

# LONDON DRUGS FORUM

## MEETING NOTES

Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> July, 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:** Farrah Hart (GLA Group Public Health);  
Josie Garrett (GLA Group Public Health);  
Darren Mepham (MOPAC);  
Kenny Bowie (MOPAC);  
Kate Lloyd (MOPAC);  
DSU Sean Lyons (MPS);  
Rachael Millar (JCUD);  
Prof Kevin Fenton (OHID);  
Emma Burke (OHID);  
Leethen Bartholomew (GLA Children and Young Londoners);  
Dr Emily Finch (SLAM);  
Adam Winstock (NHS England);

Will Haydock (Collective Voice);  
Karen Tipping (HMPPS);  
Gary Connors (VRU);  
Dan Greaves (LB Waltham Forest);  
Paul Murphy (LB Ealing);  
Rangan Momen (London Councils);  
Dionne Cameron (MOPAC);  
Rukiya Gadid (MOPAC);  
Karen Thomas (MOPAC)

**Apologies:** Alison Keating (OHID);  
DAC Matt Ward (MPS);  
Cmdr Paul Brogden (MPS);  
DCS Ella Marriott (MPS);  
DSU Adam Ghaboos (MPS);

Karina Wane-Henry (VRU);  
Dudu Sher-Arami (LB Brent);  
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.

### Government Update

Prof Kevin Fenton and Rachael Millar provided an update on the immediate messages and direction of travel coming forward from the new Government, with a focus on the Government missions and how these related to substance misuse. Sophie Linden also provided an update on the partnership work taking place to support SDS 40.

### Education and Prevention

Noting the limited evidence on the impact education can have on prevent drug use, Farrah Hart presented on the issue and highlighted what was understood about approaches that did not work and could cause further harm. These included fear or consequence based approaches, mass media programmes, those delivered by police officers, and drama based programmes. Programmes that combined developing problem solving or decision making skills, that addressed social influences, involved families or carers, were interactive, age appropriate and were not just one-offs, were likely to be more successful.

### **Women and Drugs**

Karen Thomas spoke on the work being undertaken by MOPAC and partners on the Women's Blueprint, and the positive impact Community Sentence Treatment Requirements and bail to the community could have on both women and their families.

The item included an update on the Criminal Justice Substance Misuse (CJSM) sub-group's work to strengthen the women's pathway back to London to support an increase in London's continuity of care numbers. Project ADDER also provided an update on Op Ovate, drug testing on arrest for those committing VAWG offences, which had seen an increase in higher positive test results in NA BCU.

### **Sub-groups Update**

Emma Burke provided updates on the work of the CJSM and Community Criminal Justice Pathways (CCJP) sub-groups, and advised that continuity of care had increased to 39% in London. Emma shared the progress made by the CJSM's seven priority working groups. She also noted that two key workstreams had been identified by the CCJP sub-group.

### **AOB**

No other business was raised.