

Title: Torbay Drug and Alcohol Partnership (TDAP)
Wards Affected: All
To: Health & Wellbeing Board **On:** 14th December 2023
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1. Purpose

1.1 To provide a progress update for Torbay's Drug and Alcohol Partnership (TDAP)

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members to note the key milestones and progress achieved against the 3 priority areas outlined within the Government's 2021 drug strategy 'From Harm to Hope'.

3. Supporting Information

3.1 Background

3.1.1 Following publication of the Government's 2021 'From Harm to Hope' drug strategy, ministers set up the National Combating Drugs Unit and requested the formation of localised partnerships to be developed, to monitor progress against the strategy's aims and objectives.

3.1.2 In Torbay a decision was made to deliver our local partnership across a Torbay footprint with the Director of Public Health assuming the role of Senior Responsible Officer for the first year. It was agreed that the Torbay partnership would include alcohol within its scope and be called the Torbay Drug and Alcohol Partnership (TDAP).

3.1.3 The 10-year drug strategy sets out three core priority areas:

1. Break drug supply chains
2. Deliver a 'world-class' treatment and recovery system.
3. Achieve a shift in the demand for drugs.

3.1.4 Each priority area has several commitments which provide a breakdown of the areas of activity partnerships will be required to address for these priorities to be achieved. There are 18 commitments the partnership has been developing plans around over the past 12 months.

3.2 The role of TDAP

- 3.2.1 At a local level, success is reliant on partners working together to understand the Torbay population and how drugs are causing harm across the bay area, including any challenges in the local system and the changes that are needed to address them.
- 3.2.2 The partnership commits to working together to deliver the objectives outlined within the drug strategy, providing a focused point of reporting and scrutiny, thereby ensuring an open and transparent partnership with clear ownership, responsibility, and accountability. Members of TDAP have a responsibility to share information and intelligence relevant to these objectives to support joint strategic and prioritisation planning.
- 3.2.3 Responsibilities include but are not exclusive to the following:
- Development of a local Delivery Plan to capture Torbay activity against the three Priority Areas / supporting Commitments and monitor national outcomes and supporting metrics.
 - Provide expert advice and data to support the development of a joined up local strategy, agreeing the appropriate steps needed to meet the needs identified.
 - To influence the development and implementation of strategies and commissioning intentions that have the potential to impact the drugs strategy.
 - To identify and escalate system risks via the relevant strategic and/or operational governance group for follow up / action.

3.3 Milestones

- 3.3.1 The key milestones achieved to date have been:
- The formalisation of how TDAP operates, including membership, terms of reference, it's governance as well as the outlining the roles and responsibilities of the group.
 - Completion of the partnership's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. This document is being used to identify key TDAP priorities for action which informs the TDAP Delivery Plan
 - Establishing TDAP's outcome metrics, identifying areas of improvement and best practice. These metrics will help steer the delivery plan and identify subsequent task and finish groups.
 - Completion of TDAP's annual membership review, ensuring the right individuals are present and can contribute to TDAP's progress.
 - A mapping exercise has identified 17 existing groups currently working in some way towards the commitments outlined within the drug strategy, whilst also highlighting current system gaps.
 - The creation of task and finish groups focused on the gaps identified from the mapping exercise.
 - The successful completion of all national audit requirements for the 2022/23 reporting period.

3.4 Progress against core priority areas – examples

3.4.1 Priority 1: Break Drug Supply Chains

- 3.4.1.1 Devon and Cornwall police have been working under the direction of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) drug strategy to deliver key activities aimed at disrupting the supply of drugs, both at a peninsular and local level.
- 3.4.1.2 Torbay's local policing team have been working closely with National Police Proactive teams to complete dedicated operations (including county lines intensification weeks) targeting the trafficking and supply of drugs coming into and being circulated within Torbay. Working in collaboration national proactive teams has maximised intelligence sharing and allowed Torbay's police force to target the highest threats related to county lines, resulting in the successful disruption and closure of key County Lines.
- 3.4.1.4 Local prisons (HMPS Channing's Wood and HMPS Exeter) have invested in measures to reduce the trafficking of illicit substances into prison custody, including the introduction of a Rapiscan machine that will identify if paper has been laced with illicit substances and a body scanner that is able to detect prisoners attempting to conceal illicit substances / mobile phones on entry into prison.
- 3.4.1.5 The drug strategy lead at HMP Channing's Wood reports a significant increase in the number of seizures following the implementation of this equipment, increasing disruption to the supply of drugs entering the prison estate. The ability to send off substances seized to the seizure diagnostic team has also helped improve the prisons awareness as to which substances are in circulation, shaping the response taken by the prison to manage this.

3.4.2 Priority 2: Deliver a world class treatment and recovery system.

- 3.4.2.1 In line with the Government's commitment to increase numbers accessing substance misuse treatment, work has taken place to improve pathways between the drug and alcohol service and Torbay's criminal justice partners i.e., prisons, police custody and the courts. Latest data reports (the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System) show an increase of 92 additional people entering drug and alcohol treatment and a 21% increase in the number of people leaving prison and engaging with community treatment when compared to the same reporting period last year (Q1 2022/23 v Q1 2023/24, Domes data).
- 3.4.2.2 Torbay's Drug and Alcohol treatment provider, Torbay Recovery Initiative (TRI) are working in partnership with Torbay Council's community safety team, public health and the OPCC to pilot a new treatment medication called Buvidal. Buvidal has been found to be an effective alternative treatment option for individuals who have previously experienced difficulties with staying in drug treatment. The Pilot will be ready to implement from November 2023, with the first individuals commencing treatment from January 2024.

3.4.3 Priority 3: Achieve a shift in the demand for drugs.

- 3.4.3.1 The focus of this priority area relates to the identification of vulnerable adults / children most at risk of substance use and/or exploitation, whilst ensuring the consequences are sufficient to reduce the likelihood that individuals would choose to engage in drug use and or criminal activity. An example of this work is how schools support individuals with substance use and their exclusion policies to support individuals maintaining an education and finishing school.
- 3.4.3.2 The healthy learning webpage for teachers across Torbay has recently been updated with additional information and resources to support them in understanding the prevalence of drug and alcohol use within Torbay, the factors likely to increase risk of drug and alcohol use in young people, along with resources they can adopt as part of their curriculum and where they can direct young people for support should drugs and/or alcohol be an issue requiring specialist intervention.
- 3.4.3.3 A collaboration between community safety and public health has seen funding provided to co-commission a young person's substance misuse outreach worker to deliver place and education-based support and Torbay Youth Justice Service has developed a prevention service for children who have not entered the formal justice system to provide targeted early help.

3.5 Moving into Year 2

- 3.5.1 The partnership has developed some key resources (e.g., joint needs assessment, delivery plan and its outcome metrics) which in partnership with the new data sets provided by OHID, has generated a good awareness of Torbay's system strengths and areas for further development. This places the partnership in a strong position as it moves forward into Year 2.
- 3.5.2 For Year 2, the TDAP will focus on three main areas. Firstly, a review of the projects that have been implemented from the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) to support the ambitions of the 'From Harm to Hope' strategy and plan for Years 2 and 3. Secondly, developing the TDAP performance dashboard and use this to monitor impact and finally to target the gaps against the commitments identified from our mapping exercise, which will see an increased focus on Torbay's Young People, Mental Health and Family-Centred Recovery.

4. Relationship to Joint Strategic Needs Assessment

- 4.1 Utilises the same data sources for drug and alcohol as incorporated in the TDAP Drug and Alcohol Joint Needs Assessment.

5. Relationship to Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

- 5.1 TDAP focus on the life course and multiple workstreams supports numerous Priority Areas 1-4 of the strategy.

6. Implications for future iterations of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment and/or Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

6.1 No implications at this point.

Appendices

Background Papers

National Drugs Strategy 'From Harm to Hope':

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives/from-harm-to-hope-a-10-year-drugs-plan-to-cut-crime-and-save-lives>