

LONDON DRUGS FORUM

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday 13th March 2024

CR4

City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE

Co-Chairs: Dr Tom Coffey OBE, Mayor's Senior Health Advisor
Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Attended: Kenny Bowie (MOPAC); Sharon Whitmore (HMPPS);
Farrah Hart (GLA Group Karen Tipping (HMPPS);
Public Health); Michelle Hodkinson (NHS England);
Mark Leonardo (GLA Group Public Iona Liddington (RB Kingston);
Health); Ruth Hutt (LB Lmabeth)
Kate Lloyd (MOPAC); Dudu Sher-Arami (LB Brent)
Cmdr Paul Brgoden (MPS); Dan Greaves (LB Waltham Forest);
DS Adam Ghaboos (MPS); Gary Connors (VRU);
DS Sean Lyons (MPS); Emily Orazzo (APCC);
Prof Kevin Fenton (OHID); Paul Murphy (LB Ealing);
Alison Keating (OHID); Rangan Momen (London Councils);
Emma Burke (OHID); Connie Stygall (MOPAC);
Rachael Millar (JCUDU); Rukiya Gadid (MOPAC);
Will Haydock (JCUDU); Sam Lazenby (MOPAC);
Jess Mullen (Collective Voice); Jessica Bennett (GLA);
Karen Thomas (MOPAC)

Apologies: Kilvinder Vigurs (HMPPS); Karina Wane-Henry (VRU);
Althea Loderick (LB Southwark); Sinead Dervin (NHS England);
Fiona Taylor (LB Barking & Josie Garrett (GLA Group Public
Dagenham); Health);
DCS Ella Marriott (MPS); Peter Keeling (NHS Addictions
Provider Alliance);

Introduction

Co-Chairs welcomed partners, noted apologies and commented on actions that had been completed or followed up on since the last meeting.

Drugs Problem Profile

Officers from MOPAC's Evidence and Insight Unit presented an updated version of the London Drugs Problem Profile. They outlined that the profile had been split into five key areas:

- Prevalence of use
- Prevalence of crime

- Drivers
- Impact
- Response

They advised that the profile used London specific data where possible, but that national data had been used to fill some gaps. It was hoped that the profile would help to expand the understanding of the extent of drug use, the need for focus on early intervention and prevention, and the growing concerns around synthetic opioids, and that the profile could be used as a tool to look at the wider response to drugs, and could support local action plans, CDPs and Project ADDER. LDF members indicated that their organisations may have further data to support the profile, and it was agreed that follow up meetings to share this information would take place.

Sub-Group Updates

Alison Keating provided updates on the work of the Criminal Justice Substance Misuse (CJSM) and Community Criminal Justice Pathways (CCJP) sub-groups. During the update she noted that London's continuity of care level had increased to 33% (rolling 12 months) from a base of around 19% at the start of 2023. Alison outlined the focus areas for the CJSM sub-group. Alison also noted the increased number of drug workers undergoing vetting, and that a welcome pack had been developed for those working in custody suites.

Alison advised that an Incident Management Team had been stood up to address the heightened concerns around nitazenes, spice and synthetic opioids.

Optimising Combating Drugs Partnerships (CDPs)

Karen Thomas provided an overview of the CDP Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) event held in January. During the event, a presentation was received from the South-East London grouping who were working collectively to address a number of issues the boroughs all experienced, and other SROs discussed the possibility of taking forward this collective approach. Karen flagged that the other key message coming forward from SROs was that greater certainty was needed over future drugs funding. LDF agreed to support this and offered to write to the Government after the Mayoral election to encourage an early decision being reached.

Where gaps in CDP attendance had been flagged, partners offered to follow up on this to ensure there was consistent attendance across the CDPs.

The APCC's report on CDPs was also discussed.

AOB

DSU Adam Ghaboos advised that the MPS's naloxone position was unchanged, but would remain under review.