
**SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - REDUCING DRUG RELATED LITTER IN
SOUTHAMPTON**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2018

Present: Councillors Fuller (Vice-Chair), Coombs, Fitzhenry, Noon, Vassiliou and Whitbread

Apologies: Councillors McEwing

8. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The apologies of the Chair, Councillor McEwing, were noted.

COUNCILLOR FULLER IN THE CHAIR

9. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED that the minutes for the meeting held on 23 November, 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

10. **DRUG RELATED LITTER IN SOUTHAMPTON - ALTERNATIVES TO PUBLIC INJECTING**

The Panel considered the report of the Service Director, Legal and Governance, regarding alternatives to public injecting.

Charlotte Matthews, Public Health Consultant; Detective Chief Inspector Ben Chivers, Hampshire Constabulary; Collin McAllister, Integrated Commissioning Unit; Dr Jason Horsley, Director of Public Health; and Dr Prun Bijral, Medical Director, CGL - Change, Grow, Live; were in attendance and with the consent of the chair addressed the Panel.

Following discussions with invited representatives the Panel concluded that:

- Drug consumption rooms have been evidenced to be effective at decreasing public injecting and reducing drug related litter.
- DCRs, especially those providing Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT), could also provide additional benefits relating, for example, to reducing harm and engaging people who use drugs in support services.
- DCRs were currently illegal in the UK. If they were permitted, DCRs could be a local intervention, working in conjunction with existing services, which respond to the needs of the local drug-using population.
- DCRs /HAT should not be developed to the detriment of existing services.
- Any policy decision relating to DCRs in Southampton would need to be supported by a robust evaluation to assess fully the benefits and value for money.
- This approach would need to include working in partnership across local government, providers and with other partners to lobby the Government for a change in legislation relating to DCRs.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the comments from CGL – Care, Grow, Learn, outlining Drug Consumption Rooms policy developments and changing landscapes, also from Public Health and Hampshire Constabulary providing a summary of need in Southampton be noted and used as evidence in the review.
- (ii) That the presentation received from CGL – Care, Grow, Learn, outlining Drug Consumption Room policy developments and changing landscapes, and from the Public Health Consultant providing a summary of need in Southampton as well as the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) paper, Perspectives on Drugs – Drug consumption rooms: an overview of provision and evidence, the EMCDDA you tube video, Drug Consumption Rooms and the Drug Related Litter – Literature Review Summary be noted and also used as evidence in the review.