



ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

16TH NOVEMBER 2021

REPORT TITLE:	WIRRAL ADDER (ADDICTION, DIVERSION, DISRUPTION, ENFORCEMENT AND RECOVERY) ACCELERATOR PROGRAMME UPDATE
REPORT OF:	DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

REPORT SUMMARY

This report provides the Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee with an update on progress in delivery of the Wirral ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) Accelerator programme.

The proposed actions affect all wards within the borough.

The decisions requested are not key decisions.

RECOMMENDATION/S

The Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee is recommended to note the contents of the report on the progress made in delivering the Wirral ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) Accelerator programme.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1.1 Delivery of the ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) Accelerator programme will strengthen local capacity to reduce drug related deaths, hospital admissions and drug related offending.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 2.1 Other options were considered in relation to developing the Wirral ADDER Delivery Plan and interventions to be delivered. The Wirral ADDER Programme Delivery Plan was agreed upon by the multi-agency Wirral ADDER steering group following review of local intelligence and consultation with a wide range of partners. The delivery plan was reviewed and agreed by Government colleagues in the Home Office and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (previously Public Health England).

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In January 2021, the government announced an additional £148 million funding to reduce drug-related crime and health harm. This included an announcement of further funding for Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery), a joint Home Office, Department for Health and Social Care and Public Health England programme.
- 3.2 Wirral was selected as one of eight additional sites as part of an expansion of Project ADDER from the original 5 sites. These additional sites, which are called Project ADDER Accelerators, build on the ADDER model by providing investment to participating areas with focused support from across Government for those leaving prison, people experiencing homelessness and recovery support around employment. Wirral was selected to be a Project ADDER Accelerator site based-on consideration of key indicators including high-levels of drug-related deaths and drug related offending. Clear aims and objectives for the ADDER Accelerator programme have been set out by the Home Office and Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (previously Public Health England), along with key performance metrics, these are outlined in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 A report was brought to committee in September 2021 and approval was given to the planned proposals for spending the £2.8million ADDER/Accelerator Programme grant funding over the two-year period (2021-2023). This report provides the committee with an update on progress made to date on implementation of the agreed delivery plan.
- 3.4 Progress to date has been made related to the following interventions:

Increased staff capacity, supporting case work, outreach work, and in-reach work

Funding allocated: £255k per annum.

Recruitment of seven additional staff by Wirral Ways to Recovery to strengthen engagement with vulnerable problematic drug users through increasing the capacity in a dedicated team of clinical and non-clinical staff.

Improved Links and Engagement with Primary and Secondary Health Care

Funding allocated: £260k per annum.

- Development of Specialist GP clinics within drug treatment hubs – weekly GP sessions and specialist prescribing nurse
- Successfully recruited two additional health connectors within Wirral Ways to Recovery to strengthen links and engagement with primary care and wider health services
- Recruitment of a specialist mental health nurse to work with the drug treatment service; One post to be recruited by Cheshire and Wirral partnership NHS Foundation Trust (CWP)
- Additional specialist respiratory nurse capacity provided by Wirral University Teaching Hospital to provide respiratory clinics within drug treatment hubs, clinics commenced week commencing 11th October 2021.

Enhanced partnership work with Community Pharmacies

Funding allocated: £154k per annum.

Planning underway to establish an extended function with selected community pharmacists who have expressed an interest in working more closely with the specialist drug service. This will consist of three posts working across community pharmacies and Wirral Ways to Recovery.

Support provided through community pharmacy will include the following:

- Enhanced Needle Exchanges, including additional training for teams.
- Naloxone provision (an emergency medication that can reverse the effects of an overdose of opioids like heroin or methadone).
- Vaccination e.g., Flu, COVID
- Assessing Safeguarding Risks - Children, domestic violence, security & safe storage of meds Safe disposal of containers / medication waste.
- General Welfare Check: Hygiene, Oral Health, Demeanour, Presentation, Female health
- Checks on Health, which could include Lifestyle questions and advice, BP measurement, Diabetes screening and early detection, cholesterol monitoring, medication reviews, COPD Review
- Smoking cessation advice and/or supply

Enhanced Naloxone Provision

Funding: £52k per annum.

Funding will enable the recruitment of a naloxone co-ordinator by Wirral Ways to Recovery and purchase of additional naloxone supply.

Naloxone is a medication used to block the effects of opioids. It is commonly used to counter the effects of opioid overdose, Naloxone is useful in treating both acute opioid overdose and respiratory or mental depression due to opioid use. It is now included as a part of emergency overdose response kits which are now being increasingly distributed to heroin and other opioid drug users, and to emergency responders. This has been shown to reduce rates of deaths due to overdose.

The funding will:

- Increase the provision of naloxone through the creation of post to deliver a peer naloxone distribution service, that also links in with increased provision in pharmacies.
- Support the implementation of a Police Naloxone programme (to be agreed).

Housing support workers

Funding: £54k per annum.

Provision of two additional workers within Wirral Ways to Recovery who will work closely with registered social landlords and housing support services to support drug service clients to maintain a stable lifestyle in their accommodation, as a key element of a recovery journey towards independent living.

Criminal Justice linked work

Funding allocated: £216k per annum.

- Two additional posts within Wirral Ways to Recovery to increase capacity for collaboration and joint working arrangements with Liaison and Diversion schemes, Courts, and the Probation Service, to increase the number or community sentence treatment requirements (CSTR) and support improved engagement in treatment and compliance by individuals on court mandated orders.
- An additional staff member within Wirral Ways to Recovery to support increased diversion into treatment through greater custody cell engagement and court support, including opportunities to influence / advise on sentencing decisions and enrol people into treatment at key points/times of high level of motivation on the criminal justice pathway.
- Strengthen Through The Gate (TTG) prison services, improving engagement with treatment and support services after release from custodial sentences. Two additional posts, one within Wirral Ways to Recovery and one based with Tomorrow's Women Wirral. These workers will provide specialist support to assessment for criminal justice service users, improving engagement with treatment and reducing the risk of disengagement and harm. Also, the recruitment of a drug treatment Groupworker to connect with Probation services, enhancing the criminal justice offer and supporting the reducing re-offending pathway.

Additional Residential Rehab capacity

Funding allocated: £119k per annum.

Increased funding available to place vulnerable service users in residential rehabilitation placements, including as an option for drug users on the criminal justice pathway.

Additional capacity to prescribe the Buvidal maintenance option

Funding allocated: £40k per annum.

Buvidal is a new preparation of Buprenorphine, which is a substitute medication used to treat and manage opioid dependency. Buvidal is manufactured as a prolonged-release medication, administered as a weekly or monthly subcutaneous injection, and must be given by a healthcare professional. It is approved for treating opioid dependence in adults and young people aged 16 years and over within a framework of medical, social and psychological treatment and is seen to be a useful alternative option to daily administered substitute drugs, offering an opportunity to get away from a habit of daily drug use, reduce the prominence that the substitute medication has in daily routines, and support greater independence as part of a person's recovery plan.

Funding will be utilised to make Buvidal available locally as a treatment option. This treatment option will be offered as an option to suitable candidates to initiate a treatment regime prior to release from custodial sentences and to support continuity of care when back in the community. It will also be offered to service users who are stable and well established on oral maintenance as a step towards stopping their dependence.

Enhance links to social care, particularly Children and Young People's services and family services

Funding allocated: £114k per annum.

- Improve treatment options for young people, by recruitment to a "Z drugs" specialist post within Wirral Ways to Recovery. "Z drugs" refer to prescribed medications used for the treatment of sleep problems, they are known as Z-drugs as many of them begin with the letter "z" e.g., zopiclone. This specialist post will offer training opportunities for Wirral services to improve knowledge of Z drugs and treatment options:
- Recruitment of an additional post within Wirral ways to Recovery focused on drug using families with children who are engaged with the criminal justice system
- Recruitment of an additional post to work with the families of those associated with substance misuse. This will support a whole family approach, developing opportunities for families to come together to address the issues of a family member, and will connect with social prescribing. Family workshop events will be provided, website development will take place, and the 24-hour helpline provision will be strengthened.

Increased system commissioning, project management and data analysis capacity

Funding allocated: £136k per annum.

- Recruitment of additional Project Management and data analysis capacity within Wirral Ways to Recovery to support the effective mobilisation, performance monitoring, data analysis, and delivery of outputs and outcomes for this substantial programme. This post will support programme evaluation to ensure that the learning offered by this programme is integrated into service delivery.
- Recruitment of additional programme management capacity within the Wirral Council Public Health team to act as a system co-ordinator, ensuring this time limited programme is delivered effectively and efficiently.

3.5 **Joint work with Merseyside Police**

As part of the ADDER programme Merseyside Police have received £1.6million. This is to support their operations across the three ADDER areas in Merseyside: Wirral, Liverpool, and Knowsley. The ADDER programme is strengthening joint working between Merseyside Police, Wirral Ways to Recovery and local programme partners, this has included developing of joint training, strengthening of referral pathways between agencies and outreach work.

Merseyside Police are using ADDER funding across the following activity:

Investigations

- Specialist training to tackle Organised Crime Groups
- Increased diversion and support for sex workers
- Enhancing capacity to deliver targeted operations

Financial Activity

- Seize proceeds of crime and invest into the community
- Targeted investigation- intelligence based

Intelligence

- Dark Web- fighting the unknown
- Invest in specialist IT and training
- Advanced analysis to drive activity

Local policing activity

- Targeted action - re-assurance and visibility focussed on:
 - County Lines
 - Transport hubs
 - Criminal use of the roads
 - Targeting hotspots
 - Intelligence led intervention

Custody Opportunities

- Out of Court Disposals/ Drug testing on arrest
- Diversion to Deferred Prosecution Scheme & support

Drug testing capability

- Enhance forensic support

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The delivery of the ADDER/Accelerator programme is funded via a ring-fenced two-year grant of £2.8m (£1.4m p.a.) from the Home Office/ Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (previously Public Health England). This funding can only be used to deliver those activities outlined within the Menu of Interventions that comes with the programme. The grant cannot be overspent, if there is any underspend, the Council will be required to return this to the Home Office/Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.
- 4.2 There is a strong case for investment in this field and the whole-system approach that Project ADDER promotes. The Government estimates a £4 social return on every £1 invested in drug treatment with a total of £21 over 10 years.¹

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 For the Project ADDER funding, Regulation 72 of the Public Contracts Regulations has been used, which allows contracts to be varied by up to 10% of the current contract value. The reasoning for utilising this was based on the immediate timeframe for establishing delivery, the prescriptive set of interventions that are required to be delivered and the specific nature of the funding's objectives- reducing drug related deaths, hospital admissions and offending.
- 5.2 Legal and procurement advice has been sought and continued legal support will be provided in relation to these matters. Monthly returns and quarterly financial reconciliations are in compliance with the terms and conditions of the Memorandum of Understanding between Wirral Council and Public Health England (now OHID) and will enable us to gain assurances that the funding is being effectively used.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: STAFFING, ICT AND ASSETS

- 6.1 Details of interventions (including roles) to be funded utilising these Wirral grants is outlined above. Due to the funding being available for fixed periods all posts will be recruited on fixed-term contracts.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

- 7.1 Risks to the delivery of the project include:
- Delay in implementing partnership work due to continuing pressures presented by COVID-19.
 - Difficulties in recruiting staff quickly enough to get the programme up to an optimal level of performance within the necessary time frame.
 - Difficulty in recruiting appropriately qualified staff for a 2 year funding scheme.

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/alcohol-and-drug-prevention-treatment-and-recovery-why-invest/alcohol-and-drug-prevention-treatment-and-recovery-why-invest>

- Continuation of service developments and enhancements, including additional posts, beyond 2 years if central funding is not extended.

7.2 These risks will be managed and mitigated by the Wirral Steering Group and monthly Programme review meetings with national programme co-ordinators from the Home Office. Conversations are already planned with partners to identify how we can ensure sustainability and continue developments beyond the 2023/2024 financial year.

7.3 There is no risk to the Council in accepting this grant funding. The funding can only be used to deliver these specific activities as outlined within the Menu of Interventions. The grant cannot be overspent, if there is any underspend, the Council will be required to return this to national Government.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

8.1 In order to co-ordinate and develop the delivery plan, and to ensure successful delivery and reporting, a Wirral Steering Group has been established. This Steering Group is led by Wirral Council Public Health and includes a wide range of partners as detailed in Appendix 2.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9.1 Wirral Council has a legal requirement to make sure its policies, and the way it carries out its work, do not discriminate against anyone. An Equality Impact Assessment is a tool to help council services identify steps they can take to ensure equality for anyone who might be affected by a particular policy, decision or activity. Equality considerations were a key component of the original guidance for the programme activities, stating that “all interventions should bear in mind the need to ensure access for a range of disadvantaged populations: parents who use drugs; black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) groups; women; LGBTQ+; people with disabilities etc”. Work is underway to ensure equality implications are reviewed as part of the project delivery. Equality impact assessments are being undertaken to ensure all interventions are delivered in a way that does not discriminate.

10.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE IMPLICATIONS

10.1 Illicit substance misuse is a global trade that can damage the environment in a number of ways:

- The cultivation of cocaine is a significant contributor to deforestation in Latin America.
- Opium production contributes to water shortages in Afghanistan
- Environmental harm from dumping of chemical waste from MDMA and ecstasy production

It is hoped by reducing demand for illicit substances, the interventions outlined in this report will minimise environmental harm.

10.2 Climate implications are being considered as part of the delivery of the interventions outlined above. For example, in order to reduce carbon emissions associated with

the delivery of the programme naloxone distribution will be undertaken utilising bicycles (reclaimed bicycles donated by Merseyside Police colleagues).

11.0 COMMUNITY WEALTH IMPLICATIONS

Delivery of the Wirral ADDER Accelerator programme will support community wealth building and provide significant local social value by working to improve the lives of some of our most vulnerable residents. Interventions delivered as part of the programme will:

- Support community development through building resilient local communities and community support organisations, this activity will be focused in areas and communities with the greatest need.
- Support the creation of local employment and training opportunities

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: ADDER programme metrics

Appendix 2: Membership of Wirral ADDER steering group

BACKGROUND PAPERS

[Action to tackle misery of drug misuse - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	7 TH June 2021
Adult Social Care and Public Health Committee	8 th September 2021