

<b>Strategy Boards &amp; Committee(s):</b> <b>Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Subcommittee</b>	<b>Date(s): 30/11/2022</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Support for vulnerable substance users who are involved with the City criminal justice system	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> The City and Hackney Public Health Team  <b>Author:</b> Maggie Boreham	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Support for vulnerable substance users who are involved with the City criminal justice system</b>	
<b>Summary:</b>	
<p>This briefing provides an overview of the pathways and partnership work currently being undertaken by Turning Point, the City and Hackney provider of drug and alcohol community treatment, with the criminal justice system in the City of London.</p> <p>This briefing will also provide an update concerning the Rough Sleeper Drug and Alcohol Grant (RSDATG), detailing the added value this OHID funded programme currently provides in the City, and further detailing the new posts and resources agreed for implementation in the next phase of the RSDATG.</p> <p>Importantly, it is the aim of this briefing to provide a snapshot of how vulnerable individuals with substance use dependencies are supported with harm reduction information and to access community treatment via the various criminal justice system touch points they come into contact with.</p>	
<b>Recommendation(s)</b>	
<p>This briefing is for information, therefore I recommend that the Subcommittee note the report, and also raise any further questions or requests for additional information.</p>	

### **Main Report**

#### **Background**

1. An action from the HRS Subcommittee meeting in May of this year was for the City and Hackney Public Health team to provide a briefing detailing how vulnerable individuals with substance use dependencies are being supported into treatment via the criminal justice system touch points within the City of London.

2. In October 2020, at the height of the pandemic, Turning Point became the newest provider of drug and alcohol community treatment within the City of London and the London Borough of Hackney. As an integrated service, resources are equally available to the residents of both authorities.
3. In 2020/21 the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities (previously the Ministry of Communities, Housing and Local Government), and the Office of Health Improvement and Disparities (previously Public Health England) made the Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Grant available to Local Authorities to develop bids for.
4. The City and Hackney Public Health team in collaboration with City and Hackney housing colleagues successfully bid for two rough sleeper specific outreach teams, to provide an enhanced offer of support and treatment to substance using rough sleepers, and those experiencing homelessness.
5. Through the RSDATG Turning Point has developed a team of 4 outreach workers, with a Strategic Manager, who work specifically with City homelessness and rough sleeping services, the City police, and City rough sleepers, and those who are assessed as statutory homeless with substance use issues within the City.
6. The City Turning Point Rough Sleepers' outreach team has a dedicated Criminal Justice Outreach post, and a dedicated Migrant's Outreach post. Further outreach clinical capacity has been delivered to City rough sleepers to provide assessments for prescribing Opiate Agonist Therapy (methadone, buprenorphine and Buprenorphine), and injections for Pabrinex to clients with alcohol use disorder.
7. **Current Position**
8. Nationally there have been challenges recruiting to drug and alcohol Recovery Worker/Outreach posts, due to years of central Government disinvestment in the sector, as documented by Dame Carol Black in the second of two independent reviews of drug use<sup>1</sup>. This presented some challenges locally, however the Criminal Justice Outreach worker post was successfully filled in November 2021.
9. The Criminal Justice Outreach worker in the City currently provides an arrest referral service within Bishopsgate Police Station 2 days a week for anyone arrested for a trigger offence and also tests positive for opiates and/or cocaine. The Turning Point Criminal Justice team provides the other 3 days of service delivery. Throughout the week Custody Suite officers also have access to the on-call rota and can contact a Criminal Justice Recovery Worker to attend the police station, should they need to.
10. From January 2023 the team will be available either onsite or via the telephone one evening a week at Bishopsgate Police Station to offer greater flexibility in engaging with vulnerable individuals.

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<sup>1</sup> *Independent review of drugs by Professor Dame Carol Black.* (2020, February 28). GOV.UK. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/independent-review-of-drugs-by-professor-dame-carol-black>

11. Over the course of the last financial year the number of referrals from the criminal justice system into the Turning Point service has steadily increased, along with the number of individuals arrested, testing positive for opiates and/or cocaine, and issued with a Required Assessment with Turning Point. The Arrest Referral pathway is the primary referral route, however referrals can also be made by Probation, prisons and the Community Safety Partnership.
12. The Arrest Referral pathway further provides an important opportunity to deliver brief advice, harm reduction information and interventions such as naloxone (naloxone reverses the effects of an opiate overdose), which saves lives. Further work is underway in collaboration with members of the City police to build a business case for the City police being trained in and carrying naloxone, as advised by the Advisory Council Misuse Drug's UK<sup>2</sup> review of naloxone implementation.
13. This is the same pathway recreational drug users active within the night time economy will be directed to follow if arrested for a trigger offence. A full list of trigger offences is available from Release<sup>3</sup>. Begging, possession of a class A substance and intent to supply a Class A substance are examples of trigger offences.
14. In addition to the service being offered within Bishopsgate Police Station, the Criminal Justice Outreach post attends Operational Luscombe every fortnight, working in partnership with the Thames Reach City SORT team and the Antisocial Behaviour lead.
15. Additional outreach activity to engage City rough sleepers and those begging within the City into treatment is also carried out regularly throughout the week, as are joint outreach shifts with other services.
16. The City Turning Point Rough Sleeper Outreach team is presently working with 69 individuals, the Criminal Justice Outreach Worker is carrying a caseload of 18 individuals, 17 are receiving structured treatment and 1 is receiving harm reduction interventions. The City Turning Point Rough Sleepers Outreach team aims to keep their caseloads lower than would be expected within the core service, to ensure they have the time to work with the complexity many rough sleepers, and those begging within the City present with.
17. Turning Point's City Rough Sleeper team has recently started to share a regularly updated tracker detailing engagement and treatment progress with City homelessness colleagues on a monthly basis. This tracker includes progress on opiate agonist therapy, such as methadone prescriptions and referrals into detox and rehab, such as the pan London Guys and St Thomas' inpatient detox.
18. London has seen the steady closure of specialist substance misuse Inpatient Detoxification (IPD) units for complex care clients with co-morbid mental and

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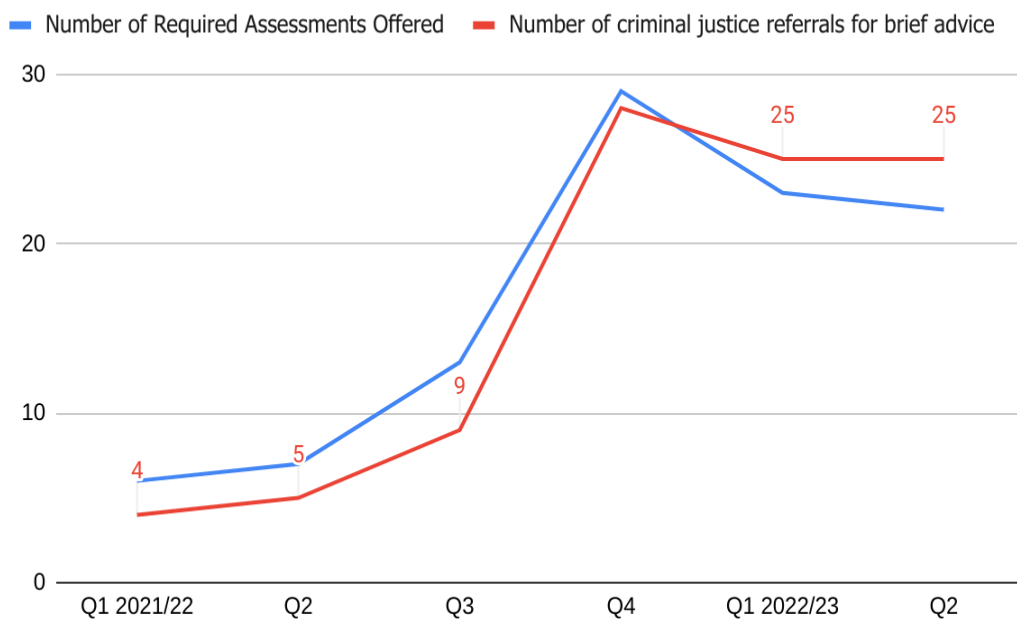
<sup>2</sup> *ACMD review of the UK naloxone implementation (accessible)*. (n.d.). GOV.UK. Retrieved August 18, 2022, from: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/acmd-naloxone-review/acmd-review-of-the-uk-naloxone-implementation-accessible>

<sup>3</sup> *Drug testing on arrest*. (2013, January 3). Release. <https://www.release.org.uk/law/drug-testing>

physical health issues. As part of a Pan London bid to the RSDATG, the City commissions a 5-bed IPD at Guys and St Thomas' Hospital (GSTT) on behalf of London LAs. To date 4 people rough sleepings have been referred into detox, and 3 people have been referred into residential rehab.

19. The inpatient detox gives people who sleep rough or at risk of sleeping rough a life-saving opportunity to access valuable treatment services that have been designed to meet their needs and vulnerabilities. As well as to significantly address some of London's starkest health inequalities, the Inpatient Detox draws together fragmented past medical care to provide up to date diagnosis and follow-up plans to enable wrap-around support.
20. The figures below illustrate the steady increase in criminal justice referrals, and required assessments:

Number of individuals referred for Substance Use support



21. **The next phase of Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant delivery:**

Following stakeholder engagement and a resubmission of the bid, we have been successful in being granted funding for the following additional posts and resources for a range of organisations who work across the City and Hackney, in addition to Turning Point:

- An alcohol nurse, and lease of a Fibro Scanner
- A Women's Healthcare Assistant
- A speech and language therapist 2x days a week (Rough Sleepers Mental Health Project - RAMHP)
- A Rough Sleeping Mental Health Project, Peer Support Worker

- A Cognitive Behavioural Therapist 2x days a week
- Funding to implement a Contingency Management schedule to support service users in staying on their scripts and attending medical reviews
- Funding for Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Assessments
- An Adult Social Worker
- An additional Supporting Transitions and Empowering People (STEPs) Rough Sleeper Navigator for the City, the current City STEP's Rough Sleeper Navigator's work has been shown to be effective with the T1000 cohort of entrenched rough sleepers.
- A Groundswell Healthcare Peer Advocate
- Funding to deliver system wide training on working with dual diagnosis (co-occurring substance misuse and mental health)

## Conclusion

22. This briefing has focused on the current pathways and partnership work between the Turning Point's City Rough Sleeper Outreach Team and the criminal justice system within the City.
23. Following the successful recruitment of a Criminal Justice Outreach Worker to the rough sleeper team, this post has been based within Bishopsgate Police Station for 2 days a week supporting Turning Point's criminal justice team in the delivery of the Arrest Referral pathway. Bishopsgate police station has full coverage from Turning Point and will have an evening service on one day a week from January.
24. In addition to this work, this post attends Operation Luscombe fortnightly and participates in wider outreach activity as part of the RSDATG programme, and in collaboration with City homelessness colleagues. All outreach activities to engage those with substance use issues and homelessness includes offering support to access drug treatment, and where clinically appropriate a referral to the Guys and St Thomas' inpatient detox.
25. As the RSDATG programme develops, further exploration of how to expand the treatment offers to those referred through the criminal justice route will be prioritised. With an additional STEP's navigator, Peer Support workers and resources to support sustained engagement, the aim is to continue to demonstrate improved health outcomes and reductions in problematic drug use which often manifest in begging, acquisitive crime and antisocial behaviour.

## Appendices

- None

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