

# **Management Committee**

## **11 December 2018**

### **Support to People Vulnerable Through Substance Abuse**

#### **For Decision**

#### **Briefholders**

Cllr Mike Byatt – Community Safety  
Cllr Jon Orrell – Social Inclusion

#### **Senior Leadership Team Contact:**

S Hill, Strategic Director

#### **Report Author:**

G Duggan, Head of Community Protection

#### **Statutory Authority**

Anti-Social Behaviour Crime & Policing Act 2014  
Licensing Act 2003  
Homeless Act 2002  
Homelessness Reduction Act 2017

#### **Purpose of Report**

1. Cllr P McCartney submitted a scrutiny request (Appendix 1) to examine the council's role in supporting people with drug and alcohol issues. Scrutiny and Performance Committee has considered the issue and has proposed the following recommendations to your committee.

#### **Recommendations**

2. (i).That the Council provides funding for sharps disposal boxes in all relevant public toilets and that all disposal boxes are clearly labelled in regards to who to contact for cleansing, maintenance and emptying.  
  
(ii).That the Council ask Public Health Dorset to report on the effectiveness of the needle exchange scheme in the Borough and how it could be made more effective in reducing discarded needles.  
  
(iii).That this Council supports the creation of a community safety hub for relevant agencies to work together in the town centre.  
  
(iv).That officers work with Public Health Dorset to run an information and educational campaign around the services which are available to help those made vulnerable through substance abuse.

(v). That officers meet with 3<sup>rd</sup> sector agencies that are involved with supporting vulnerable people to ensure there is joined up working between all service providers.

## **Reason for Decision**

3. To ensure that the council makes best use of the resources available to it to support those who are vulnerable through substance abuse and dependency.

## **Background and Reason Decision Needed**

4. The scrutiny commenced at a meeting of Scrutiny and Performance Committee on 4 October 2018 where a report was presented (Appendix 2) and a panel of invited guests spoke about their organisations roles in the issue and answered questions from committee members. The organisations that were represented were Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group; Public Health Dorset; Dorset Police and the councils Community Safety service. Cllr Orrell spoke as a local GP and Briefholder for Social Inclusion and Cllr Byatt as Briefholder for Community Safety.
5. An informal meeting of Scrutiny and Performance Committee took place on 22 October 2018 to review the information gained from the previous meeting. Recommendations were developed which were considered by the committee at their meeting on 22 November 2018 and proposed to your committee today.

## **Implications**

### **Corporate Plan**

6. Contributing to Corporate Plan objectives;

Supporting vulnerable people so that they can live healthy and independent lives

Enhancing the quality of life of people living and working in the Borough.

Providing services that are shaped and focused by the needs of our customers.

### **Financial**

7. The installation and labelling of sharps disposal boxes can be accommodated within existing budgets and provision is made for servicing. A proposal for a community safety hub in the town centre for agency use is being explored and a report may be made to your committee at a later stage.

### **Equalities**

8. Addressed within reports.

## **Environmental**

9. Addressed within reports.

## **Economic Development**

10. Nil

## **Risk Management (including Health & Safety)**

11. There is a reputational risk to the council if it does not exercise the powers available to it (within resources available).

## **Human Resources**

12. Nil

## **Consultation and Engagement**

13. Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group  
Public Health Dorset  
Dorset Police

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 - Scrutiny request

Appendix 2 – Report to Scrutiny & Performance Committee 4/10/18

## **Background Papers**

Minutes of Scrutiny & Performance Committee 4 October 2018

Minutes of Scrutiny & Performance Committee 22 November 2018

WPBC is a signatory to the pan-Dorset Alcohol and Drugs Strategy, which runs to 2020, this can be viewed using the following link:

<http://www.publichealthdorset.org.uk/our-partners/?wb48617274=AA2E4A23#da>

## **Footnote**

Issues relating to financial, environmental, economic and equalities implications have been considered and any information relevant to the decision is included within the report.

**Report Author:** Graham Duggan

**Telephone:** 01305 252285

**Email:** gduggan@dorset.gov.uk

**Date:** 29 November 2018

## **Request by Councillor for Scrutiny Review**

### **Area for review**

Drugs / Alcohol – Engagement with community

### **Reason**

As a councillor I am getting reports of drug taking, drunken violent behaviour in the community. People are now witnessing drug taking in our car parks, parks, town centre, it's not a hidden problem. What is the council's policy for engagement with support within Weymouth? How effective is our engagement? What outcomes do we get?

### **Evidence**

Recently we were in difficulty regarding a location of a home for rehab in Weymouth, our current services in Weymouth, EDP and Turning Point are they getting council support in delivering outcomes? The council are seen as totally lacking direction, effective action is lacking, across social media complaints are rising. Is our strategy working, purposeful and outcome based?

### **Desired Outcome**

I would like this review to look at the relationship, policy with the community improve. That our community can see active work in tackling addiction, that our partnerships are effective in delivering outcomes.

### **Name(s)**

Councillor Penny McCartney

### **Date**

6/2/18