

Appendix 2: Summary of wider policy implications

1. The statutory Community Safety Partnership Plan 2017 – 2020 comprises eight priorities, one of which relates to *'reducing substance misuse'*. The proposed contract will contribute to achievement of this priority.

To protect individuals, families and communities from the negative impact of drugs and alcohol misuse by:

- *Reducing the number of individuals misusing alcohol, illegal and other harmful drugs and increasing the number of individuals who successfully recover from alcohol and / or drug dependence*
 - *Identifying children and young people affected by parental or sibling substance misuse and taking action to reduce harms and improve life chances*
 - *Increasing the number of individuals who successfully engage with Southwark treatment system following release from custody*
 - *Working collaboratively with partner agencies to prevent or reduce drug related deaths and to reduce the transmission of blood borne viruses*
 - *Restricting the supply of drugs and identifying and prosecuting those involved in the drug trade*
2. The Southwark Joint Mental Health and Wellbeing Strategy Refresh 2021-24¹ is focused upon promoting the mental health of Southwark residents by improving the range and access to services and delivering good outcomes and value for money. The Strategy details 16 priority areas (workstreams) for delivery, including a specific workstream for 'Drug and Alcohol Use and Mental Health (including Dual Diagnosis)'.
 3. The HM Government Drug Strategy 'From harm to hope', published in December 2017, details a ten year ambition to combat illegal drug use through offering support to more people with addiction and rebuilding a world class treatment and recovery system. These services play an essential role in Southwark's contribution to the national ambition.
 4. The HM Government Serious Violence Strategy 2018² identifies four key themes, one of which is *'tackling county lines and misuse of drugs'*, operating from a premise of strong evidence that illicit drug markets are a driver of serious violence. There is an identifiable overlap between this Strategy and the Drug Strategy 2017 in relation to the need for an enhanced understanding of the cohorts that are using drugs, and the need for access to high quality treatment provision to support individuals with addressing their misuse, which will be delivered through the proposed services.
 5. In 2019, the council committed to implementing the recommendations from an Extended Learning Peer Review undertaken by the Home Office's Violence and Vulnerability Unit which identified key linkages between the violence, vulnerability

¹ <https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s101396/Report%20-%20Joint%20Mental%20Health%20and%20Wellbeing%20Strategy%202021-24%20Update.pdf>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/serious-violence-strategy>

and exploitation of children and vulnerable adults in drug market activity. This is incorporated within the 'Community Harm and Exploitation Reduction Plan 2020-21'.³ The proposed service will play an essential role in reducing demand for drugs in the borough, working in partnership with the community harm and exploitation hub, thus helping to reduce the criminal exploitation of vulnerable people in drug supply chains, through the provision of high quality services.

6. In December 2021, the UK government published a new Drug Strategy which has significant implications for the services within this GW3 report in that they will play a key role in the successful delivery of the Drug Strategy at a local level.
7. Under the Children's Act 1989, local authorities have a responsibility to "safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need and so far as is consistent with that duty, to promote the upbringing of such children by their families by providing a range and level of services appropriate to those children's needs". Specialist substance misuse and sexual health services are fundamental components of a range of support services for young people.
8. The Lambeth, Southwark, and Lewisham Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy 2019-24 sets out a vision of maximising sexual and reproductive health (SRH) for all people, focusing on empowering people to make their sexual relationships healthy and fulfilling, effectively managing their own fertility and reproductive health (including access to contraception), reducing the local burden of STIs (in particular among young people and others disproportionately affected), and supporting people to live well with HIV. The HYP service is a key vehicle through which to achieve the aims and objectives of this strategy, specifically:
 - a. Ensuring integration between sexual health, mental health, and substance misuse services for young people;
 - b. Providing outreach services to reach those most at-risk / marginalised from SRH services;
 - c. Ensuring good access to LARC in the most deprived communities;
 - d. Maintaining a reduction in teenage conceptions;
 - e. Ensuring the full range of contraceptive methods is available in a variety of settings, with a specific focus on disproportionately affected groups
 - f. Providing targeted SRH services to disproportionately affected populations; and
 - g. Maximising opportunities for condom distribution