

LONDON DRUGS FORUM

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday 8th July 2023

10:30am – 12:30pm

CR3

City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE

Chair: Dr Tom Coffey OBE, Mayor's Senior Health Advisor

Attended: Farrah Hart (GLA Group Public Health);
Kenny Bowie (MOPAC);
Kate Lloyd (MOPAC);
Cmdr Paul Brogden (MPS);
DS Adam Ghaboos (MPS);
Alison Keating (OHID);
Dr Emily Finch (SLAM);
Jess Mullens (Collective Voice);
Dan Greaves (LB Waltham Forest);
Monty Moncrieff (London Friend);
Ignacio Labayen de Inza (Controlling Chemsex);
Robbie Currie (LB Lambeth)
Stephen Morris (HMPPS)
Insp Allen Davies (MPS)

Prof Elizabeth Gilchrist (Uni of Edinburgh)
Prof Gail Gilchrist (KCL)
Sharon Whitmore (HMPPS);
Deborah Lee (HMPPS);
Rangan Momen (London Councils);
Emma Burke (OHID);
Sharon Whittington (RB Greenwich);
Arnold Yousef (VRU);
David Eastwood (GLA Housing);
Johanna Cooper (GLA Housing);
Josie Garrett (GLA Group Public Health);
Rukiya Gadid (MOPAC);
Connie Stygall (MOPAC);
Karen Thomas (MOPAC)

Apologies: Sophie Linden (MOPAC);
Prof Kevin Fenton (OHID);
Althea Loderick (LB Southwark);
Rachael Millar (Joint Combating Drugs Unit);
Will Haydock (Joint Combating Drugs Unit)

Karina Wane-Henry (VRU);
Sinead Dervin (NHS England);
Kilvinder Vigurs (HMPPS);
Fiona Taylor (LB Barking & Dagenham);
DAC Matthew Ward (MPS)

Welcome and Actions

Chair welcomed partners and noted apologies.

Homelessness and Substance Misuse

GLA Housing provided an update on their work to improve access to substance misuse treatment for rough sleepers. This included discussions on the Single Homelessness Accommodation Programme, and their aspirations to establish further abstinence-based accommodation in London. Members discussed how they could support this, and the barriers faced by hosting authorities in providing this type of accommodation.

Chemsex – Criminal Justice

MPS and HMPPS partners presented on Project Sagamore. Partners discussed the need for the issue to be considered in other spaces, such as through Combating Drugs Partnerships and in discussions around drug related deaths data.

Intimate Partner Violence and Substance Misuse

Prof Gail Gilchrist and Prof Elizabeth Gilchrist presented their work on the ADVANCE programme, and discussed the merits of addressing intimate partner violence and substance misuse together as opposed to as separate, unconnected issues. Partners considered how such a programme could be of benefit to London, and how this could be adopted to achieve a reduction in both violence and drug use.

Chemsex – Voluntary Sector

London Friend and Controlling Chemsex presented on the work they have been doing to support those who engage in and have become victims of chemsex. Partners discussed the growing complexities faced by those working in the chemsex space, and the need to have a pan-London and patient-centric focus to support those who required substance misuse treatment, but who were more likely to attend a sexual health service.

AOB

Chair confirmed that an update on Project ADDER rollout would be on the September agenda.