

Meeting of South Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	Integration Joint Board
Held on	Wednesday 25th November 2020
Agenda Item:	9
Title:	Reducing Drug Related Deaths in South Ayrshire
Summary:	
<p>The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Integration Joint Board with an overview of suspected drug related deaths in South Ayrshire in 2020 and outline approaches being taken forward by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) aimed at reducing drug related deaths.</p>	
Author:	Scott Hunter, ADP Chair and Chief Social Work Officer
Recommendations:	
<p>It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Note the concerning increase in suspected drug related deaths in South Ayrshire. ii. Note the approaches being taken forward by the ADP aimed at reducing drug related deaths in South Ayrshire. 	
Route to meeting:	
Report prepared specifically for the Integration Joint Board.	
Directions:	Implications:
1. No Directions Required <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Financial <input type="checkbox"/>
2. Directions to NHS Ayrshire & Arran <input type="checkbox"/>	HR <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Directions to South Ayrshire Council <input type="checkbox"/>	Legal <input type="checkbox"/>
4. Directions to both SAC & NHS <input type="checkbox"/>	Equalities <input type="checkbox"/>
	Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/>
	Policy <input type="checkbox"/>
	ICT <input type="checkbox"/>

REDUCING DRUG RELATED DEATHS IN SOUTH AYRSHIRE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to provide members of the Integration Joint Board with an overview of suspected drug related deaths in South Ayrshire in 2020 and outline approaches being taken forward by the Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) aimed at reducing drug related deaths.

2. RECOMMENDATION

2.1 It is recommended that the Integration Joint Board

- i. Note the concerning increase in suspected drug related deaths in South Ayrshire.**
- ii. Note the approaches being taken forward by the ADP aimed at reducing drug related deaths in South Ayrshire.**

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 In 2018, national statistics showed that 1,187 people died as a direct result of drugs, the highest number of drug related deaths ever recorded in Scotland. While national statistics are yet to be published for 2019, it is anticipated the number of drug related deaths has sadly continued in this upward trend, both nationally, and in Ayrshire & Arran. Local data shows the number of suspected drug related deaths in South Ayrshire to be the highest number ever recorded.
- 3.2 In July 2019, the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing released a public statement noting that the rising number of drug related deaths in Scotland represents a public health emergency. Following the ministerial statement, a new Drug Deaths Taskforce (DDTF) was established by the Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing.
- 3.3 On 30th January 2020, the DDTF wrote to Integration Authorities and ADPs outlining six evidence-based strategies to reduce drug related deaths. The letter included the expectation for Integration Authorities and ADPs to embed the evidence-based priorities within their strategic approaches, and provide and publish updates to the Taskforce on progress to give assurance that appropriate action is being taken.
- 3.4 Locally, the ADP considered the current local position in relation to the six evidence-based strategies, establishing a baseline position, and identifying a number of improvement actions which were being taken forward.
- 3.5 In 2019, the ADP also developed a local multiagency review process to review all suspected drug related deaths in South Ayrshire.

4. REPORT

- 4.1 Although there can be considerable variation in the number of drug related deaths recorded each year, there continues to be an upward trend in South Ayrshire in the number of deaths.
- 4.2 Based on local information and recording systems, there were 28 suspected drug related deaths in South Ayrshire in 2019 and 30 in 2020 (1st January to 4th November), the highest numbers ever recorded. It is important to note that not all deaths considered through the review process will be recorded as 'drug related' following a post mortem and confirmation of the cause of death.
- 4.3 In 2019, the ADP Reducing Drug Related Deaths (RDRD) Sub Group developed a process for reviewing all suspected drug related deaths in South Ayrshire. The aim of the reviews is to increase our understanding of factors contributing to drug related deaths, to help identify people who may be at risk, to explore possible intervention points and consider tests of change / service improvements.
- 4.4 The review of suspected drug related deaths has identified a number of key themes including:

Significant life events:

- Experienced bereavements, often multiple, as a child and/or adult
- Experienced adverse childhood experiences and/or adult trauma
- Experience of homelessness, often multiple occasions
- Long history of substance use, often poly drug use
- History of low mood, anxiety, depression
- History of offending behavior and / or the victim of abuse / assaults

Six months prior to death:

- A change in housing status
- Pattern of disengagement or reduced engagement with services
- Recent relapse or escalation in drug use
- Attendance at Emergency Department, admitted to hospital or attendance at an outpatient appointment
- Experienced a non-fatal overdose
- Experienced a breakdown of relationship(s)

Additional themes:

- Unsettled accommodation
- Isolated, lacking routine and structure
- Limited or no family contact or supportive relationships
- Unemployed and in receipt of benefits
- Limited education, training or work experience
- Long term health conditions, chronic pain and / or poor physical health
- History of self-harming and / or suicidal ideation
- Patterns of sporadic or poor engagement with services /
- Limited involvement with services

- 4.5 The ADP are currently running a series of 12 online multiagency workshops, including specific workshops for people with lived experience and family members, to share the findings of the thematic reviews and consider how we can develop our collaborative working to reduce drug related deaths.
- 4.6 In response to the priorities identified through the consultation and development of the ADP Strategy, the review of suspected drug related deaths and the DDTF's six evidence-based strategies, the ADP has taken forward a number of actions aimed at reducing drug related deaths including:
- Piloting a multidisciplinary and multiagency team (Connect 4 Change) to provide intensive and flexible support for individuals at risk of an alcohol or drug related death, who are disengaging from treatment and recovery services, or who are coming to the attention of emergency services. The ADP secured additional DDTF funding to expand the capacity within the team. A full independent evaluation of the pilot has been commissioned.
 - Developing a referral pathway from the Scottish Ambulance Service and Emergency Department, to Connect 4 Change, for individuals experiencing a non-fatal overdose.
 - NHS Addiction Services, in partnership with Public Health, have developed a notification process for anyone open to NHS Addictions Service who has attended the Emergency Department. It is hoped to extend this notification pathway for individuals who are not open to NHS Addictions Service.
 - Expanding the provision of Naloxone, including the new intranasal Naloxone kits, to individuals at risk and their family members. The expansion has included the provision of both intranasal and injectable kits by our third sector provider We Are With You. 108 Naloxone kits were distributed during Quarter 1, April – June 2020.
 - In partnership with Police Scotland, undertaking a pilot project in custody settings where Peer Workers visit individuals while they are in custody to build a connection and raise awareness of local services and recovery activities.
 - Piloting a peer support outreach model with the Department of Work and Pensions. This work is currently on hold due to Covid-19 pandemic.
 - In partnership with the Violence Reduction Unit, Community Justice Ayrshire, East and North Ayrshire ADPs and HMP Kilmarnock, piloting a Prison Navigator project aimed at supporting men on remand and long-term prisoners (without a statutory social work requirement) returning to the local community.
 - Expanding the development of peer led recovery communities across South Ayrshire. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic recovery activities were available six days a week across five localities.
 - Further developing and embedding lived experience (peer) roles across our services.
 - Developed peer led in-reach activities with HMP Kilmarnock, including delivering a Steps to Excellence training course.
 - Public Health colleagues are working to develop a local suite of indicators to inform the prevention of drug related deaths.

4.7 The Covid-19 pandemic presented a unique set of challenges for individuals, families, services and the local community. With the restrictions and logistical difficulties imposed by Covid-19, including shielding, isolation and social distancing, it is not possible for service levels to be provided 'as was' however the alcohol and drug services across South Ayrshire continue to provide services which, while not identical, strive to be equivalent to that provided pre-Covid-19.

4.8 Local services and recovery communities have proactively adapted their ways of working and examples of new approaches include:

- In response concerns about vulnerable people services may lose contact with during the Covid-19 pandemic, the ADP established a multiagency group. This multiagency approach allowed over 80 people to be located and offered support.
- ADP Peer Workers contacting individuals prior to liberation, using the Email A Prisoner system, to provide information on local recovery activities and offer a point of contact.
- All peer led recovery activities transferred online, with recovery groups and activities being provided seven days a week. Regular, often daily, telephone-based support is also offered.
- Funding was secured to provide smart phones and/or data to allow individuals to access online activities.
- In August 2020 the Scottish Government confirmed face to face alcohol and drug support groups could recommence and issued appropriate written guidance to support the re-establishment of groups. Appropriate planning and risk assessments have been completed by the ADP Team however due to the lack of community facilities currently available has created challenges with re-starting groups, leaving a significant gap in support for vulnerable people as we enter the winter period.

5. STRATEGIC CONTEXT

5.1 The multi-agency work overseen by the ADP contributes to the strategic objectives in the Health & Social Care Partnership Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021.

5.2 The ADP strategic priorities are designed to contribute to the Scottish Governments strategy Rights, Respect and Recovery – Scotland's strategy to improve health by preventing and reducing alcohol and drug use, harm and related deaths (2018).

6. IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial Implications

6.1.1 There are no financial implications arising directly from the content of the report.

6.2 Human Resource Implications

6.2.1 There are no human resource implications arising directly from the content of the report.

6.3 Legal Implications

6.3.1 There are no legal implications arising directly from the content of the report.

6.4 Equalities implications

6.4.1 There are no equalities implications arising directly from the content of the report.

6.5 Sustainability implications

6.5.1 There are no sustainability implications arising directly from the content of the report.

6.6 Clinical/professional assessment

6.6.1 Advice is sought from appropriate professionals as part of the review of drug related deaths, and when considering appropriate actions to be taken forward.

7. CONSULTATION AND PARTNERSHIP WORKING

7.1 Extensive consultation with individuals, families, services and strategic partners was undertaken as part of the development of the ADP strategic priorities. Actions taken forward by the ADP, aimed at reducing drug related deaths, are evidence-based and involve ongoing engagement with partners including individuals with lived experience.

8. RISK ASSESSMENT

8.1. There is a risk that drug related deaths will continue to increase in South Ayrshire should the work outlined in the paper not continue to progress.

REPORT AUTHOR AND PERSON TO CONTACT

Name: Scott Hunter, ADP Chair and Chief Social Work Officer

Phone number: 01292 612376

Email address: scott.hunter2@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Name: Faye Murfet, ADP Coordinator

Phone number: 01292 612147

Email address: faye.murfet@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

17th November 2020