

Committee(s):	Dated:
Safer City Partnership	21 February 2018
Subject: Drugs and Alcohol Misuse Services	Non-Public
Report of: Andrew Carter, Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
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Summary

The City of London Corporation, City of London Police, WDP's Square Mile Health® and other partners, are taking an active approach to addressing alcohol- and drug-related issues in the Square Mile. This work involves scoping the extent of the issues, delivering frontline services and developing stronger ties to facilitate partnership working and information-sharing. This paper outlines the current approach and provides suggestions to expand and deepen the focus of this work, in a sustainable manner, to ensure it continues to be effective.

Recommendations

Members are asked to:

- Note the report.
- Support ongoing work to prevent and tackle drug and alcohol misuse among workers in the City of London, through key channels such as the Safer City Partnership, Business Healthy and WDP's Square Mile Health®.
- Endorse the proposal to establish a multiagency partnership group to look at this issue in more detail, and gather further evidence about drug use in the City.

Main Report

Background

1. There is no accurate data relating to drug use, and specifically cocaine use among City workers, as typical collection methods relate only to resident populations. People do not self-report, given the illicit classification of cocaine. Taking national and London-specific trends and comparing them with the profile of the average City worker¹ helps to give us an indication of the prevalence of cocaine use among the local worker (non-resident) population.

¹ <https://www.hackney.gov.uk/media/8238/JSNA-City-Supplement/pdf/JSNA-City-Supplement>

2. There is a strong link between binge drinking and cocaine use. Anecdotal information suggests that very few individuals use cocaine on its own: cocaine (an “upper”) is usually consumed alongside alcohol (a “downer”) as a way of prolonging its effects². Research on a limited sample of cocaine users has shown that cocaine powder users report more frequent heavy drinking than users of crack cocaine³. Last year, use of powder cocaine was around 11 times higher among those who had visited a pub or wine bar nine or more times in the past month (8.1%), compared with those who had not visited a pub or wine bar in the past month (0.7%)⁴ The same data shows that in 2016 use of powder cocaine was over ten times higher among those who had visited a nightclub at least four times in the past month compared with those who had not visited a nightclub in the past month. According to the City and Hackney Joint Strategic Needs Assessment City Supplement (2014), alcohol misuse among both male and female City workers is considerably higher than the national average, with young, white males as the predominant users of alcohol⁵. The fact that the vast majority of City workers do not drive to and from the Square Mile is also an important element when considering the likelihood to undertake risky behaviours.
3. Powder cocaine use is more common in young males, is more common in London, and is linked to higher drinking levels. Within the City of London, the worker population is predominantly young and male with a high disposable income, and this demographic is also more likely to drink more alcohol than the general population. For these reasons, powder cocaine use is likely to be higher amongst City workers than amongst the general population. Powder cocaine use is just one element of substance misuse, however.
4. The City of London has a large Night Time Economy relative to its size and compared to other inner London boroughs. It is the capital’s smallest local authority by area and resident population, though joint sixth in terms of the number of pubs and bars it contains. The Night Time Economy in the City is generally acknowledged to be well managed, this being largely due to the work of the City of London Corporation Licensing Team and City of London Police (plus other partners). This work is supported by funding raised via the Late Night Levy.

Resident Population

5. As of the start of 2018, 28 City residents were accessing treatment services from WDP’s Square Mile Health®. Among the rough sleeper population, the picture is chaotic, with those in treatment experiencing both heroin and crack cocaine addictions. Two-thirds of those currently in treatment present with an alcohol addiction and over half of the total don’t present with a secondary addiction. The profile of City residents (including the rough sleeper population) presenting for treatment is predominantly white British and male, aged between 30 and 40 years. It should be noted that drug and alcohol misuse among the rough sleeper population and LGBT population in the City is not accurately represented in

² <https://academic.oup.com/alcalc/article/41/2/121/135052>

³ <https://academic.oup.com/alcalc/article/41/2/121/135052>

⁴ https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/642738/drug-misuse-2017-hosb1117.pdf

⁵ <https://www.hackney.gov.uk/media/8238/JSNA-City-Supplement/pdf/JSNA-City-Supplement>

treatment data, as many of them face stigma relating to substance misuse and/or their sexuality and may not access services.

Current Position

6. The City of London Corporation undertakes specific work to prevent drug and alcohol misuse among its populations and also to tackle existing issues. In the latter, there is a close working relationship with the City of London Police. This work is carried out across the following key areas:
 - WDP's Square Mile Health®
 - Business Healthy and the Public Health team
 - Safer City Partnership (SCP) and the City of London Police
7. The contract for the Provision of Public Health Services: Integrated Substance Misuse and Tobacco Control was awarded to WDP following a tender process in 2015. The contract commenced in October 2015. The service was set up under the delivery name of 'WDP Square Mile Health' whose services include:
 - a. *Police custody suite drug and alcohol assessments and brief interventions*
WDP has introduced new measures to target and intervene with detainees who may have issue with drugs and/or alcohol. WDP ensure that all clients who are assessed in custody are routinely referred to substance misuse services in their borough of residence, and thus there has been an increase in these referrals, despite an overall reduction of tests and positive tests within custody. WDP continue to work closely with the City of London Police, including providing training for Inspectors, to further increase testing.
 - b. *Prevention, harm reduction and awareness raising activities.*
The prevention part of the service has grown over the period of the contract so that it is now performing very well. The service introduced a new Corporate & Community Health & Wellbeing Coordinator post, and are now recruiting an additional training post in order to increase capacity in the service and provide a more strategic focus for prevention. The service has targets to engage with businesses, families and young people
 - c. *Treatment for drug and alcohol addiction (residents only)*
This is one of the more challenging areas of the service due to the low treatment population in the City. During 2017, 44 City residents had undertaken treatment for an alcohol and/ or non-opiate or opiate addiction, as offered by WDP's Square Mile Health® - 18.2% of those had successfully completed treatment, representing an increased real-term and proportionate rate of successful completions. It is expected that this trend will continue, now that a significant number of clients have been in treatment for six months or more. As of December 2017, all WDP Square Mile Health® clients are expected to reach 12 weeks in treatment.

d. Smoking cessation services at levels 2 and 3

The smoking cessation service has seen a great number of changes since WDP first took over as Lead Provider. Since WDP's Chief Pharmacist took on the role as Smoking Cessation Lead in Q3 (2016), the service has improved considerably, evidenced through quarter-by-quarter comparison below, and most notably the doubling of the service's quit rate since Q1 (15/16):

8. It has been suggested by the City of London Police that their funding for WDP's Square Mile Health® services may be reduced, which would have a significant impact on the specific services delivered within the policing context. No formal confirmation of this funding cut has yet been notified to the commissioner.
9. SCP's current priorities on reducing Night Time Economy crime (including drug-dealing), nuisance and anti-social behaviour contribute to the tackling of drug and alcohol misuse in the City. The City of London Corporation also provides information and guidance on addressing drug use and alcohol misuse to individuals, businesses, licensed premises and residents on its Night Time Economy webpage.
10. In addition, the City of London Police is currently developing a drug profile, detailing the nature and scope of drug use and supply within the City of London. This will also include the associated risks, effects and costs and will provide useful insight to help inform further actions. Following on from this, the City of London Police will develop a multifaceted risk reduction strategy in partnership with key stakeholders, to ensure a more comprehensive and robust approach to drug use.
11. The City of London Corporation's Health and Wellbeing Board has given approval to prevent and tackle drug use among workers in the City of London, through the key channels listed above. It has also endorsed the proposal to establish a multiagency partnership group to look at this issue in more detail and gather further evidence about drug use in the City.
12. The City Corporation's Public Health team is currently developing a Corporate Alcohol Strategy, which will bring together best practice to clearly outline a responsible approach to the sale, consumption and management of alcohol in the Square Mile and to set an example. Local employers have also been consulted as part of the development of the strategy.

Proposals

13. In response to interest from Members about drug use in the City, it has been agreed that a new Task and Finish Group will be established, consisting of representatives from the City Corporation (Safer City Partnership, Public Health and Licensing), the City of London Police, WDP and the homelessness services charity St Mungo's (substance misuse is significant among those who sleep rough).
14. This group will be led by the Manager of the Community Safety Team and will focus on tackling drug use in the City. The initial aims of the Group will be to tie

into the ongoing work of the Safer City Partnership, bringing together all areas of intelligence relating to drug use in the City among different population groups and pooling expertise to ensure a joined-up and evidence-based approach to addressing this issue.

15. This group will oversee the production of a health needs assessment relating to drug use among City workers, in order to build up intelligence about the nature and extent of drug use amongst City workers, and to inform further activity in tackling this issue.
16. It is proposed that this group will report back findings to both the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Safer City Partnership.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

17. The above relates to the Department of Community and Children's Services' Business Plan (2017-22) lists a priority objective as health and wellbeing, specifically that "people of all ages enjoy good health and wellbeing".
18. It also relates to the draft Corporate Plan (2018-23), where two of the 12 corporate outcomes within the strategic objective of "contributing to a flourishing society" are that "people are safe and feel safe" and that "people enjoy good health and wellbeing".

Conclusion

19. The City of London Corporation, working with partners, takes a highly engaged and proactive approach in working with the local business, working, resident and visitor populations to address and reduce drug- and alcohol-related behaviour, particularly around prevention.
20. A coordinated multi-agency partnership group, informed by a current health needs assessment, will enable the City of London Corporation and partners to determine the real extent of the issue of City workers using illicit substances, particularly powder cocaine, and to inform the most effective strategies to tackle it.

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