

Scrutiny Review Scope	
Proposed Title	Scoping Date
Drug Related Deaths Scrutiny Review	January 2020
Criteria and reasons for selecting topic	
<p>Blackpool has one of the highest levels of drug related deaths in the country. In 2019 alone there were 31 drug related deaths of patients who were in receipt of services. This is particularly concerning as Public Health England identifies being 'in service' as a protective factor. Blackpool also has high levels of non-fatal overdoses.</p>	
Which priority within the Council Plan does this topic address?	
<p>Priority two - Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience.</p>	
What are the main objectives of the scrutiny?	
<p>The Review Panel will highlight the scale of the problem and seek to identify any potential opportunities to make improvements to services. In particular the review will seek improvement to Health Protection Services and access to those services and seek improvements in access to GPs. The Review will also bring partners together to provide a more targeted and joined up approach to reducing the number of drug related deaths.</p>	
What specific issues will be addressed as part of the scrutiny?	
<p>The Panel will consider why people are dying and what exactly they are dying of e.g. an aging cohort, multiple co-morbidities. Members will consider links to other services such as housing options and homelessness and the joined up work in place. There will also be a focus on younger people, preventative services and particular reference to 'Our Children'. Services provided to families will be considered i.e. drug users with children.</p>	
What possible outcomes are envisaged in terms of service improvements / benefits to the community?	
<p>An overall reduction in drug related deaths would be the best outcome for the review, however, this might not be feasible. Increased and improved partnership working is a key priority for the review panel as is developing the preventative work for young people and 'Our Children' in particular.</p>	
How will the public be involved? (consider invitations / press releases for meetings, consultation with community groups / clubs, etc)	
<p>Representation will be sought through the Lived Experience Team. Case studies will also be requested to demonstrate real life experiences.</p>	
How will the scrutiny achieve value for money for the Council / Council Tax payers?	
<p>Through achievement of the main objectives to improve services and reduce harm.</p>	
What primary / new evidence is needed for the scrutiny?	
<p>Statistics on the numbers of drug related deaths and the reasons for those deaths. Data on the number of drug users known to services in Blackpool and estimates of total drug users.</p>	

Information on Harm Reduction Techniques.

Information on the new Panel established and the quick wins it has achieved.

A case study 'journey of a patient' – a success story and a not so success story.

What secondary / existing information will be needed? (include background information / existing reports (consider Internal Audit) / legislation / central government information and reports, etc.

Budgets and financial information.

Contract review information and Key Performance Indicators of service providers Horizon and Delphi.

Legislation around potential options to reduce the numbers of drug related deaths.

Which Council officers / departments will provide information, advice and assistance for the scrutiny?

Public Health

Housing Options

What expert witnesses will the panel request input from outside of the Council?

Representatives from Horizon, Delphi, A&E, Mental Health Services, NWAS, CCG, Police.

What type of meetings (e.g. fact finding, evidence gathering, consultations, questioning, site visits), and how many in number are envisaged for the scrutiny?

One meeting.

Timescales / likely duration of enquiry

One meeting to be held 16 June 2020

Lead Scrutiny Officer

Sharon Davis

Scrutiny Panel Members

Tbc