

## **Blackpool Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Board Progress Report**

### **Introduction**

As part of the 2021 drugs strategy, every local area across England was asked to form a Combating Drugs Partnership.

These partnerships bring together a range of local partners - including enforcement, treatment, recovery, and prevention – and provide a single setting for understanding and addressing shared challenges related to drug-related harm, based on local context and need.

In some areas, these partnerships also include strategic direction for alcohol-related harm.

Blackpool formed the Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership (CDAPB) in 2022, with the Director of Public Health as its Chair/Senior Responsible Officer. The Board brings together individuals and organisations with responsibility for delivering the strategic priorities of the drug strategy – breaking supply, treatment and recovery and reducing demand.

The Board reports to Blackpool Community Safety Partnership (BSafe) and Blackpool Health and Wellbeing Board.

The Board is Blackpool-focused, but Blackpool is also represented by the Director of Public Health at an additional pan-Lancashire policy group.

### **Needs Assessment**

Blackpool regularly undertakes its own needs assessments and analysis using local and national data. The most recent needs assessments can be found here:

- [Alcohol](#)
- [Drug Misuse](#)

These provide a current picture, identifying gaps in information and service provision, enabling goal setting and measuring progress and impact.

### **Addressing Drug and Alcohol-related Harms: Key Commitments**

The CDAPB have provided strategic direction for the development and delivery of strategies to reduce alcohol and drug-related harms.

#### **Blackpool Drug Harm Reduction Strategy Refresh 2023-25**

- Trauma-informed services to better engage with and support people experiencing multiple disadvantage.
- Reduce drug-related deaths through expansion of Take Home Naloxone, use of the Local Drug Information System (LDIS) and developing an effective response to the threat of synthetic opioids.
- Address the physical health needs of people who use drugs so that fewer people die early from preventable and treatable health conditions.
- Support schools and education providers to ensure that every child in Blackpool has access to consistent information about drugs and the impact of drug use through

PSHE in the school curriculum, so that fewer young people try and/or go on to use drugs and potentially have their life chances reduced.

- Ensure support for parents and families exposed to drug misuse is available so that fewer children are exposed to adverse childhood experiences and families are not exposed to the risk of separation.
- Reduce the use of recreational drugs by reviewing and implementing the evidence of effective interventions that is currently available and that in development, to reduce violent crime linked to cocaine use and the numbers of young people not in education, training or employment, using high levels of cannabis.
- Ensure drug-related criminal activity is well understood, victims are identified and communities are supported well by the whole system, to reduce the risk of crime and exposure to the availability of drugs on the streets, and to ensure children and the most vulnerable members of our community do not become victims of criminal exploitation.
- Ensure appropriate support for individuals affected by drug use with opportunities for employment, peer support, meaningful activities and housing, ensuring there is good access to quality accommodation and help to become economically active for those seeking recovery, whatever recovery means for them.
- Ensure evidence-based interventions are provided for young people at-risk of entering the criminal justice system.

### **Blackpool Alcohol Prevention and Harm Reduction Strategy 2024-27**

- Overcome the legislative barrier that block population level change in relation to harmful alcohol consumption.
- Better inform children, young people and parents/adults about the potential harm of alcohol use in childhood and throughout life.
- Ensure we intervene early to reduce alcohol harm in children and young people.
- Stop stigma and reduce barriers to improve access to services when people need it and to help them maintain recovery.
- Improve the options and take up by people facing challenges in their use of alcohol for treatment, recovery and aftercare, adults and young people.
- Effectively identify and address co-occurring mental health and alcohol issues.
- Reduce repeat admissions for hospital and prison.
- Reduce the impact of alcohol on families and the outcomes for children.

### **Progress of CDP delivery since its establishment**

A number of measures have been set out in the [National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework](#) to help measure progress against the three strategic outcomes – reducing drug use, reducing drug-related crime and reducing drug-related deaths and harm.

Locally, the CDAPB monitor progress through a number of metrics, including:

- Number of adults and young people in structured treatment – for opiates, alcohol and other drugs
- Treatment progress and successful completions

- Deaths related to alcohol or drug use
- Hospital admissions related to alcohol and drug use
- Criminal justice referrals into treatment
- Uptake of inpatient detox and residential rehab
- Continuity of care from prison into community drug and alcohol treatment
- Community distribution of Take Home Naloxone
- Drug trafficking arrests, out of court disposals, cuckooing revisits, drugs seized

Progress against these metrics show a mixed picture, for example:

- Although overall numbers in treatment for adults and young people have increased, adult numbers in treatment for drugs, particularly opiates are not showing the same increase
- More adults are accessing inpatient detox and residential rehab
- More drug-related enforcement activity
- Continuity of care has improved but Blackpool is not yet achieving the national target
- Hospital admissions and deaths related to drug and alcohol misuse remain significantly higher than the England average

The partnership board continues to monitor progress closely, to better understand where extra scrutiny and support is needed.

### **How Blackpool residents are involved in the Combating Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Board**

Individuals with lived experience of substance use and recovery are represented at the CDAP through the Empowerment Lived Experience Team (LET). The LET ensure the voices of people who use drugs are heard at every level, whether or not they are in treatment or recovery. For more information, contact details for the LET can be found here [Lived Experience Team | Empowerment Charity](#)

If your neighbourhood is experiencing anti-social behaviour related to drugs and alcohol, information on reporting can be found here [Blackpool Council | Antisocial behaviour](#)

Residents can also report incidents such as street drug dealing anonymously via Crimestoppers [Independent UK charity taking crime information anonymously | Crimestoppers](#) or directly to Lancashire Police [Home - Lancashire Constabulary - Report Online](#)

For any further queries, please get in touch: [Contact Us | Public Health Blackpool Council](#)