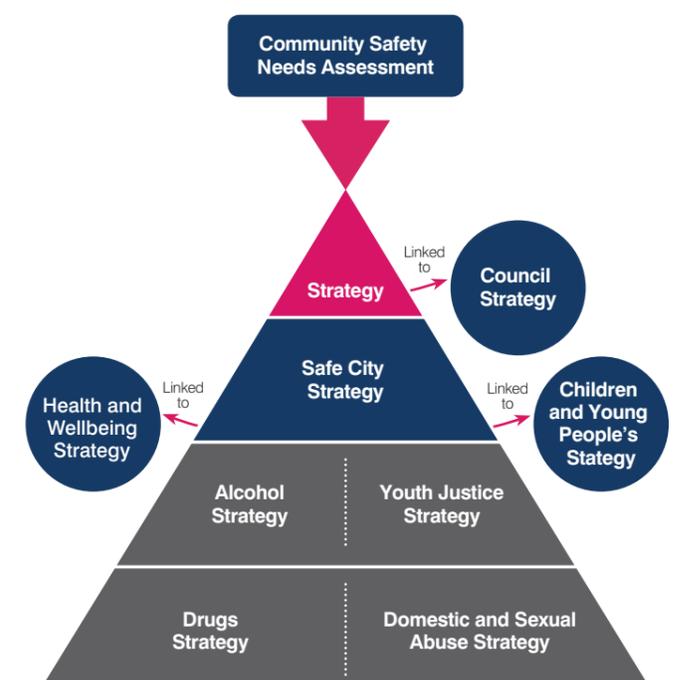
 <p><b>Engagement and Raising Awareness</b></p>	<p>We want Southampton to be a city where drug use and drug services can be openly talked about, so that people (including young people) are aware of the risks, can make informed decisions about drug use and know where to access support. This will help to avoid or minimise the risks of harm to individuals and promote informed, resilient communities.</p>
 <p><b>Prevention and treatment</b></p>	<p>Effective drug treatment services reduce the risk of drug related deaths, reduce rates of blood borne viruses and reduce offending. They are also cost effective — <b>every £1 spent on drug treatment yields a £2.50 saving on the social costs of drug misuse.</b></p>
 <p><b>Crime disruption and antisocial behaviour</b></p>	<p>The effects of drugs can leave people vulnerable to becoming either a victim or perpetrator of antisocial behaviour, violence or other serious crime. Crime and antisocial behaviour can impair the quality of life for those affected and impact the wider community. Education can aid understanding and the impact of this for perpetrators, victims and witnesses.</p>

### Our approach

We will deliver this strategy through even stronger partnership working. We will:

- Develop a regular partnership forum to address the current issues with drug use and harm within the city
- Strengthen our clinical governance systems and processes
- Learn from and educate each other about our different partnership organisations, to improve service integration and use a common language
- Establish effective processes for partners to analyse and share health, crime and education data to better understand drug-related violence and harms to inform local action
- Ensure all partners are competent to work with a variety of populations in ways that are sensitive to different cultures and different needs

The Southampton drugs strategy is part of a suite of strategies contributing to keeping people in Southampton safe.





## Engagement and Raising Awareness

### What are we already doing?

- **Local schools** have PSHE programmes which include drug related education
- **Southampton Drugs and Alcohol Recovery Services** are building a visible recovery community in Southampton
- **No Limits** is working with all participating schools to run regular 'Buzz' sessions in which drugs awareness is discussed with year 10 pupils
- **Southampton Healthy Ambition** are providing targeted education and support to those at highest risk
- **Needle exchange services** are working to minimise the harms caused by using drugs
- **Hampshire Constabulary and Southampton City Council** are educating licenced premises on safeguarding issues related to drug use
- **The Local Safeguarding Children's Board/ Local Safeguarding Adults Board** are promoting an understanding that drug misuse may be a complex, chronic, relapsing and remitting condition that requires individualised, person-centred care and support

Outcome	What are we going to do?	Lead	How we will measure success
Adults and young people in Southampton know how and where to access substance misuse services	Provide clear information regarding the availability of treatment and support services	Integrated Commissioning Unit (Southampton City Council and Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of people using drugs engaging with the needle exchange service</li> <li>• Level of awareness in year 10 pupils in Southampton (Buzz survey results)</li> <li>• Number of repeat fixed term exclusions resulting from drug misuse in schools</li> </ul>
Adults and young people in Southampton make informed decisions about drug use	Work with education (schools forum) and businesses (SOBAC) to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote and monitor high quality drugs and resilience education for those in education and employment</li> <li>• Increase aspirations and opportunities for people in Southampton, enabling people to see positive alternatives to becoming involved with drugs.</li> </ul>	Safe City Partnership/ Southampton City Council	



## Prevention and treatment

### What are we already doing?

- **The Local Safeguarding Children's Board** is developing ways to identify and share concerns about young children living in an environment with parental substance misuse
- **Public Health Nursing** is working in schools to identify problematic substance misuse early
- **Southampton Public Health team** is completing a needs assessment to understand the health needs of people who use drugs in Southampton
- **MORPH** is consulting with people who use drugs to better understand their views on current drug treatment services
- **Southampton City Council (ICU)** is commissioning services to ensure that people who use drugs have access to the most appropriate care in the right place at the right time
- **Southampton Drug And Alcohol Recovery Service** is balancing the aims of recovery with those of reducing harms in people who use drugs
- **The Homeless-Vulnerable Adult Support Team** is delivering the DCLG funded Rough Sleeper Initiative, ensuring that people who are homeless or at risk of returning to homelessness have access to substance misuse and mental health services
- **Southern Health Foundation Trust** is supporting work to improve access to simultaneous substance misuse and mental health services

Outcome	What are we going to do?	Lead	How we will measure success
Services in Southampton respond to the differing needs of individuals	Use the drugs needs assessment, survey and annual drug related deaths reports to commission safe and effective drug treatment services that meet the needs of the local population  Ensure that people from different groups have equal access to services and that people with dual diagnosis are able to access the right care at the right time  Work within available resources to ensure that people who use drugs have access to independent advocacy services when needed	Integrated Commissioning Unit (Southampton City Council and Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group)  Southampton Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services Southampton Drug and Alcohol Recovery Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proportion of people using drugs in Southampton who are accessing drug treatment services</li> <li>• Number of people successfully completing drug treatment</li> <li>• Drug related deaths (Public Health Outcomes Framework)</li> <li>• Uptake of hepatitis B vaccinations amongst those at risk</li> </ul>
Effective treatment and wide ranging support is available for people who use drugs, enabling them to achieve a good quality of life	Continue to work with stakeholders to improve engagement and interventions for those with concurrent problems e.g. related to mental health, housing, employment and/or education  Learn from the DCLG funded Rough Sleeper Initiative and commissioning in other areas to inform future practice  Promote coordination of different organisations providing peer support training within the city  Ensure that service user groups remain available and are able to intervene and influence services	Integrated Commissioning Unit (Southampton City Council and Southampton Clinical Commissioning Group)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local blood borne virus incidence amongst people who inject drugs</li> </ul>



## Crime disruption and antisocial behaviour

### What are we already doing?

- **Hampshire Constabulary** is delivering operations to safeguard vulnerable persons and addresses and to carry out enforcement activities for known dealers and locations
- **Hampshire Constabulary & Local Housing Offices** are working closely together to identify vulnerability and enforcement opportunities
- **The Street begging working group** is working to reduce street begging through education and enforcement
- **Hampshire Constabulary** is improving information sharing to build a better evidence base to target resources
- **Probation/ Crown Prosecution Service/ Youth Offending Service** and drug treatment services are supporting people in who come into contact with the Criminal Justice System as a result of their drug use in a timely way
- **The Southampton City Council Community Safety Team** is mapping data from street cleansing services and reporting drug litter finds to relevant organisations in the city

Outcome	What are we going to do?	Lead	How we will measure success
Reduce repeat targeting of vulnerable individuals/ locations	Ensure that court services understand the community impact in order to apply the law effectively  Work in partnership to identify vulnerable persons "cuckooed" and to safeguard them from further exploitation  Promote police referrals for vulnerable people under Operation Fortify  Review the whole systems approach to a partnership approach to organised crime groups to ensure that these are as effective and streamlined as possible	Crown Prosecution Service Hampshire Constabulary Safe City Partnership/ Home Office	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feelings of safety in the local area (Safe City Survey)</li> <li>• All crime affected by drugs, per 1,000 population</li> <li>• Violent crime affected by drugs, per 1,000 population</li> <li>• Number of needles collected</li> <li>• Number of targeted operations</li> </ul>
Restrict supply so Southampton has reduced levels of violence and drug related harm	Rationalise/ combine groups and meetings to see whole picture joined up approach to target resources  Run targeted and intelligence led multiagency operations to tackle drug related violence and knife crime through operations such as Op Heavy (Drug Related Violence), Op Sceptre (Knife), Op Fortify (DRH) and Op Fluorescent (Aggressive Street Begging)	Safe City Partnership Hampshire Constabulary	
Reduce the amount of drugs related litter and antisocial behaviour in the city	Consider providing alternatives to public injecting and methods of reducing drug related litter	Southampton City Council	