

Substance Behaviour Harm Reduction Partnership

Update for HWB Steering Group
August 2024

Membership

The S&BHRP includes the following members. Membership is regularly under review.

- West Berkshire Council - Public Health and Wellbeing (Chair)
- West Berkshire Council – Building Communities Together Team
- West Berkshire Council – Housing
- West Berkshire Council - Health in Schools Co-ordinator
- West Berkshire Council – Adult Social Care
- West Berkshire Council – Children’s Services
- Public Protection Partnership
- Thames Valley Police
- National Probation Service
- Education
- Combatting Drugs Partnership
- Berkshire West Tobacco Control Alliance
- BOB ICB
- Community Alcohol Partnership
- Solutions 4 Health
- Health Watch West Berkshire
- Berkshire Healthcare Foundation Trust
- VIA
- Soup Kitchen
- Berkshire Women’s Aid
- Two Saints
- Sovereign Housing
- South Central Ambulance Service
- Service user
- Community Wellness Outreach

Current Activity

The last meeting of the partnership took place on 17th July 2024.

The S&BHRP plan has been drawn up. It is a ‘live’ document with progress on actions and additional actions to be added if required at each meeting

Nitazene within Class A drugs continues to be a concern across West Berkshire. The local plan remains in draft awaiting DPH sign off. Via continue to provide two Naloxone kits as standard to service users.

Illegal vapes are being brought into Prospect Park by patients. Comms has been sent out across Prospect Park on how to spot an illegal vs legal vape. In addition, it has been requested that should a patient advise where the illegal vape was from that this intel is submitted to Trading Standards.

Intel was brought to the meeting regarding concerns that members of the homeless community are being recruited into county lines activity. These concerns are being brought to the attention of the Deputy LPA Commander.

Concerns were raised in regard to nicotine pouches often referred to as 'snus' or 'white snus' and their potential use amongst children. These are not regulated, or age restricted so can be sold by and purchased by anyone. They can contain high levels of nicotine and are being promoted by footballers and social media influencers across various social media platforms. Producers of nicotine pouches are currently making requests to undertake promotions of the product within town and city centres. The PPP has shown an interest in being involved in a project relating to nicotine pouches being coordinated through Trading Standards South East.

Lambourn Junction CIC have expressed concerns regarding a substance abuse issue within the Lambourn Valley, which they are keen to address through a collaborative approach. A meeting with all relevant partners is due to be scheduled to take place in September, to which a number of the S&BHRP will be invited.

Harm reduction plans are being finalised for Reading festival. Drug testing facilities are anticipated to be on sight, and working with RBC coordinated comms will be delivered targeting three key issues; needle sticks assaults, sexual assaults and violence against women and girls.

It has been brought to the partnerships attention that the Drugs in Schools policy is not being utilised within schools. Meetings have been set up with schools and professionals involved with the delivery of the policy to review and relaunch at the beginning of the new academic year.

Future Actions

- Local Plan for Nitazene will be shared once finalised.
- PPP's Senior Officer -Community Protection and Health will be briefing secondary schools Senior Leadership Teams, Designated Safeguarding Leads & PSHE leads in regard to nicotine pouches to raise awareness.
- Share schools attitudinal results report and action plan
- Review and relaunch the Drugs in Schools policy