

Southend Health & Wellbeing Board

Agenda
Item No.

Report of the Director of Public Protection

To
Health & Wellbeing Board

on
18th September 2019

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Practitioner Advanced

For information only	X	For discussion		Approval required	
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Southend Tackling Harmful Behaviours Strategy

Part 1 (Public Agenda Item)

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To introduce to the board the Southend Tackling Harmful Behaviours Strategy, this strategy sets out our ambitions to reduce the impact of smoking, alcohol, substance misuse and gambling in the Borough.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the strategy (Appendix 1). An update paper will be presented at a future meeting to report of progress in delivery of the strategy, including future challenges and opportunities.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Tackling Harmful Behaviours strategy has been developed in response to an evaluation of the previous Tobacco Control Strategy and the previous Drug, Alcohol and Problem Gambling strategy. The evaluation found that whilst positive progress had been made on each topic in isolation there were some opportunities missed by not taking a more holistic and collaborative approach to addressing these harmful behaviours.
- 3.2 Taking a single strategic approach to tackling these harmful behaviours locally has synergy with recommendations from Royal Society of Public Health and Faculty of Public Health¹. Taking a single approach will increase efficiency and improve collaboration between services, addresses the cross-cutting issues of addiction and substance misuse.

- 3.3 The strategy has been developed by a group of officers from Public Health, Regulatory Services, Community Safety, Drug and Alcohol Commissioning Team, Housing and Social Inclusion and Youth Offending Service. In the development of the strategy a wide range of relevant external partners were consulted including voluntary sector organisations.

4. The Strategic Approach

- 4.1 The strategy outlines an approach that works across five domains to tackle harmful behaviours, these are:

- Reducing demand
- Restricting supply
- Strengthening the treatment and recovery offer by driving collaboration and reducing fragmentation
- Ensuring an appropriately trained workforce to enable early identification
- Improving data quality and collection

Taking an evidence-based approach to working across these domains will ensure fewer people adopt harmful behaviours reduce harm in those who are already engaged with harmful behaviours through increased support and reduced stigma for everyone affected by harmful behaviours.

5. Reasons for Recommendations

- 5.1 The collaborative approach required to deliver this strategy will need engagement across the system. The strategy delivery will also support the work of the Southend Community Safety Partnership and Southend's Safeguarding Boards.

6. Corporate Implications

- 6.1 Contribution to the Southend 2050 Road Map

The strategy contributes to the Southend 2050 ambition across all five themes, further information is detailed in the strategy's forward.

- 6.2 Financial Implications

Whilst the strategy does not raise an immediate financial implication the inclusion of gambling and work to understand the impact of problem gambling within Southend may require additional resource or re-alignment of resource to address this challenge for the population. Development of a JSNA product around harmful behaviours is planned for development.

- 6.3 Legal Implications

The strategy will inform future development of various regulatory responsibilities of the Council. Changes to these policies enable appropriate and proportionate

restrictions to the availability of alcohol and gambling as well having the potential to improve our response as a local system to illicit tobacco and drugs.

6.4 People Implications

The strategy intends to influence a more collaborative approach to tackling harmful behaviours in the local population, this should result in closer working between Council officers from different teams and closer working with other key stakeholders such as the Police and Job Centre Plus staff.

6.5 Property Implications

None

6.6 Consultation

The strategy has been developed with input from SBC teams and external partners. At the initial development stage we also had engagement from the voluntary sector in collaboration with SAVS.

6.7 Equalities and Diversity Implications

An initial Equality Analysis for the Strategy has been completed. Any further changes to services or approaches in response to this strategy will require further Equality Analysis to inform approaches.

6.8 Risk Assessment

Any changes to services or approaches in response to this strategy will require appropriate Risk Assessment

6.9 Value for Money

The proposed approach ensures a more efficient way of working and the opportunity to generate savings to the wider local economy in the longer term.

6.10 Community Safety Implications

This strategy and associated action plan aims to reduce the impact of harmful behaviours many of which have significant implications for community safety, these include but are not limited to illicit tobacco, alcohol related violent crime and illicit drug misuse.

6.11 Environmental Impact

This strategy and associated action plan will help reduce litter associated with smoking and alcohol consumption.

7. Appendices

7.1 Tackling Harmful Behaviours Strategy



Tackling Harmful
Behaviours Strategy |

8. References

- 8.1 Royal Society of Public Health 2018 Taking a New Line on Drugs [online] available at <https://www.rsph.org.uk/uploads/assets/uploaded/68d93cdc-292c-4a7b-babfc0a8ee252bc0.pdf>