

Torbay Drug and Alcohol Partnership (TDAP) annual update report October 2024

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To provide an annual progress update for Torbay's Drug and Alcohol Partnership (TDAP).

2.0 Background

- 2.1 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.

- 2.2 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. It was agreed that the Torbay partnership would include alcohol within its scope and be called the Torbay Drug and Alcohol Partnership (TDAP).

- 2.3 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.

- 2.4 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 reviewing plans and data for over the past 12 months.

3.0 The role of TDAP

- 3.1 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 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.

- 3.3 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.

4.0 **Milestones**

4.1 The key milestones achieved in 2024 include:

- Successful embedment of the steering group, achieving a regular attendance from core members central to achieving the objectives of the drug strategy.
- A system wide collaboration to support the development of Torbay's supplementary substance misuse treatment and recovery grant (SSMTRG) proposal for year 3.
- Introduction of a forward plan to help ensure progress updates are received from partners in relation to the strategic commitments, with a focus on what the ask is from the partnership to help overcome any barriers.
- Regular updates of key performance data shared with the partnership to inform areas of good practice, whilst highlighting areas requiring attention.
- The successful completion of all national audit requirements for the 2023/24 reporting period.

5.0 **Progress against core priority areas – examples**

5.1 **Priority 1: Break Drug Supply Chains**

5.1.2 A southwest peninsular steering group focusing on activity related to priority 1 of the drug strategy is in operation and is chaired by Devon and Cornwall's Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC), Alison Hernandez. Devon and Cornwall police have been working under the direction of the PCC'S drug strategy to deliver key activities aimed at disrupting the supply of drugs, both at a peninsular and local level.

5.1.3 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.

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

5.2.1 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, probation and the courts. Latest data reports (the National Drug

Treatment Monitoring System) show an increase of 123 additional people entering drug and alcohol treatment and a 30% increase in the number of people leaving prison and engaging with community treatment when compared to the same reporting period in 2022 (May 2022 v May 2024, NDTMS Local Outcomes Framework data).

5.2.2 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 launched in April 2024, with 7 individuals currently engaging in the pilot. Initial reports have been positive, with a reduction in illicit drug use reported and an increase in meaningful use of time i.e. improved self-care and involvement in employment and/or community-based projects.

5.2.3 Some specific projects, including the Torbay drug test on arrest pilot (partnership with TRI and the police) and the introduction of Growth in Actions complex lives navigators have a focus on increasing access to treatment for our criminal justice and female cohorts. Although both projects are in their early stages, feedback has been positive from partners, and we expect to see more individuals entering and engaging with treatment through introduction of these new approaches.

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

5.3.1 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.

5.3.2 A working group has recently been established to explore what current provision looks like in schools to prevent young people engaging in drug / alcohol misuse. Once this is understood, a plan around how to best support young people in schools can be developed.

5.3.3 A subgroup of the TDAP have been meeting to understand existing provision for identifying young people / families at risk of criminal exploitation and / or substance misuse and opportunities to strengthen existing processes and increase identification of vulnerable populations. The group are also exploring what the support offer looks like for those identified and the impact this is having on young people and their families to determine if the current offer is fit for purpose.

5.3.4 With support from TDAP, Public Health have commissioned (via the 0-19's partnership) the development of a substance misuse children's partnership workforce plan, which is aimed at improving the experience of parents and children directly / indirectly affected by problematic drug and/or alcohol use within the family home. The workforce plan is currently in development and is set to achieve the following outcomes across the drug and alcohol and children's workforce:

- Basic knowledge in substance misuse issues and support.
- Basic knowledge in family support.

- Knowledge of resources and support available in Torbay, with an understanding of where to signpost.
- Increased confidence to have conversations with those affected by substance misuse.
- Increased understanding of different roles and approaches to support.
- Increased understanding of different challenges associated with supporting those affected by substance misuse.

6.0 Moving into Year 3

- 6.1 To date, 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. Moving into year 3, the partnership will complete a review of these resources to ensure plans are being developed in line with the most up to date evidence base.
- 6.2 For Year 3, the TDAP will focus on three main areas. Firstly, a review of the projects that have been implemented from the SSMTRG to support the ambitions of the 'From Harm to Hope' strategy and explore how partners can support maintenance of any provision should SSMTRG funding not continue into 2025/26, secondly, a review of our joint needs assessment and thirdly, how we can improve our data collection in the absence of a data lead for the partnership.