

LONDON DRUGS FORUM

MEETING NOTES

Tuesday 10th September, 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);
Kenny Bowie (MOPAC);
DCS Ella Marriott (MPS);
DSU Sean Lyons (MPS);
Rachael Millar (JCDU);
Alison Keating (OHID);
Emma Burke (OHID);
Leethen Bartholomew (GLA Children and Young Londoners);
Dr Emily Finch (SLAM);

Will Haydock (Collective Voice);
Kerry Lonergan (LB Lewisham);
Gary Connors (VRU);
Ian Billham (LB Waltham Forest);
Paul Murphy (LB Ealing);
Sharon Whitmore (HMPPS);
Viv Evans (Adfam);
Rob Stebbings (Adfam);
Lauren Ricketts (MOPAC);
Isabelle Kennedy (MOPAC);
Rukiya Gadid (MOPAC);
Karen Thomas (MOPAC)

Apologies: DAC Matthew Ward (MPS);
Cmdr Paul Brogden (MPS);
Karina Wane-Henry (VRU);
Adam Winstock (UCL);

Mary Pilgrim (HMPPS);
Karen Tipping (HMPPS);
Rangan Momen (London Councils);
Prof Kevin Fenton (OHID)

Introduction

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

London Drugs Problem Profile

MOPAC's Evidence and Insight Unit provided an update on the London Drugs Problem Profile, which will be formally published in the new year. Updates to particular topics, including drug related deaths, drug offending, drug seizures and county lines activity, were noted.

Support for Young People and Families of Those Engaging in Substance

Viv Evans, Chief Executive of Adfam, and Rob Stebbings, Policy and Communications Lead, joined the meeting to discuss the role that family members, particularly mothers, can play in supporting those with substance addiction, and the support that is needed by family members in return. The frequency of complex and co-occurring needs, including homelessness, a history

of offending, domestic abuse, mental health issues, financial problems and bereavement was discussed, and members recognised these as themes the Forum had previously discussed.

Viv highlighted some of the models Adfam had in place, including Adfam@Home, and discussed the barriers families and children could face in accessing support. She also reflected on the barriers preventing people from accessing help, including stigma, concerns around keeping a family together, and a lack of services, particularly for children.

Numbers in Treatment

Alison Keating provided an update on the number of people accessing treatment and the ongoing work to increase access. This highlighted areas of best practice from some boroughs, progress being made on continuity of care, and the work done to identify areas of greater need.

Sub-groups Update

Ahead of the sub-groups update, Sophie Linden reflected on the work carried out as part of the SDS 40 arrangements, and thanked partners who had been involved in the work.

Alison advised that continuity of care in London had now reached 40%, and that work had been undertaken by the Criminal Justice Substance Misuse sub-group to support SDS 40. She also advised that work was continuing through the Community Criminal Justice Pathway sub-group to ensure join up between treatment providers, Courts and HMPPS.

AOB

It was noted that it was National Recovery Month and that the National Recovery Walk would take place on 14th September.