

LONDON DRUGS FORUM

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday 20th September 2023

10:30am – 12:30pm

CR4

City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE

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

Attended: Farrah Hart (GLA Group Public Health);
Kenny Bowie (MOPAC);
Kate Lloyd (MOPAC);
Josie Garrett (GLA Group Public Health);
DCS Ella Marriott (MPS);
DS Adam Ghaboos (MPS);
Alison Keating (OHID);
Dr Emily Finch (SLAM);
Jess Mullens (Collective Voice);
Dan Greaves (LB Waltham Forest);
Iona Liddington (LB Kingston);
Karen Tipping (HMPPS);
Sharon Whitmore (HMPPS);
Alison Bearn (Transformation Partners in Health and Care);
Fiona Measham (The Loop);
Mark Dronfield (Turning Point);
Margie van Dijk (OHID);
Peter Keeling (NHS Addictions Provider Alliance);
Peter Grime (NHS England);
Rachael Millar (JCUD);
Paul Broadhurst (GLA Culture);
Rukiya Gadid (MOPAC);
Karen Thomas (MOPAC)

Apologies: Prof Kevin Fenton (OHID);
Althea Loderick (LB Southwark);
DAC Matthew Ward (MPS);
Cmdr Paul Brogden (MPS);
Karina Wane-Henry (VRU);
Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney (VRU);
Arnold Yousaf (VRU);
Sinead Dervin (NHS England);
Kilvinder Vigurs (HMPPS);
Fiona Taylor (LB Barking & Dagenham);
Rangan Momen (London Councils)

Introduction

Co-Chairs welcomed partners, noted apologies and advised on discussions had the Coroners' Breakfast.

Strengthening Treatment Services for those with Multiple and Complex Needs

Alison Bearn presented on the problems faced by those requiring support from various services whilst tackling substance misuse, and advocated for a pan-London meeting of strategic leads to look at delivering a co-occurring programme across the capital. Partners discussed the

difficulties faced by service providers due to the high threshold for accessing mental health services, and agreed to hold follow up discussions between a range of stakeholders, including mental health commissioners.

Drug Checking Services

Mark Dronfield and Fiona Measham presented on work their respective organisations had undertaken around drug checking services, and the barriers they had faced in this work. They also discussed the need for a targeted alert system for when new substances were identified. OHID confirmed that an alert system was in place, and that a national taskforce had been established specifically to address the challenges presented by synthetic opioids. Partners also discussed whether Combating Drugs Partnerships could be used to amplify this messaging.

Updates –Workforce and Continuity of Care

OHID provided an update on the continuing work to increase numbers in the drug workforce, and to improve London's level of continuity of care.

AOB

Co-Chairs advised that a review of LDF's work to date and a discussion on cuckooing would take place at the November meeting.