

Notice of:	EXECUTIVE
Decision Number:	EX45/2021
Relevant Officer:	Sharon Davis, Scrutiny Manager
Relevant Cabinet Member	Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health
Date of Decision	11 October 2021

DRUG RELATED DEATHS SCRUTINY REVIEW FINAL REPORT

1.0 Purpose of the report:

1.1 To consider the Drug Related Deaths Scrutiny Review final report.

2.0 Recommendation(s):

2.1 To consider the report and offer a response to the recommendations contained within the Action Plan, forwarding the recommendations to the relevant organisation for consideration and implementation.

3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):

3.1 The recommendations contained within final report seek to deliver improvements in service.

3.2 Is the recommendation contrary to a plan or strategy adopted or approved by the Council? No

3.3 Is the recommendation in accordance with the Council's approved budget? Yes

4.0 Other alternative options to be considered:

The Executive must consider the recommendations outlined in the Scrutiny Review but may accept them, reject them or vary them.

5.0 Council Priority:

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: "Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience".

6.0 Background Information

6.1 During the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee Workplanning Workshop held in July 2020, Members identified the issue of drug related deaths as a topic they wished to explore further after discovering that Blackpool has one of the highest levels of drug related deaths in the country.

6.2 It was noted that in 2019 alone there were 31 drug related deaths of patients who were in receipt of services. This was particularly concerning as Public Health England identifies being 'in service' as a protective factor. Many of those who died whilst in treatment for their drug use had underlying health conditions. Conditions such as COPD, Liver disease and heart disease were prevalent in the large majority of deaths. However, the additional conditions could indicate that despite the efforts of treatment services it is the wider health offer that is needed to help prevent deaths. Members also found that there were high levels of non-fatal overdoses Blackpool. Due to all these concerns, the Committee considered it important to explore the issue in depth in order to seek improvements.

6.3 The final report details the findings and recommendations of the Panel and is attached at Appendix 2(a) to the Executive report.

6.4 In accordance with the Overview and Scrutiny / Cabinet Member Relations Protocol, the final report has been considered by the Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee, which approved the report for consideration by the Executive, and subsequently relevant partners. Councillor Jo Farrell as the relevant Cabinet Member, has provided her comments on the recommendations contained within the report.

6.5 The Chairman of Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Adrian Hutton, has been invited to the Executive meeting to make representations on behalf of the Committee.

6.6 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

7.0 List of Appendices:

Appendix 2(a): Drug Related Deaths Scrutiny Review final report.

8.0 Financial considerations:

8.1 Contained within the body of the report.

9.0 Legal considerations:

9.1 Contained within the body of the report.

10.0 Risk Management considerations:

10.1 Not applicable.

11.0 Equalities considerations:

11.1 None.

12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:

12.1 None.

13.0 Internal/ External Consultation undertaken:

13.1 Contained within the body of the report.

14.0 Background papers:

14.1 None.

15.0 Key decision information:

15.1 Is this a key decision? No

15.2 If so, Forward Plan reference number:

15.3 If a key decision, is the decision required in less than five days? No

15.4 If **yes**, please describe the reason for urgency:

16.0 Call-in information:

16.1 Are there any grounds for urgency, which would cause this decision to be exempt from the call-in process? No

16.2 If **yes**, please give reason:

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE HEAD OF DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE

17.0 Scrutiny Committee Chairman (where appropriate):

Date informed:

Date approved:

18.0 Declarations of interest (if applicable):

18.1 None.

19.0 Executive decision:

19.1 The Executive resolved as follows:

1. To note the Scrutiny report on Drug Related Deaths and endorse the nine recommendations contained within the Action Plan, in doing so endorsing the Cabinet Member's comments on each recommendation.
2. To agree to forward the recommendations to the relevant organisation for consideration and implementation.

20.0 Date of Decision:

20.1 11 October 2021

21.0 Reason(s) for decision:

21.1 The recommendations contained within final report seek to deliver improvements in service.

22.0 Date Decision published:

22.1 12 October 2021

23.0 Executive Members present:

23.1 Councillor L Williams

Councillor Benson, Brookes, Farrell, Hobson, Smith and I Taylor

24.0 Call-in:

24.1

25.0 Notes:

25.1 Councillor Hutton, the Chairman of Adult Social Care and Health Scrutiny Committee, was in attendance via Zoom and made the following representations on behalf of the Committee. Councillor Hutton emphasised the significance of drug related deaths in Blackpool and their impact on individuals, families, friends and communities. He highlighted the view of the Committee that the recommendations would make a real difference once implemented.

The following non-Executive member was in attendance: Councillor Hunter.