

**HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD  
22 MAY 2018****THE STRATEGIC SUBSTANCE MISUSE OVERSIGHT  
GROUP**

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**Board Sponsor**

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**Author**

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**Relevance of Paper - Priorities**

Mental health & well-being	Yes
Being Active	No
Reducing harm from Alcohol	Yes
Other (specify below)	

**Safeguarding**

Impact on Safeguarding Children	Yes
Impact on Safeguarding Adults	Yes

**Item for Information and Assurance****Recommendation**

- 1. The Health and Well-being Board is asked to note the report of the Strategic Substance Misuse Oversight Group and consider any points which may inform the future work of the HWB.**

**Background**

2. The Strategic Substance Misuse Oversight Group is an overarching group meeting quarterly, focussing on the safe delivery of drug and alcohol services in Worcestershire. It is responsible to the Health and Well-being Board and Worcestershire Safer Communities Board and supports the delivery of other strategic plans including the Police and Crime Plan and West Mercia Criminal Justice Board as required by section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act and Community safety. This group has been meeting since 2015 following the decommissioning of the previous Drug Action Team strategic group. The aims are to ensure specialist advice and expertise is provided to enhance the development, safe delivery of commissioned services and partner organisational activities. Membership includes senior officers from WCC Public Health, Mental Health, CCG, Probation, DWP, Public Health England and the Police. This is in addition to senior professionals from provider organisations delivering specialist treatment interventions to adults and young people affected by their own or someone else's substance misuse.

3. The Strategic Substance Misuse Oversight Group receives quality and performance reports from providers and partners, considering updates from national guidance, evidence reviews and legislation and how these strategies can be implemented in Worcestershire. In 2017, Public Health England published an updated national Drug Strategy which places renewed focus on delivering co-ordinated interventions to help people maintain their recovery from drugs and alcohol by ensuring that this is linked to appropriate access to physical and mental health care, housing and employment. The strategy also identified a particular responsibility for close co-operation between substance misuse services and the police in addressing the increasing harm posed by Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS). NPS have been linked to increasing deaths in the prison population and psychotic behaviour among vulnerable groups affecting community safety. In addition the strategy focussed on the harm for children affected by parental substance misuse, links with domestic abuse and the need for close co-operation between safeguarding for adults, children and substance misuse services. A refreshed Drugs Plan is being developed for Worcestershire to reflect these priorities.

4. In Worcestershire, specialist treatment services for drugs and alcohol have been provided by Swanswell Charitable Trust since 2015. Swanswell is now a wholly owned subsidiary of Cranstoun. This contract has recently been extended until 2020 following review of improved performance across a range of quality and performance indicators in Worcestershire demonstrating value for money. The contract is funded by the Public Health Ring Fenced Grant in addition to an annual grant from the Office of the West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner.

5. The Swanswell contract value and value for money

Year	Value	Payment by Results (PBR)
1-2015/16	£4,202,412 + £106,000 PCC grant funding	No
2-2016/17	£4,090,000 + £106,000 PCC grant funding	Yes
3-2017/18	£3,798,000 + £106,000 PCC grant funding	Yes
4-2018/19	£3,798,000 + £106,000 PCC grant funding	Yes
5-2019/20	£3,798,000 + £106,000 PCC grant funding	Yes

Payment by results across 5 indicators for years 2,3,4,5 is an additional £94,950 per year measured against national comparators on the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System. These indicators include:

- successful completions for opiates
- successful completions for alcohol
- Record of completing Blood Borne Virus immunisations
- Record of completing screening for Hepatitis C screening
- Successful completions of those living with children as a proportion of all in treatment

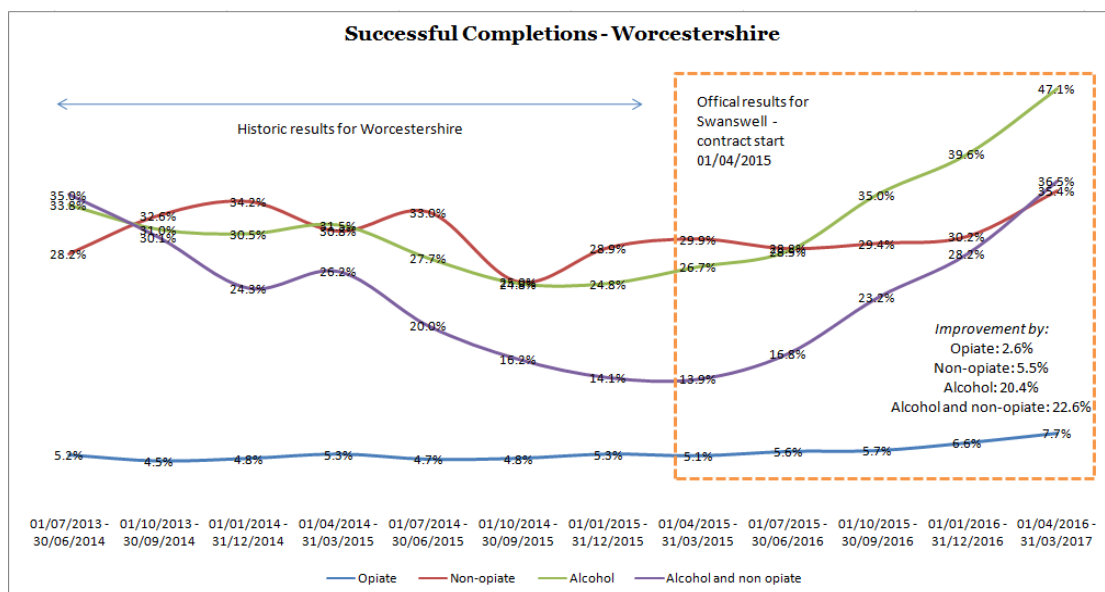
Based on the Public Health England Return on Investment Tool, we estimate that the Social Return on Investment is £4.30 for every £1 spent on individuals in drug and alcohol treatment in Worcestershire.

6. Swanswell's service delivery model includes providing advice, support and specialist treatment interventions across Worcestershire in specialist hubs, partner agencies and primary care settings. All these services are funded via the contract for delivering substance misuse interventions in Worcestershire. 39 GPs are now accredited with the Royal College of General Practice to provide prescribing interventions in primary care to help service users achieve recovery and abstinence from drugs and alcohol. Services for drug and alcohol treatment are now available within 30 GP practices in Worcestershire and 100 pharmacies, in addition to the specialist services directly provided by Swanswell for service users with more complex needs. The value of this approach is to ensure that people can receive help and support for their drug and/or alcohol problems in a range of community locations in addition to receiving appropriate help for their physical and mental health problems from an integrated model of rapid referral to specialist substance misuse provision from Swanswell directly, when required. Support for maintaining recovery in the community is integrated into a well-developed model of volunteer and peer support. This has been well established and is highly regarded in Worcestershire, increasing the social value of this service by also developing some employment opportunities for volunteers.

7. Swanswell works closely with a range of partners across Worcestershire, providing a dedicated young person's service, family support service, prison in-reach and with the police and criminal justice system in delivering treatment and testing orders. This is in addition to a comprehensive infection control provision via needle exchange and immunisations to prevent the increase of blood borne viruses.

8. During the past year the Substance Misuse Oversight Group has received reports indicating that performance against targets has continued to improve since Swanswell took over delivering this contract. More people are achieving abstinence and completing treatment for problems associated with drugs and alcohol than has previously been seen in Worcestershire since 2015, now improving above national baseline targets. There are currently more than 2000 adults in treatment with Swanswell but their time in treatment is reducing, associated with more effective engagement with volunteer recovery champions and close working with housing and employment agencies.

## Data from Swanswell indicating successful completions from drugs and alcohol measured against national targets from National Drug Treatment Monitoring System



9. The Oversight Group has also received reports providing assurance about the quality of services delivered by Swanswell. These include the outcome of inspections of drug and alcohol services are currently being piloted by the CQC for this area of work. Swanswell has been a pilot site for the West Midlands. This has involved taking part in three separate, unannounced inspections for each locality base in Worcestershire. The outcomes have been very positive with no current outstanding action plans to be completed. The CQC pilot process is now nearing completion and a further formal inspection is expected later this year under the new regimen. The Oversight Group has also received reports from Swanswell about investigations into drug and alcohol related deaths, safeguarding reviews and how lessons learned are incorporated into staff practice, monitored and reviewed. Concern about the safety of children and young people living with a parent affected by drugs and alcohol is a priority for the Commissioners to improve outcomes for children and young people. Swanswell work closely with Adult and Children's Safeguarding procedures to monitor risk. A specific PBR target has been set to monitor successful completions for parents with children receiving drug and alcohol treatment. This target is currently achieving above the national average.

### Key Issues

10. Although performance continues to improve, future challenges include:

- Maintain performance improvements in context of a changing picture of drug use nationally, particularly an increase in NPS. A new Alert system is now in operation in Worcestershire linked to the national PHE alert system to quickly cascade information help prevent drug related deaths.
- Vulnerable people with complex mental and physical health needs affected by substance misuse. A Memorandum of Understanding

between Swanswell and Health and Care Trust is being reviewed and updated to facilitate rapid referral processes and transfer of information to mitigate risk of impact of escalating harm for people with complex needs.

- Increase capacity of treatment opportunities by continuing to build on GP shared care and work with community pharmacies to improve physical and mental health outcomes alongside treatment for substance misuse.
- Wide ranging needs of people requiring help and an emerging cohort of older people misusing drugs and alcohol requiring different interventions in comparison to a younger population requiring support for a changing picture of drug use.
- Links to serious organised crime-Swanswell work closely with the County Lines project led by West Mercia Police
- Value for money- As previously discussed the Swanswell service represents good value for money as measured using the Social Return on Investment tool. The contract is funded almost entirely from the Public Health Ring Fenced Grant, which has been gradually reducing and due to end in 2020. Guidance on the use of this funding indicates that a local authority must, in using the grant, have regard to the need to improve the take up of and outcomes from, its drug and alcohol misuse treatment services. The future of the ring-fenced grant is currently unclear, although Government has indicated that it will end when full Business Rate retention is in place.

### **Legal, Financial and HR Implications**

None

### **Privacy Impact Assessment**

None

### **Equality and Diversity Implications**

An Equality Relevance Screening has been completed in respect of these recommendations. The screening did not identify any potential Equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

### **Contact Points**

#### County Council Contact Points

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#### Specific Contact Points for this report

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