

<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>Relevant Officer:</b>	Dr Arif Rajpura, Director of Public Health
<b>Relevant Cabinet Member:</b>	Councillor Jo Farrell, Cabinet Member for Levelling Up: People
<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	13 March 2024

## **BLACKPOOL ALCOHOL PREVENTION AND HARM REDUCTION STRATEGY 2024-2027**

**1.0 Purpose of the report:**

1.1 To present for comment and approval of the Draft Blackpool Alcohol Prevention and Harm Reduction Strategy 2024-2027.

**2.0 Recommendation(s):**

2.1 To approve the Draft Blackpool Alcohol Prevention and Harm Reduction Strategy 2024-2027, attached at Appendix 4a, with effect until 31 December 2027.

**3.0 Reasons for recommendation(s):**

3.1 The previous Alcohol Prevention Strategy expired in December 2023. The continued impact of alcohol on crime, health, domestic abuse, individuals and families means there is a need for a clear plan to move forward. The strategy is essential in meeting priorities around other complimentary strategies including the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy in reducing alcohol related harm and impact on health.

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:**

4.1 None.

## **5.0 Council priority:**

5.1 The relevant Council priority is: “Communities: Creating stronger communities and increasing resilience”.

## **6.0 Background information**

6.1 The previous strategy finished in 2023 the implementation of this strategy was severely impacted by Covid. However key progress had been made on a number of objectives.

Partners have worked hard, in the local authority, health services, other public services, across third sector and peer support groups to reduce the impact of alcohol harm on individuals and communities during and after the pandemic. From the previous strategy a dedicated alcohol treatment service has been reestablished in Blackpool. This service is called the Lighthouse.

Though drinking levels rose during the pandemic for adults, the picture in relation to young people has not increased and hospital admissions have fallen. This strategy aims to focus attention on early intervention and increasing access of pre dependent drinkers into treatment. Numbers in treatment have finally begun to increase after 10 years of falling referrals.

In the absence of a new national strategy but with the continued impact of alcohol on crime, health, domestic abuse, individuals and families, there is a need for a clear plan to move forward.

Recently government has published a draft document: UK Clinical guidelines for Alcohol Treatment from OHID. This identifies the elements of an effective treatment service that needs to be in place. The current service provision has been assessed against these guidelines and key actions are included in the action plan.

Key demographics in the population are not fully represented in treatment services including older people, women and LGBTQ+. The strategy establishes that research is required with these groups to identify then address barriers and stigma to accessing treatment.

6.2 The strategy summarises the key actions planned over the next 3 years in relation to:-

- Lobbying to overcome the legislative barrier that blocks population level change in relation to harmful alcohol consumption
- Better inform the population and in particular children, young people and parents about the potential harm of alcohol use

- Encourage intervention at an early stage where alcohol harm may be highlighted as a risk
- Stop stigma to improve access to services when people need them and to maintain recovery
- Improve treatment, recovery and aftercare support options for people facing challenges with their alcohol use
- Effectively address co-occurring mental health and alcohol issues
- Reduce the impact of alcohol misuse on families, the public sector resources and the whole community

Key performance indicators have been identified. The strategy's implementation will be overseen by the Combatting Drugs and Alcohol Partnership Board. Which will report to the B-Safe Blackpool Community Safety Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board

6.3 Does the information submitted include any exempt information? No

**7.0 List of Appendices:**

7.1 Appendix 4a: Draft Blackpool Alcohol Prevention and Harm Reduction Strategy 2024 - 2027

**8.0 Financial considerations:**

8.1 This plan will include investment in treatment services which is funded through the Drug and Alcohol Specific Grant administered by OHID.

**9.0 Legal considerations:**

9.1 None.

**10.0 Risk management considerations:**

10.1 None.

**11.0 Equalities considerations and the impact of this decision for our children and young people:**

11.1 None.

**12.0 Sustainability, climate change and environmental considerations:**

12.1 None.

**13.0 Internal/external consultation undertaken:**

13.1 Stakeholder Event Held along with individual consultation sessions

**14.0 Background papers:**

14.1 None.