

Rotherham Combatting Drugs Partnership – Annual Progress Report 2025

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ROTHERHAM COMBATTING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP

Background

- The Rotherham Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) is jointly Chaired by Rotherham Council's Director of Public Health and South Yorkshire Police's District Commander for Rotherham and has a Vision to

“Work together to combat illegal drug use in Rotherham– reducing crime, saving lives, and challenging the notion of ‘recreational drug use’, which fuels a violent and exploitative market”.

Membership

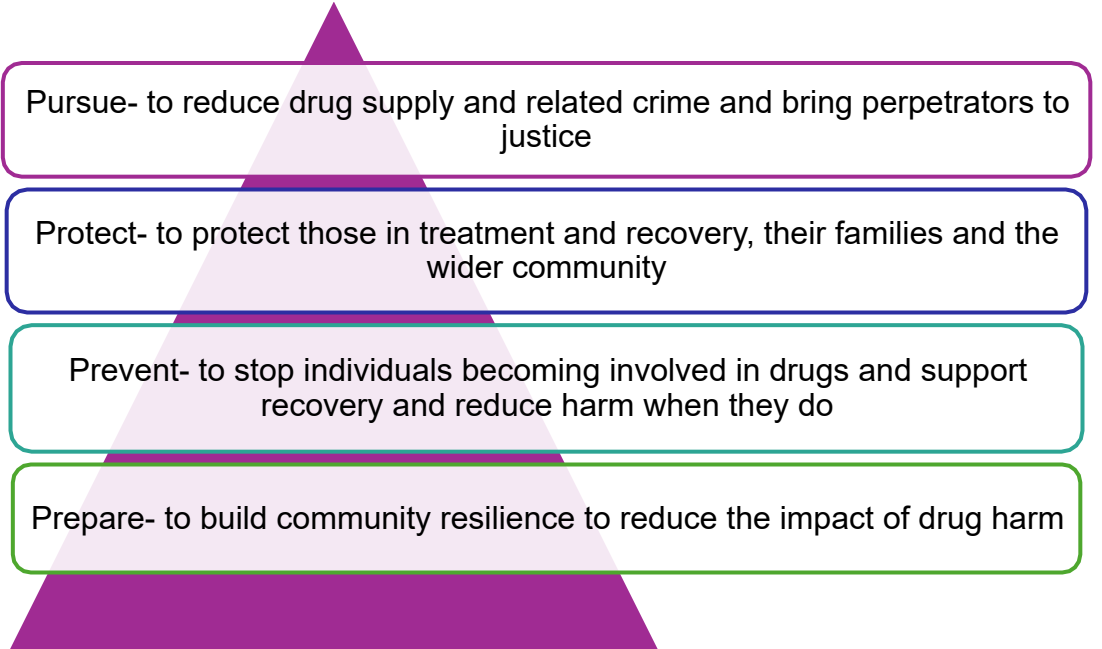
- The Combatting Drugs Partnership is made up of strategic decision makers across key partner organisations involved in addressing the challenges of drug related harm. These include, but are not limited to:
 - Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council (RMBC)
 - Rotherham Alcohol and Drugs Service (ROADS), provided by WithYou
 - South Yorkshire Police (SYP)
 - The South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (formally South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office)
 - Probation Service Yorkshire and The Humber and Barnsley and Rotherham Probation Delivery Unit (PDU)
 - Voluntary Action Rotherham and the Rotherham Recovery Community

ROTHERHAM COMBATTING DRUGS PARTNERSHIP

Aims

- 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 (JCDCU)- the central government cross departmental body responsible for the Drug strategy.

Delivery plan



Pursue- to reduce drug supply and related crime and bring perpetrators to justice

Protect- to protect those in treatment and recovery, their families and the wider community

Prevent- to stop individuals becoming involved in drugs and support recovery and reduce harm when they do

Prepare- to build community resilience to reduce the impact of drug harm

Prepare

Objectives

- Facilitate improved information sharing including with IT systems, including Increased intelligence and information sharing around exploitation of vulnerable people
- Explore training needs across the system across the system and equip workers by providing education for professionals to improve reporting, referrals and information sharing and aid in early identification. Including communicating to workers the harmful impacts of drugs and alcohol
- Develop Combatting Drugs Communications and Engagement approach aiming to reduce use and tackle stigma

Key Progress

- CDP report for sharing key data on progress is refreshed and presented at each Partnership meeting.
- South Yorkshire Police' Intelligence Reporting form has been promoted to partners to provide intel to disrupt organised crime groups.
- Drug and Alcohol Training offer expanded to include training on families, anti-stigma, and bespoke training sessions for hospital teams.
- New workstream and resource for Implementation of new Challenging Stigma work being developed in collaboration with our Rotherham Recovery Community and learning from individuals with Lived Experience

Prevent

Objectives

- Develop continuity of care in criminal justice pathway including use of court orders better prisoner release and connections with probation services
- Develop whole family approach to support and break intergenerational cycles of substance use.
- Develop wider support offer and capacity for increased numbers for alcohol and drugs treatment/support, reducing drug related harm and impacts on wider community. Including an offer for drug users – increasing access to a wider range of services aimed at raising awareness of harm and early identification

Key Progress

- Efforts are being made to focus on the quantity and quality of community treatment orders (community sentences designed to help individuals address substance use issues and reduce the risk of reoffending) by working with courts to maximise opportunities for those who are suitable and a review for the court orders with a focus on harm reduction.
- Drug and Alcohol Early Help Team has continued to support the identification of substance use in families by embedding screening tools in assessments and establishing drug and alcohol champions working across Rotherham.
- Two new drug and alcohol school workers in ROADS (the Drug and Alcohol Service) providing outreach to primary and secondary schools
- New Drug and Alcohol Outreach service at MESMAC (Sexual Health Services) has been supporting people in the community with advice and referrals
- ROADS' Outreach and engagements has expanded including through a market stall in the town centre raising awareness and identification of drug and alcohol issues.

Protect

Objectives

- Reduce drug related harm
- Protect vulnerable people
- Implement co-occurring conditions pathways and improved psychological support. Increasing access to physical and mental healthcare to promote long term recovery.
- Develop and implement recovery pathway including independent recovery community, housing, and employment support.

Key Progress

- Availability of opioid overdose reversal drug, Naloxone, continues to be widened. Police officers have been trained and can carry Naloxone to respond to possible opiate overdoses and peer distribution of take home naloxone is now in place
- South Yorkshire wide Emergency Plan created to help services and respond to the identification of harmful substances in the region
- A number of systems are in place including the Mental Health Community Connector pathway with VAR and the Mental Health Wellbeing Practitioners to support those with mental health needs
- The Rotherham Recovery Community continues to grow, this year having several achievements including a consultation which has generated a plan for further development. The Rotherham Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) is now established

Pursue

Objectives

- Develop and effective pursue response with partners
- Develop increased focus on county lines/ exploitation of children in line with child exploitation strategy and target Organised Crime Groups which use most exploitive business/operational models with regards to child exploitation
- Disrupt organised crime

Key progress

- A number of warrants have been executed and managed by appropriate trained officers under the supervision of an inspector working in conjunction with trained Drug Expert Witnesses within the police as per ongoing work.
- Increase in skills and expertise with Drug Expert Witnesses and Financial Investigator training and support.
- Several operations, local and national, have been carried out resulting in arrests and seizures.

Public Involvement

- As well as increasing involvement on subgroups and wider areas of work, Public Involvement is facilitated by the following:
 - Each partnership meeting includes a section on Public Voice and Lived Experience to ensure senior leaders are hearing directly from those impacted by drugs in our communities.
 - Rotherham CDP has established that every 1 out of 4 meetings is led by the Recovery Community and focuses on a recovery related topic. Most recently, the Recovery Community hosted the CDP in November 2025, bringing in lived experience voices, the Community Consultation and future plans. This has continued to generate a way forward for lived experience involvement and the future CDP plan will involve lived experience voice, including affected others, in a way that's relevant, accessible and supportive.
 - The Combatting Drugs Partnership's members also will attend the Rotherham Recovery Forum.

Rotherham Recovery Community

John Leaver, Rotherham Lived Experience Recovery Organisation Chair