

<b>Committee:</b>	<b>Date:</b>
Safer City Partnership	08/06/2015
<b>Subject:</b> A Substance Misuse Health Needs Assessment for the City of London	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Poppy Middlemiss – Policy Officer, Health and Wellbeing	<b>For Information</b>

### Summary

The purpose of this briefing is to provide an overview of the report entitled 'A Substance Misuse Health Needs Assessment for the City of London'. The report was written to provide a City Supplement to the full City and Hackney needs assessment which was commissioned from Solutions for Public Health by City and Hackney Public Health, London Borough of Hackney and published in 2014.

This report is an assessment of substance misuse needs in the residents, workers and rough sleepers in the City of London. This health needs assessment aims to inform the development of a commissioning strategy for substance misuse in the City of London.

### Recommendation

That the contents of the report be noted.

### Main Report

#### Background

The City of London Corporation is currently undergoing a tender exercise to commission a combined substance misuse and tobacco control service. This service will incorporate all elements of substance misuse and tobacco control treatment, and will have a focus on prevention and promotion of healthy behaviors for City residents and workers. The new service will start on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015.

So far a good level of interest has been received in the tender and we are now evaluating the Invitation to Tender documents received from the bidders. We are anticipating sign off from finance committee in July, and following this will provide a report to the Safer City Partnership for information detailing the new service provision. If you have any queries please contact Lorna Corbin-  
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#### Substance misuse in the City

There were 17 adults in treatment for drug misuse in 2013/14 in the City of London, an increase of 2 on the previous year.

The estimated prevalence of use of opiates and crack cocaine is significantly lower than in England and London. Estimated number of opiate users in 2011/12 is 26. In the same time period there were 23 crack cocaine users and 16 injecting drug users.

The number of people in alcohol treatment has increased over the last two years, peaking at 19 in 2013/14. In 2012/13 there were 17 people in alcohol treatment which is a big increase from 2011/12 when there were 5 and 2010/11 when there were 10. These figures should be treated with caution because they were provided by different sources. The majority of referrals have been from GPs (68%). The remaining 32% have been from community based care services, self, family or friends and the criminal justice system.

Nationally published modelled estimates based on data reported in the General Lifestyle Survey suggest that almost 9% of city resident drinkers in City of London are higher-risk drinkers, which is greater than the London average. Estimates for binge drinking levels are much higher for the City of London resident population than London as a whole.

47.6% of City workers drink at increasing or higher levels (compared to 24.2% of the general population). 33.4% of City workers are at an increased risk of alcohol related harm (compared to 20.4% in the general population) thus increasing their risk of health and social problems.

28 rough sleepers in the City of London have support needs for alcohol only, 17 for drugs only, 45 for mental health only and 31 needed support for all three.

## **Key findings**

Below is a list of recommendations produced based on the findings of this report. These recommendations will be considered in the new substance misuse service.

1. Consider more intensive outreach to engage with the large number of substance misusers who are not in contact with treatment services.
2. Address service fragmentation issues by considering introducing a single substance misuse service. Improve co-ordination and communication between drug and alcohol services and different components of the individual services. Ensure common assessment, care and recovery approaches.
3. The existing approach to implementation of alcohol screening should be reviewed, which evidence reviews have shown to be cost-effective when carried out in association with a 5-minute advice session. Consider adopting a more targeted approach to screening in the local community, including the use of screening in hospital settings.
4. The existing provision for alcohol withdrawal/detoxification services must be reviewed and the potential for providing community-based alcohol detoxification with GP support explored, including the availability of detoxification for people living in nursing/residential accommodation.

5. Consider greater integration of support for patients with substance misuse problems into primary care. Consider the role of a GP with special Interest in substance misuse to provide leadership, training and support to colleagues in primary care.
6. Increase the level of service provision available for drinkers in the 'increasing risk' (hazardous drinking) category by providing interventions which help them to understand the risk associated with their drinking behaviour.
7. Address problems with service access by increasing service provision over the weekends and evenings to facilitate access by non-resident City workers.
8. Increase uptake of Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) by people with substance misuse problems with a view to improving recovery rates from substance misuse.
9. Develop treatment pathways for people using new psychoactive substances/legal highs and those misusing prescription or over the counter medications.
10. Identify and review the medication requirements of older people on long-term prescriptions for potentially addictive medicines.
11. Those receiving services and support for substance misuse should be regularly assessed for mental ill-health and provided with the appropriate support and treatment for these conditions.

## **Background Papers**

This needs assessment was conducted based on papers from the following

1. City and Hackney Joint Strategic Needs Assessment City Supplement
2. City of London Drug and Alcohol Need Assessment November 2012
3. Drug and Alcohol Misuse: Adult Harm Reduction Strategy for City of London and Hackney 2013-16
4. The City of London Substance Misuse Partnership Commissioning Strategy 2011.
5. Health needs of City workers Insight into City Drinkers, 2012:
6. The public health and primary healthcare needs of City workers, 2012: