

LONDON DRUGS FORUM

MEETING NOTES

Wednesday 18th January 2023

10:30 am – 12:30 pm

G.1E

City Hall, Kamal Chunchie Way, London E16 1ZE

Chair: Dr Tom Coffey OBE, Mayor's Senior Health Advisor

Attended: Farrah Hart (GLA Group Public Health); Kate Lloyd (MOPAC); Alison Keating (OHID); Dan Greaves (LB Waltham Forest); Rachael Miller (Joint Combating Drugs Unit); Karina Wane-Henry (VRU); Dr Emily Finch (SLAM); Kenny Bowie (MOPAC); DCS Nick Blackburn (MPS); Cmdr Paul Brogden (MPS); Will Haydock (Joint Combating Drugs Unit); Melanie Jolly (HMPPS); Sharon Whitmore (HMPPS); Emma Burke (OHID); CI Paul Dwyer (MPS); Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney (VRU); Grace Loseby-Morris (MOPAC); DS Kat Grant (MPS); Michele Kemp (OHID); Iona Liddington (LB Kingston); Joe Marston (MPS); Mathew Pickering (MOPAC); Josie Garrett (GLA Group Public Health); CI Roger McMillan (MPS); Sharon Whittington (LB Bromley)

Apologies: Kilvinder Vigurs (HMPPS); Professor Kevin Fenton; Althea Loderick (LB Southwark); Fiona Taylor (LB Redbridge); Sinead Dervin (NHS England); T/DAC Catherine Roper (MPS); Tim Sampey (Build on Belief); Rangan Momen (London Councils)

Welcome and Introductions

Chair welcomed partners and noted apologies. An update was provided on funding confirmed in the Mayor's budget for Project ADDER and Operation Yamata.

Actions

Circulated actions were confirmed, and updates were provided to action 1.13 and 1.18.

Diverting Drug Users from the Criminal Justice System

MOPAC's Criminal Justice Programme Manager presented on upcoming legislative changes that aimed to divert drug users from the criminal justice system. Members reflected on how this would intersect with treatment services and the possible impact this could have on provision. Discussion was also had on monitoring and recording compliance and how best to engage users in successful diversion.

Workforce Challenges

Office for Health Improvement and Disparities' Head of Alcohol, Drugs and Tobacco (London) presented to members on the workforce challenges the treatment services sector was experiencing, and outlined details of a London task and finishing group that was being set up to drive a regional response. The work of the task and finishing group would address

recruitment, training, staff development, retainment, increasing the skills mix in treatment and recovery services, and improving service quality. Members discussed the various barriers the industry faced, particularly in terms of pay and the breadth of the market, both nationally and regionally, and reflected that a more long-term plan would be needed to address the issue. Members agreed to continue to work collectively to resolve the challenges.

London Drugs Problem Profile

MOPAC's Evidence & Insight Performance Lead updated members on the continuing work taking place to complete the London Drugs Problem Profile. A full profile will be presented to members at the next meeting.

Combating Drugs Partnership Joint Needs Assessments

MOPAC's Head of Policing Policy updated on plans to carry out a review of the joint needs assessments completed by each Combating Drugs Partnership.

AOB

Nothing was raised as AOB.