

# LONDON DRUGS FORUM

## TERMS OF REFERENCE

### 1. Purpose

The London Drugs Forum will build a strong multi-agency partnership bringing together criminal justice and health agencies to develop an effective pan-London whole system response to drug related harms and crimes. The Forum will provide a co-ordinated approach to address the complex relationship between drugs, crime and ASB, health inequalities and deprivation and will provide strategic oversight of criminal enforcement of drug related crimes and delivery of drug treatment and recovery interventions. The Forum is committed to the vision that there will be a reduction in both drug related crime and drug related deaths in London in 2022 and the years following.

### 2. Context

- There has been an 80% increase in drug-related deaths across the UK since 2012, with 4,561 deaths related to drug poisoning registered in England and Wales in 2020, the highest number since records began.
- The London Health Inequalities Strategy commits to working with partners to tackle the causes of poor health and reduce the persistent and in some cases widening health inequalities in London. The strategy highlights the role that physical activity, food, tobacco, alcohol and drugs play in driving health inequalities in London.
- The Government has announced that in March 2022 it will publish a new national commissioning quality standard setting out a full range of treatment and recovery interventions that local areas should provide for their population based on assessment of needs and that local delivery partners will be held to account through a local outcomes framework and wider measures to be published in April 2022.
- Over 300,000 people are addicted to heroin and crack cocaine in England and addiction to these drugs is linked to around 40% of all theft, burglary and robbery.
- There are an estimated 1,716 organised crime groups involved in supplying drugs in the UK, including within prisons.
- County lines and London lines activity is driving increased violence in the drugs market, as well as exploitation of young people and vulnerable drug users.
- Heroin and crack cocaine addiction is linked to almost half of all acquisitive crime, including burglary, robbery and theft.
- The Government's new 10-year Drugs Strategy recognises that "the old way of doing things isn't working" and sets out the Government's plans for the "whole policing system" to prioritise work to disrupt the illegal supply of all drugs across the supply chain as well as committing additional funding to increase quality and provision of substance misuse treatment.

### 3. Objectives

The London Drugs Forum will:

- Share data and analysis on drug misuse, drug related crime and drug treatment and recovery services across London.
- Improve co-ordination at a strategic level on London wide issues relating to drug-related crime reduction and prevention, and drug treatment and intervention services.
- Establish shared priorities for pan-London approaches where these add value to the work of local partnership activity (i.e. Combating Drugs Partnerships) and support stronger alignment between drugs-related activity and other strands of local strategic partnerships e.g. health, safeguarding, young people, economic development etc.
- Act as a point of escalation for local partners to mitigate risks and facilitate the removal of barriers impacting delivery of an effective, co-ordinated approach to drug related crime and treatment services across London.
- Share information on enforcement activities by police and probation services across the three tiers of the drug supply chain - organised crime networks, middle market and local street level dealing and associated anti-social behaviours.
- Assist in the sharing of information, learning, innovation and good practice of key drug-related programmes between senior leads across agencies, including the implementation and outcomes of Project ADDER and other locally based partnerships.
- Engage with communities, service users and providers as well as subject matter experts where relevant to ensure that treatment services and enforcement activities are fit for purpose.
- Provide a consultative link with central government departments on drug strategy development.
- Advocate for change and seek to ensure services are fit for purpose and sustainably funded.

### 4. Membership

Members of the London Drugs Forum will have the authority to participate in the development of a pan-London whole system response to drug related crimes and harms. Members will be responsible for aligning strategic plans within their own agencies with the Forum's pan-London response. Core membership of the Forum should include senior leaders with influence over strategy and delivery and will include the following named individuals and agency representatives:

- Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime - Sophie Linden (Co-Chair)
- Mayor's Health Advisor - Dr. Tom Coffey OBE (Co-Chair)
- Criminal Justice in Substance Misuse Board Chair – (tbc)
- Joint Combating Drugs Unit – Rachael Millar
- NHS E/I Health & Justice London – Sinead Dervin
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities – Alison Keating
- GLA Public Health Unit - Farrah Hart
- MOPAC Drugs Policy Lead – Kate Lloyd
- Violence Reduction Unit – Karina Wane-Henry
- Metropolitan Police Service – Cmdr Paul Brogden

- Association of Directors of Public Health – Iona Lidington (Jason Strelitz as deputy)
- London Councils Practitioner Advisors – Daniel Greaves & Keith Stanger
- London Councils – Rangan Momen
- HM Prison Service London Lead – Sharon Whitmore
- Probation Service – Kilvinder Vigurs
- Lived Experience representative/Build on Belief Chief Executive – Tim Sampey
- Collective Voice – Jessica Mullen
- NHS Addictions Provider Alliance – Emily Finch

In addition to the above core membership, representatives from a range of organisations may be invited to attend future meetings where relevant to the discussions. For example, additional representatives from Combating Drugs Partnerships and Service Providers.

## 5. Meetings arrangements

Meetings will be held every two months and will be held for the duration of the Police and Crime Plan 2022 – 2025. MOPAC/The GLA will provide support to convene the Forum, as well as playing a key role in supporting the collation and sharing of city-wide data and intelligence.

The Forum may establish subgroups or Task and Finish Groups. The Forum will also provide an opportunity for other groups to escalate issues that regional system leaders are best placed to address; as well as share learning and best practice which the Forum can help promote with local and national partners.

## 6. Governance

Reports to:

### **London Crime Reduction Board (LCRB) and London Health Board (LHB)**

The London Drugs Forum will report relevant issues to the LCRB and the LHB. This will either be via the LCJB or in addition to reporting to any relevant sub-boards or groups connected with the LCRB or LHB.

Influences and considers issues and intelligence from:

### **Combating Drug Partnerships (CDPs)**

The CDPs in London will be able to escalate issues and share best practice with the Forum. The Forum will seek to support the network of CDPs in London by: unblocking system issues that require an intervention at a regional level; identify opportunities for greater collaboration and harmonisation across CDPs; maintain a central record of the progress and activities of the CDPs in London; and represent the interests of London's CDPs with central government and other national agencies.

### **OHID's London Drug and Alcohol Commissioners Group**

This Group will feed into the London Drugs Forum, identifying needs and issues for the London drug treatment system and its users.

### **Project ADDER London Programme Board**

This Board will feed into the London Drugs Forum, regularly share progress updates and escalate issues which the Forum could assist in addressing.

**VRU Partnership Reference Group**

This Group will feed into the London Drugs Forum, sharing learning and identifying opportunities for the Forum to support the public health approach to tackling violence in London.

Informs the delivery of:

**Criminal Justice in Substance Misuse Board (to be established)**

When established, this Board will feed into the London Drugs Forum, identifying issues that need to be escalated regarding offender substance misuse and pathways into treatment.

**Reducing Reoffending Board (RRB)**

This Board will feed into the London Drugs Forum, identifying issues for the London criminal justice system and its users. The RRB will also take forward work programmes stemming from the LDF where it is best placed to do so.

**Future thematic regional groups that address substance misuse and drug-related crime**

In future, the Forum may decide to establish subgroups or Task and Finish Groups. The purpose of these groups will be to tackle specific problems or realise opportunities for collaboration which can be carried out most effectively on a regional basis.

