

To: Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Oversight Group

On: 9 October 2019

Report by:

Head of Policy and Commissioning, Renfrewshire Council

TITLE:

RENFREWSHIRE ALCOHOL AND DRUGS COMMISSION

1. Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an update to the Community Planning Partnership Oversight Group on the progress of the Alcohol and Drugs Commission in Renfrewshire.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership Oversight Group:
- Notes the work undertaken to date to establish the Commission
 - Notes that regular updates on the work of the Commission will be provided to members of the group, with initial recommendations being reported in early 2020.

3. Background

- 3.1 The concept of the establishment of an Alcohol and Drugs Commission was generated through the development of the Community Plan in 2017. Partners considered data relating to drug related deaths and alcohol related hospital admissions and felt that these statistics were only part of the story, as there are clearly many more individuals, families and communities impacted by alcohol and drug use in Renfrewshire on a daily basis.
- 3.2 The partnership recognised that there are a range of services and groups and organisations which support individuals and families affected by drug and alcohol use locally. However, as a community planning partnership, there is a clear commitment to establishing a true picture of the impact in Renfrewshire and to better understand implications in terms of homelessness, adverse childhood experiences, criminal justice, mental health and addiction services for example.

4. Establishment of Renfrewshire Alcohol and Drug Commission

- 4.1 Significant work has been undertaken to establish the Commission. The first and perhaps critical element has been the recruitment of Commission members, a process which has been exceptionally successful.
- 4.2 In December 2018, full Council agreed that the Commission would be chaired by Councillor Jacqueline Cameron. The Commission will also be supported by Professor Phil Hanlon as an external facilitator. Professor Hanlon is currently chair of the Accord Hospice and is a retired public health professional.
- 4.3 The wider membership of the Commission is comprised as follows:
- * Karen McCluskey Community Justice Scotland
 - * Dave Liddell OBE, Scottish Drugs Forum, Chief Executive
 - * Alison Douglas, Alcohol Focus Scotland
 - * Dr Saket Priyadarshi, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Associate Medical Director
 - * Dr Carole Hunter, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Lead Pharmacist, Addiction Services
 - * Linda de Caestecker, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Director of Public Health
 - * Catriona Mathieson, University of Stirling and Drug Research Network Scotland
 - * Neil Hunter, Scottish Children's Reporter Administration (SCRA)
 - * Jardine Simpson, Scottish Recovery Consortium
 - * Justina Murray, Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs, Chief Executive Officer
 - * John Goldie, Retired professional
 - * Alan McNiven Engage Renfrewshire, Chief Executive
 - * Alan Murray - Police Scotland
 - * Andrew Horne, Addaction
 - * Fiona Stringfellow, Chief Executive, Blue Triangle
 - * Jennifer David, Director, CELSIS
- 4.4 At the inaugural meeting of the Alcohol and Drugs Commission, commission members heard presentations on:
- Renfrewshire, its place and its people;
 - The high level data which is currently available in terms of drug and alcohol use in Renfrewshire; and
 - An overview of local addiction services, with a particular focus on the outcome of recent review of services.

4.5 A significant element of the meeting was discussion on the work programme of the Commission. Commission members discussed the information provided and the initial aim of the Commission as agreed by Renfrewshire Community Planning Partnership - **“to assess the true impact of drug and alcohol use in Renfrewshire and to identify levers for change by which partners can improve outcomes”**.

An initial work programme was proposed around the Community Plan themes: - Well, Safe, Thriving and Fair. Commission members felt the proposed scope was potentially too broad. Through positive discussion, a number of key points emerged:

- Members were enthusiastic about the opportunity the Commission presented.
- Commission members felt that the Commission should be outcome focused and think big, particularly around recovery and what community planning partners could do together. It was noted that there is a possibility of being a national leader in this regard.
- There was consensus that the Commission should not narrow its focus to consider drug related deaths alone, however this must be a key priority given rising the rising number of deaths and particular issues of local supply relating to Etizolam.
- For community planning partners, it will be important to look at what is collectively being done to support people with the highest level of needs and to consider whether resources are in right place and are available at the right time?
- Prevention and early intervention are key areas which the Commission identified for further exploration, particularly as these are key areas which partners have some locus in relation to e.g. public health, stigma, cultural views, education and learning, views of children and young people.
- There was consensus that alcohol must be a key area of focus. Particular opportunities were identified in relation to culture, public health, licensing. Through discussion it was clear that in terms of alcohol in particular, there was a need to look across all age groups and socio economic characteristics.

4.6 On 22 May 2019, the commission met for a second time and agreed the terms of reference which included a re-defined aim:

:- to establish a **true picture** of drug and alcohol use in Renfrewshire, and to make recommendations on **what partners can do together** to support local people and communities adversely affected by drug and alcohol use and **to improve life outcomes**.

Also agreed at this meeting was the following programme of work:



Commission timetable

- 25 June 2019 – Supporting those with highest need/suffering most severe disadvantage
- 23 August 2019 – Special meeting to focus on drug related deaths in Renfrewshire
- 3 September 2019 – Prevention and early intervention
- 7 November 2019 - Recovery
- 6 December 2019 – Wrap up session
- 28 January 2020 – Consolidation session

- 4.7 In advance of each meeting, careful consideration is given to: gathering and presenting further evidence; sharing examples of best practices from the UK and abroad; and considering if there are any experts who can share their knowledge and experience with the commission.
- 4.8 Laura McIntyre, Head of Policy and Commissioning, Chief Executive's Service, Renfrewshire Council, will continue to lead on the development and co-ordination of the Commission and will be supported by members of her policy team. Together, they will work closely with the Chair of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and with colleagues in the HSCP and other agencies to ensure there is strong ongoing communication in terms of the direction of the Commission.
- 4.9 It is intended that recommendations from the Commission's work will be reported to the Community Planning Partnership Oversight Group in early 2020.

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