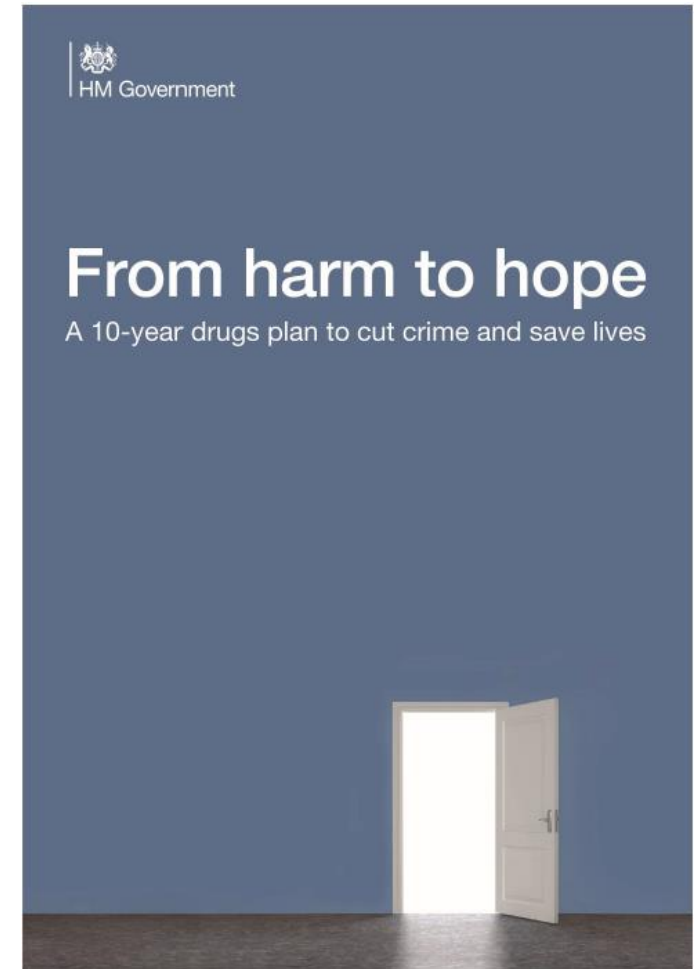


Combating Drugs Partnerships: An introduction for Yorkshire & Humber Dual Diagnosis forum

Will Haydock
Local Systems Lead
Joint Combating Drugs Unit

Drugs Strategy 'From Harm to Hope'

- Published 06 December 2021 as the formal, substantive response to the Independent Reviews of Drugs led by Dame Carol Black and accepts all of her key recommendations
- 10-year plan for real change, with an ambition to reduce overall drug use towards a historic 30-year low
- 3 core priorities:
 - break drug supply chains,
 - deliver a world-class treatment and recovery system, and
 - achieve a shift in the demand for recreational drugs
- The plan is supported by record investment of nearly £900 million of dedicated funding over the Spending Review period, taking the total investment over 3 years to £3 billion



National Ambition

By the end of 2024/25 we expect this whole-of-government mission to have:

- Prevented nearly **1,000 deaths drug related deaths**
- **54,500 new high-quality treatment places** – an increase of 20%
- **Prevention of 750,000 crimes** including **140,000 neighbourhood crimes** through the increases in drug treatment
- **Closed over 2,000 more county lines**
- **Delivered 6,400 major and moderate disruptions** – a **20% increase**
- Significantly **increased removal of criminal assets**, taking cash, crypto-currency and other assets from the hands of criminals involved in drug trafficking and supply
- Over the course of the 10-year strategy, we will **reverse the rising trend in drug use**, with an ambition to reduce overall use towards a historic 30-year low.

Break drug supply chains

- targeting the 'middle market' – breaking the ability of gangs to supply drugs wholesale to neighbourhood dealers
- going after the money – disrupting drug gang operations and seizing their cash
- rolling up county lines – bringing perpetrators to justice, safeguarding and supporting victims, and reducing violence and homicide
- tackling the retail market – improving targeting of local drug gangs and street dealing
- restricting the supply of drugs into prisons – applying technology and skills to improve security and detection

Deliver a world-class treatment & recovery system

- delivering world-class treatment and recovery services – strengthening local authority commissioned substance misuse services for both adults and young people, and improving quality, capacity and outcomes
- strengthening the professional workforce – developing and delivering a comprehensive substance misuse workforce strategy
- ensuring better integration of services – making sure that people’s physical and mental health needs are addressed to reduce harm and support recovery, and joining up activity to maximise impact across criminal justice, treatment, broader health and social care, and recovery
- improving access to accommodation alongside treatment – access to quality treatment for everyone sleeping rough, and better support for accessing and maintaining secure and safe housing
- improving employment opportunities – linking employment support and peer support to Jobcentre Plus services
- increasing referrals into treatment in the criminal justice system – specialist drug workers delivering improved outreach and support treatment requirements as part of community sentences so offenders engage in drug treatment
- keeping people engaged in treatment after release from prison – improving engagement of people before they leave prison and ensuring better continuity of care in the community







Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs

- applying tougher and more meaningful consequences – ensuring there are local pathways to identify and change the behaviour of people involved in activities that cause drug-related harm
- delivering school-based prevention and early intervention – ensuring that all pupils receive a co-ordinated and coherent programme of evidence-based interventions to reduce the chances of them using drugs
- supporting young people and families most at risk of substance misuse or criminal exploitation – co-ordinating early, targeted support to reduce harm within families that is sensitive to all the needs of the person or family and seeks to address the root causes of risk

Align local work with strategy and outcomes

National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework

Our ambition: a safer, healthier and more productive society by combating illicit drugs

What we will deliver for citizens (strategic outcomes)	Measured by:
 Reducing drug use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proportion of the population reporting drug use in the last year (reported by age) prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use
 Reducing drug-related crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of drug-related homicides the number of neighbourhood crimes
 Reducing drug-related deaths and harm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> deaths related to drug misuse hospital admissions for drug poisoning and drug-related mental health and behavioural disorders (primary diagnosis of selected drugs)
What will help us deliver this (intermediate outcomes)	Measured by:
 Reducing drug supply	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the number of county lines closed the number of moderate and major disruptions against organised criminals
 Increasing engagement in drug treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the numbers in treatment (both adults and young people, reported by opiate and crack users, other drugs, and alcohol) continuity of care – engagement with treatment within three weeks of leaving prison
 Improving drug recovery outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> the proportion who are in stable accommodation and who have completed treatment, are drug-free in treatment, or have sustained reduction in drug use <p>Key additional components integral to recovery include housing, mental health, and employment</p>

- All work local areas do should be structured around the priorities of the strategy and the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework, and partnerships should be able to report on this
- But note importance of local data sources & sharing

Supporting Metrics for the Outcomes Framework

The Outcomes Framework provides us with a focus for the strategy and is the approach we are taking to monitor progress. We suggest that you consider these as part of your needs assessment.

Reducing Drug Use

- Proportion reporting drug use in the last year
- Prevalence of opiate and/or crack cocaine use
- Homelessness duty owed with a drug dependency need
- Children in need with drugs as a factor
- School exclusions and suspensions that are drug and alcohol related

Reducing Drug-Related Crime

- Number of drug-related homicides
- Number of neighbourhood crimes
- Proven reoffending rates within 12 months
- Drug trafficking and possession
- Hospital admissions for assault with a sharp object

Reducing Drug-Related Harm

- Number of deaths related to drug misuse
- Hospital admissions for drug poisoning and drug-related mental health and behavioural disorders
- Number of deaths in treatment
- Hep C prevalence in those who inject drugs

Provisional and liable to change

Reducing Supply

- Number of County Lines closed
- Number of major and moderate disruptions against organised criminals
- Drug seizures
- Drug purity
- Protecting vulnerable people

Increasing engagement in drug treatment

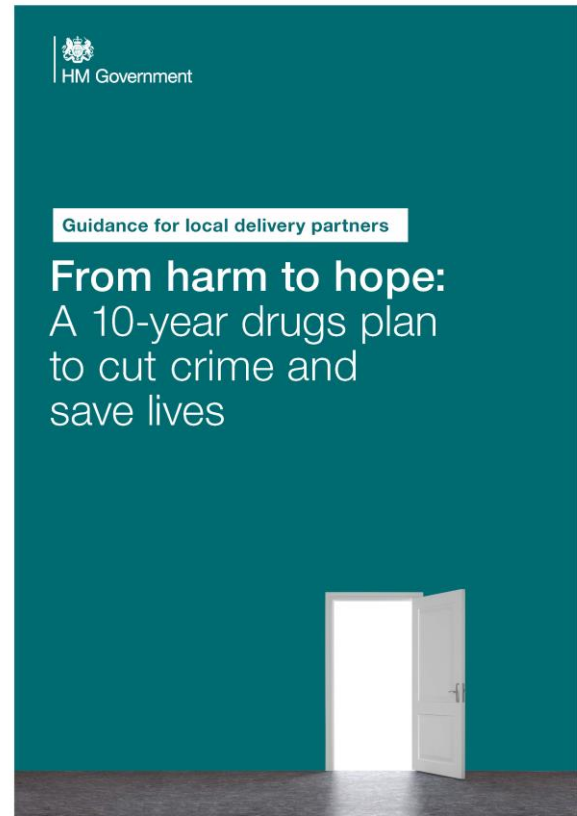
- Numbers in treatment (adults and young people)
- Continuity of care – engagement in treatment within 3 weeks of leaving prison
- Number of community sentence treatment requirements
- Numbers in treatment in prisons

Improving Recovery Outcomes

- Treatment effectiveness measure
- In treatment with stable accommodation
- In treatment and undertaking meaningful activity
- In both drug and mental health treatment where needed

Drugs Strategy guidance for local delivery partners

- Guidance for local delivery partners published 15 June 2022
- Sets out the **National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework** to monitor progress across central government and in local areas towards delivery of the commitments and ambitions of the 10-year drugs strategy to level up the country.
- Identifies key principles and structures to support the formation of **Combating Drugs Partnerships**, asking local areas to:
 - form a **clearly defined partnership** based on a geographical extent that is logical to local residents and consistent with existing relevant arrangements
 - select a **senior responsible owner** (SRO) who can represent the partnership nationally, reporting to central government for its performance, and who can offer challenge and support to local partners to drive improvement and unblock issues when necessary
 - involve **all those people and organisations affected by drugs** in developing joint solutions to these issues



Why local partnerships?

- Drugs is a cross-cutting issue and we need partners across the three priorities of the strategy (supply, demand, treatment/recovery) to work together at a local level
- These three priorities interact and need close coordination to maximise impact and efficiency – including coordinating budgets/spend
- Almost all aspirations of the drug strategy require local delivery (e.g. police forces, local authorities, schools, prisons, probation)
- Dame Carol Black stated that ‘greater co-ordination and accountability at national level must also flow through to the local level’

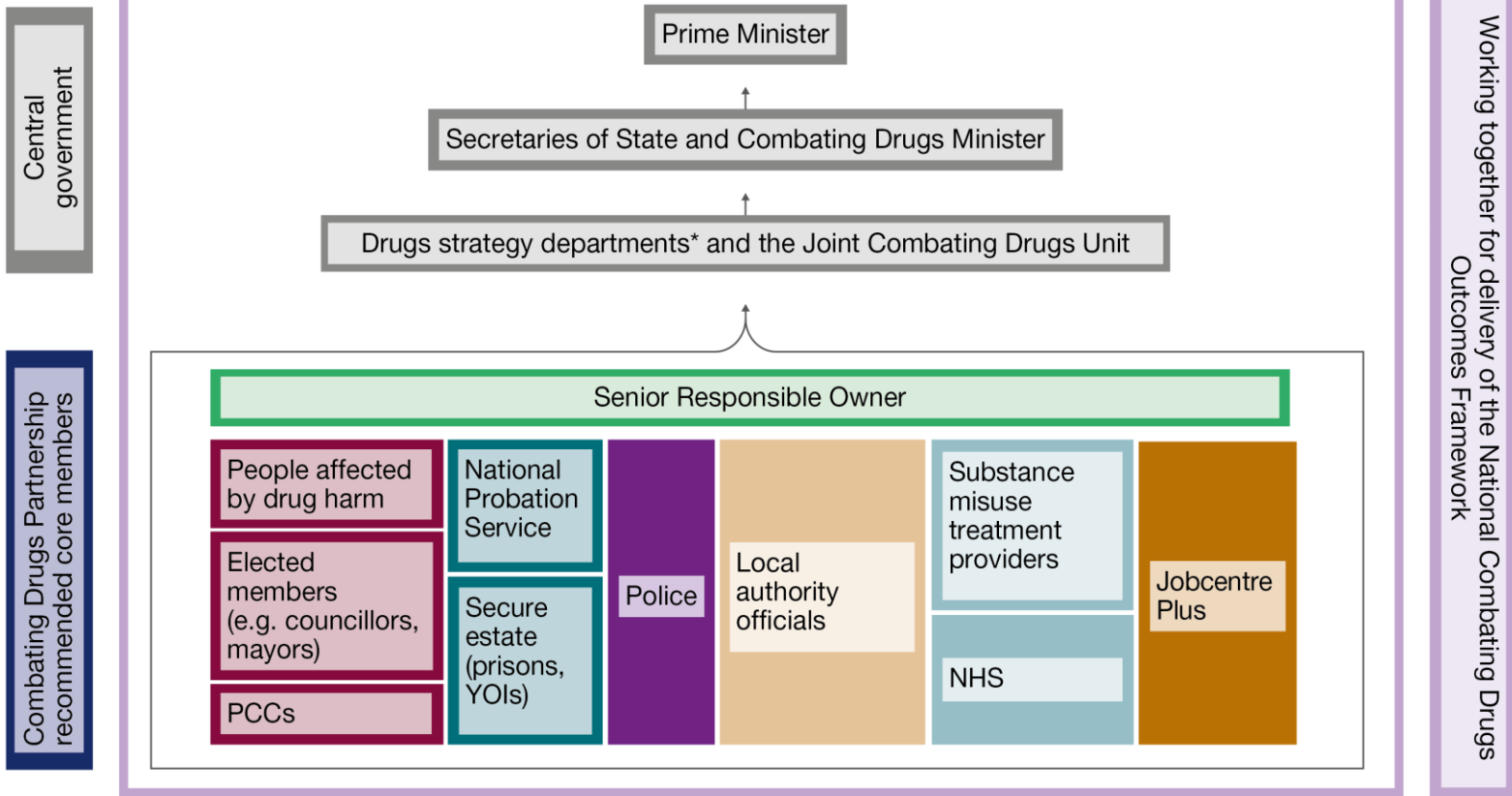
Who's involved?



Other key partners who should be engaged include:

- local schools and other education providers
- higher education
- further education
- housing associations and providers of supported housing and homelessness services
- youth offending teams
- voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) and other community organisations
- coroner's offices
- fire and rescue authorities
- Office for Health Improvement and Disparities regional team

How do CDPs fit with central government?



Senior Responsible Owners (SRO) will have a direct line to government and be a first point of contact to understand local performance.

The Combating Drugs Minister and JCDU will **hold SROs to account for local cross-system performance tracked against the National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework** while departments will retain oversight of their delivery partners and specific programmes.

This offers a **new blueprint** for local accountability – we will track the effectiveness of different models against delivery of better outcomes.

Key: External | MoJ sector | Home Office sector | DLUHC sector | DHSC sector | DWP sector

*Home Office, DHSC, MoJ, DLUHC, DWP, DfE

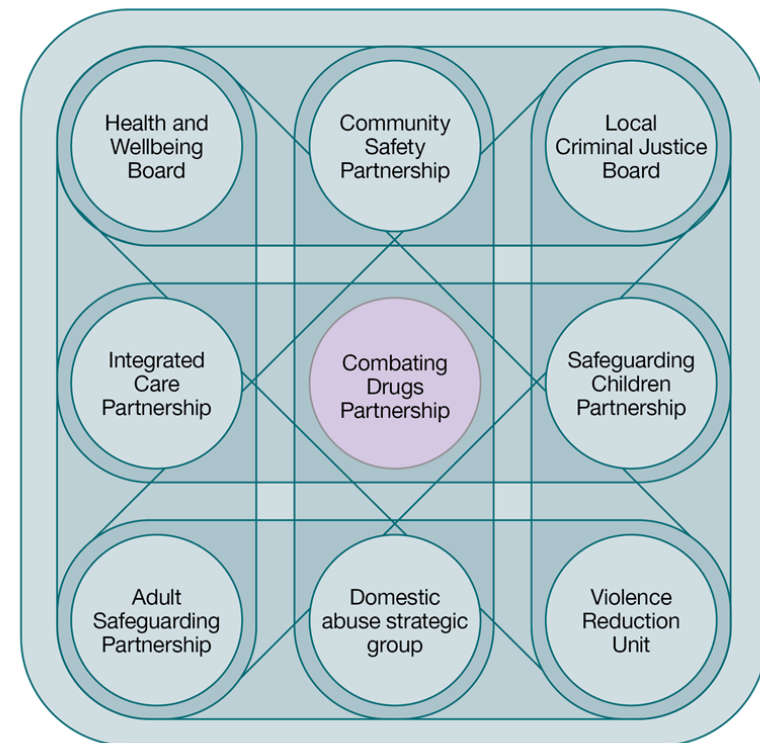


Why a new structure?

- Existing groups and boards are unlikely to feature **all the core members** as a matter of course
- Drugs as a cross-cutting issue is unlikely to gain **sufficient detailed attention** via a wider forum
- There are **gaps in the current system** of governance and decision-making that need to be addressed, e.g. coordination across different local authority areas with health, police, or other criminal justice partners

But:

- This doesn't replace key existing structures, and there may be some areas where dedicated partnerships have already been established or where an existing structure (e.g. VRU, ADDER) could be modified to cover the functions that of a Combating Drugs Partnership.



What about alcohol?

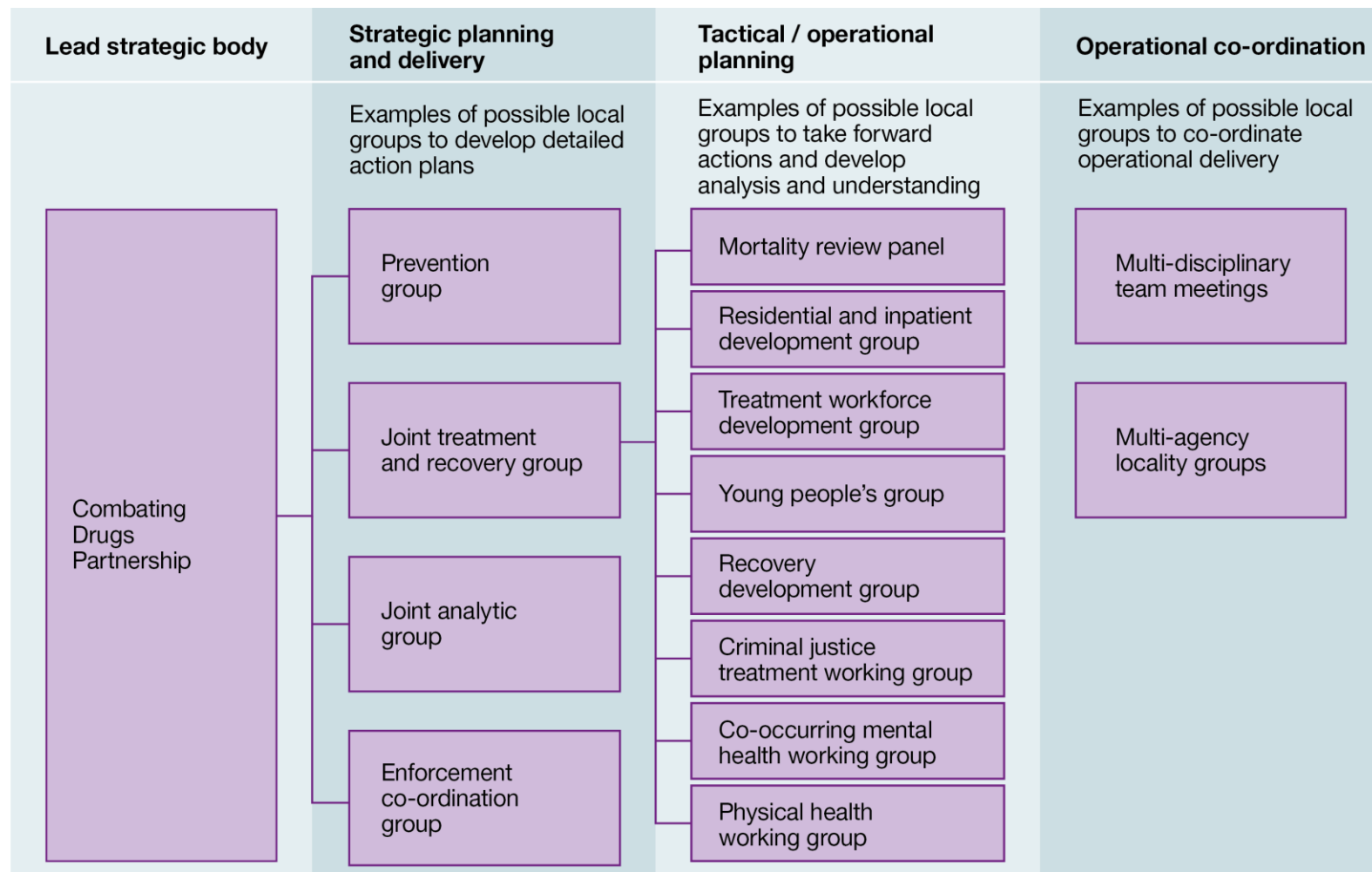
- Note the connections between alcohol and other drugs:
 - Alcohol is a factor in many drug-related deaths alongside drugs including heroin and methadone.
 - Drugs such as cocaine and MDMA are frequently used alongside alcohol in the night-time economy
 - Specialist treatment and recovery services also tend to be integrated for alcohol and other drugs.
- Partnerships should therefore ensure that their plans sufficiently address alcohol dependence and wider alcohol-related harms
- Areas may find that this requirement is best met by having a dedicated partnership meeting that covers issues related to both alcohol and other drugs.

Lived experience

- Essential to involve people who have experience of drug-related harm, including people who use (or have used) drugs, their family members, family members of those who have died or been killed as a result of involvement in drugs, local residents or businesses affected by drug-related harm
- Ensure there is resource dedicated to supporting people to get involved in these processes, including financial assistance
- Consider representation, diversity and inclusion, acknowledging the variety of social, cultural, faith-based and spiritual perspectives people will have
- Lived experience recovery organisations (LEROs) are invaluable for involving those with lived experience of substance use and recovery, so where LEROs don't already exist please help create and sustain them

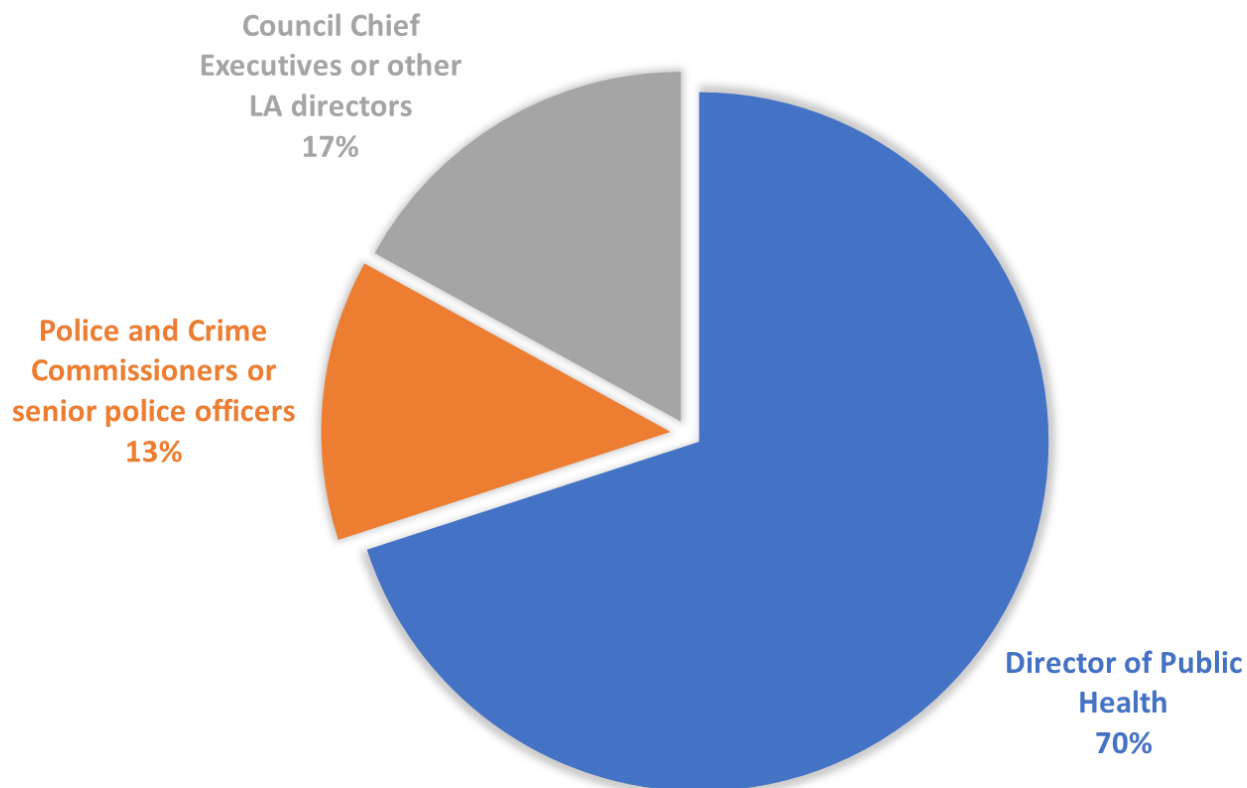
Use of sub-groups

Work with partners should take place at a number of different levels and across different geographies as required



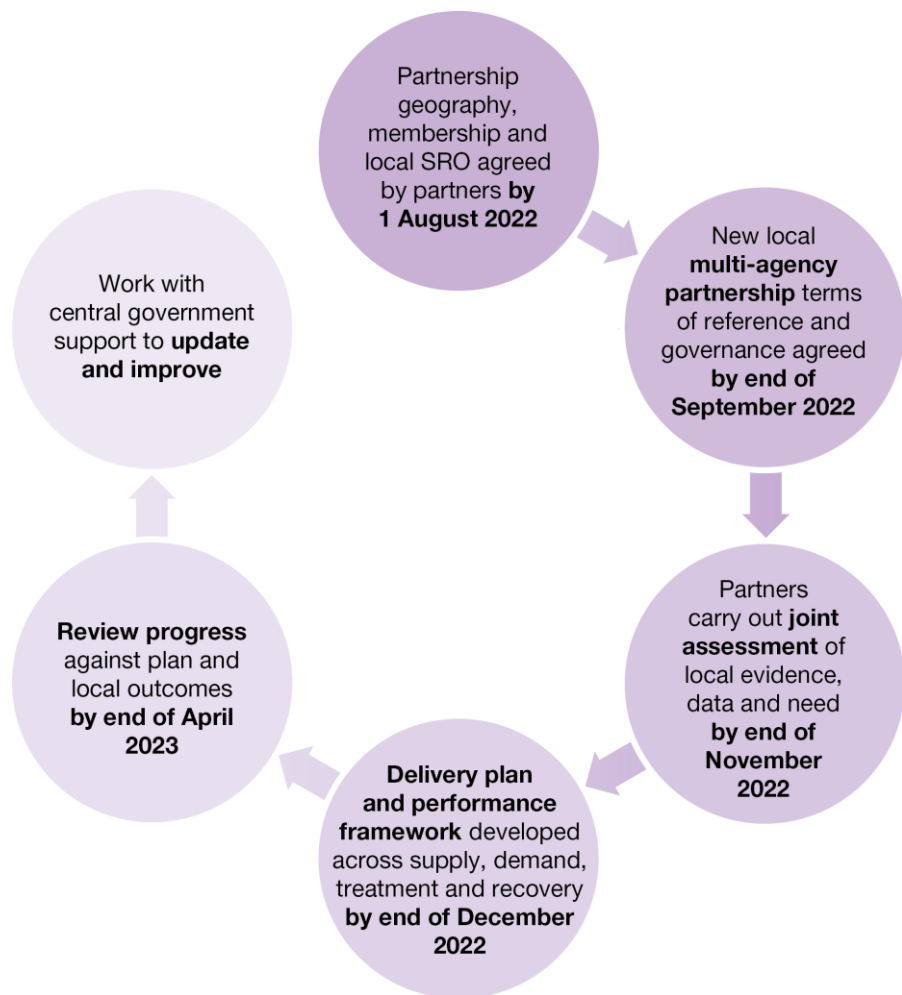
Combating Drugs Partnership SROs

COMBATING DRUGS PARTNERSHIPS SRO'S



- Local areas have **responded positively** to the ask for nominating SROs. The feedback indicates a real enthusiasm for making Combating Drugs Partnerships a success.
- **Every local authority in England has been accounted for** in the partnership information returned and we now have a full picture of partnership geography and **nominated SROs for 104 partnership areas in England.**
- Around **half of police forces in England each have a single partnership**, including key areas such as Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Northumbria, Cleveland and West Midlands.
- Variation in arrangements offers an **opportunity to evaluate and learn** for future iterations of guidance.

CDP deliverables



A continuous process of planning and improvement to support join-up

Terms of reference: governance, attendance, scope, route to resolve any disagreements and manage risk

Needs assessment: a single, agreed picture of local need in relation to drugs

Delivery plan: plans to deliver the drugs strategy and address the issues identified in the needs assessment

Progress review: communicating with the public, taking stock of progress towards outcomes, focused on joined up delivery

Central support for partnerships

- We are **not currently planning to ask partnerships to submit** terms of reference, needs assessments or action plans to us as a matter of course.
- We expect to **regularly check with partnerships on progress** and support needs, and may **review relevant documents and plans**
- We're working on plans for **a network** for SROs and those involved in supporting local partnerships
- We have recently run a **self-assessment** for local partnerships to gauge their progress and guide us in developing support for local areas, while providing assurance to central government

Possible issues to discuss

- How aware of CDPs are you?
- How have you been involved?
- What are your initial reflections on how they're working?
- What are your issues / priorities? How might CDPs help you address / achieve them?
- To what extent have substance misuse and co-occurring conditions been included in integrated care strategies? Are there opportunities to influence future strategies?
- How can we support collaborative working between ICBs, Trusts, LAs and CDPs to deliver integrated services?

Questions?

Contact: William.Haydock@combatingdrugs.gov.uk