

BRIEFING	TO:	Health and Wellbeing Board
	DATE:	1 April 2026
	LEAD OFFICER	Jess Brooks, Public Health Specialist, RMBC
	TITLE:	Combatting Drugs Partnership Update

Background

- 1.1 Following the 2021 National Drugs Strategy: From Harm to Hope, and subsequent guidance for local areas, the Rotherham Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) was established at the end of 2022
- 1.2 The Rotherham Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) is jointly chaired by RMBC’s Director of Public Health and South Yorkshire Police’s District Commander.
- 1.3 The CDP brings together strategic decision-makers across enforcement, treatment, prevention and recovery to reduce drug-related harm in Rotherham. The partnership delivers the national drug strategy locally and reports to the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- 1.4 Its aims are to:
 - Work together to understand the local population and how both drugs and alcohol are causing harm in Rotherham.
 - Identify challenges in the system and the changes needed to address them.
 - Identify, consider and/or support external funding opportunities to enhance or increase the partnership’s ability to deliver its responsibilities and objectives.
 - Complete key tasks as set out by the Joint Combatting Drugs Unit (JCDU)- the central government cross departmental body responsible for the Drug strategy.

Key Issues

- 2.1 In March 2024, the first CDP annual update was presented to Health and Wellbeing Board following which the JCDU requested that local CDPs publish an annual progress report which has since comprised the annual Health and Wellbeing Board second and third annual Update.
- 2.2 The report outlines Key findings of the 2023 joint assessment of need and key progress made against the CDP delivery plan. One key area of progress is the development of the Rotherham Lived Experience Recovery Organisation, and their involvement in the work overseen by the Rotherham.

Key Actions and Relevant Timelines

- 3.1 Continued development and delivery of the CDP plan (ongoing).
- 3.2 The next Annual Progress report is due March 2027.

Implications for Health Inequalities

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| 4.1 | Drug and alcohol harm disproportionately affect vulnerable populations. |
| 4.2 | The work overseen by the CDP aims to improve outcomes for those who are affected by drug related harm. CDP actions such as increased access to treatment, ant stigma work, and improved continuity of care play a crucial role in reducing inequalities and improving long-term health outcomes. |

Recommendations

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| 5.1 | The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to note the progress made by the CDP. |
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