

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel was held on Thursday, 4th March, 2021.

Present: Cllr Tony Riordan (Chair), Cllr Graham Cutler (Vice-Chair), Cllr Lee Cartwright, Cllr Barrie Cooper, Cllr Stefan Houghton, Cllr Chris Jones, Mr Paul McGrath, Cllr Steve Nelson, Mayor Andy Preston, Cllr Carl Quartermain, Mr Luigi Salvati and Cllr Norma Stephenson O.B.E.

Officers: Gary Woods, Peter Bell, Nigel Hart, Gareth Aungiers (Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council).

Also in attendance: Lisa Oldroyd (Acting Police and Crime Commissioner), Elise Pout, Rachelle Kipling, Hannah Smith (Commissioner's Office), Chief Constable Richard Lewis, Daniel Ahmed (Cleveland Police), Professor Tammi Walker, Hannah Poulter, Dr Helen Moore (Teesside University), Client (HAT Programme).

Apologies: Cllr Matthew Storey.

PCP 57/20 **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Norma Stephenson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 4 - Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) Programme - Evaluation Feedback as her son worked for one of the partners that deliver the HAT Programme.

PCP 58/20 **Minutes and Attendance Matrix**

Consideration was given to the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021.

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 2 February 2021 be agreed as a correct record.

PCP 59/20 **Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) Programme - Evaluation Feedback**

The Panel received a presentation on Heroin Assisted Treatment (HAT) Programme - Evaluation Feedback. The presentation covered the following key areas:-

- Introduction Evaluation and Impact Team
- Project outline
- Background to evaluation
- Objectives
- Methodology
- Results and early findings including:-
 - Engagement and retention
 - Street drug usage
 - Biopsychosocial outcomes
 - Crime
 - Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the pilot
 - Early findings were HAT is likely associated with substantial behaviour change and psychosocial stabilisation:
 - substantial reduction of the consumption of street heroin for most people
 - reduction of risky injecting practices
 - improvements in self-reported physical and psychological health indicators

- reductions in homelessness
- reductions in criminal behaviour and associated costs
- All of these benefits delivered within an uncertain backdrop of a global public health crisis
- Limitations were:-
- Low sample size, affects the confidence around the results and prohibits statistical testing
- No comparative control group, due to ethical and funding restrictions
- No face to face contact with participants

A client from the HAT Programme was in attendance at the meeting and made the following comments with regard his journey with heroin addiction and the HAT Programme:-

- Started using drugs at 16 years old and used crime to fund his drug use.
- Introduced to heroin while in prison.
- Shoplifting was his main source of income to fund his heroin addiction.
- Lived in very poor living accommodation.
- Started the HAT Programme in November 2019 and it has given him a totally different option and now would like to lead a normal everyday life. He hasn't been involved with crime since he started the HAT Programme.
- Himself and his partner have now completed the HAT Programme and they now have better living accommodation and his life had never been better. This was down to the overall support that the HAT Programme provided.

The Panel was given the opportunity to discuss the presentation. The key points of the discussion were as follows:-

- Heroin addicts should be looked at victims rather than criminals. The process for setting up a HAT Programme in the Redcar and Cleveland Borough had been looked and was extremely complicated.
- The HAT Programme had proved value for money and because less crimes were being committed there were less victims of crime.
- The Cleveland Police Force area could be pivotal in the leading the country with other HAT Programmes.
- HAT Programmes should be rolled out into other areas. If the HAT Programme is stopped it would be devastating for the clients that were involved in the process.
- The HAT Programme is not a 'catch all' for all heroin users. It is used when other interventions haven't worked. The figure would be around 5-10% of heroin users who would be suitable for consideration for the HAT Programme.
- The client hadn't received any pressure from drug dealers to try to get him to start using again. More users would come forward to be included in the HAT Programme as word spread of its success.
- The HAT Programme should be continued once the current funding had finished.
- The final report of the evaluation would be published around the end of March and a separate pilot study scientific document was also being prepared and would be available in 3-6 months.
- A national conversation had started about using the proceeds of crime to fund initiatives like the HAT Programme.
- The HAT Programme had saw and continued to see clients break their relationship with street heroin. There hadn't been any influx of individuals to

Middlesbrough to access the HAT Programme, this was a misnomer that had been seen in some press coverage. The HAT Programme requires some extreme commitment.

- The cost of the HAT Programme for the 12 months (October 2020 – September 2021) was £283k. One of the most significant costs was the medication, this cost fluctuates in the market. The cost benefits of the HAT Programme were substantial.

- If other centres were set up for the HAT Programme in other Borough areas within the Cleveland, the providers would need to look at issues around having all the other wrap around services in one location as they did in Middlesbrough. The cost would be elevated because of this issue, another way of providing the HAT Programme in other areas of Cleveland would be to use the Glasgow model in that a travel service would be provided to bring clients into one location, this would be a financially smarter way of widening the geographical area of the HAT Programme.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The presentation be received.
2. The comments made by the Panel be noted.

PCP 60/20 Commissioners Update

The last meeting of the Police and Crime Panel was held on 2 February 2021. As a result the Panel was provided with a holistic PCC update including:

- Activity against the Police and Crime Plan since the last reporting period
- Overview of decisions made by the Acting PCC since the last reporting period.

There has been no formal scrutiny meeting since the last meeting, with the next one taking place on 17 March 2021.

The report covered the following key areas:-

Investing in Our Police

A Better Deal for Victims & Witnesses

Tackling Offending and Reoffending

Working Together to Make Cleveland Safer/Securing the Future of Our Communities

Transparency Quality Mark

Summary of Decisions made by the Acting PCC (from February 2021 to date)

A member raised a question around the scrutiny programme priorities and its links to the HMICFRS inspection update. In response it was noted a new scrutiny programme would be developed with the approval of the new Commissioner who would be elected in May 2021. A visual schematic of the on-going work and future work would be provided to members of the Panel.

It was noted that the recent Safer Streets - Newport had been a success,

Cleveland Police and the Street Wardens were providing a fast response to any incidents. The APCC reported that they would be linking in with local authorities when the next round of funding becomes available.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

**PCP
61/20**

Forward Plan

Consideration was given to the Forward Plan.

RESOLVED that the Forward Plan be noted.