

# Sefton Combating Drugs Partnership Briefing

Issue 1 - December 2024



**Welcome to the first briefing from Sefton’s Combating Drugs Partnership (SCDP). This marks an important milestone as we share the progress and outcomes of our collective efforts to tackle drug misuse within our communities. In this briefing, we will outline the key achievements, challenges, and initiatives that have shaped our work from September 2023 to December 2024.**

## **Introduction**

Since its establishment in 2022, SCDP has hosted ten meetings, each featuring a spotlight session on a key area.

The chair and nominated local Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) is the Director of Public Health, Margaret Jones, who reports to the national Joint Combating Drugs Unit (JCDU) and holds overarching responsibility for the local drugs delivery plan.

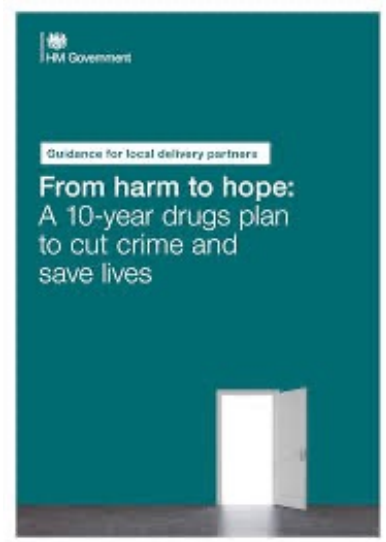
## **Key milestones**

- ✓ Seftons Combating Drugs Partnership has reached all the national key milestones since its establishment.
- ✓ Substance Use JSNA.
- ✓ Local Delivery plan.
- ✓ Performance framework.
- ✓ Annual stocktake.
- ✓ Synthetic opioid preparedness plan.
- ✓ Regular reporting and accountability.

## National Priorities

These priorities guide the CDP's efforts to improve outcomes for individuals and communities across Sefton.

- Reduce drug-related crime
- Reduce drug supply
- Increase engagement in drug treatment
- Improve treatment and recovery outcomes.



## Progress against National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework

- For the 12 months ending June 2024, the number of adults in treatment was 24% higher compared to March 2022 (baseline) and new presentations were up by 54%.
- The number of young people in treatment in the 12 months to June 2024 was double the number in the 12 months to March 2022 (baseline).
- The number of alcohol users in treatment has increased by 48%.
- The number of opiate and/or crack users in treatment has reduced since March 2022.
- Sefton's number of residential rehabilitation placements has improved but June 2024 figures remains lower than the March 2022 baseline.
- Sefton's treatment clients (opiate users in particular) spent longer in treatment and successful completion are lower for these users than seen nationally.
- In the 12 months to June 2024 Sefton's treatment population were showing substantial progress.
- CDP monitoring has shown that deaths in treatment tends to fluctuate at around 1.5% for Sefton.
- In the 12 months to March

## Community Engagement

SCDP recognises that engaging the local community in partnership planning is essential for developing effective strategies to tackle drug misuse and its related harms.

SCDP in conjunction with Sefton CVS undertook community engagement work to identify barriers to accessing services for local residents who may

benefit or know others who may benefit from support for their drug and alcohol use. Participants included local voluntary, community, and faith sector organisations, who provided a wide range of interventions to members of the local community but were not providers of commissioned drug and/or alcohol services.

## Campaigns

SCDP has supported harm reduction campaigns aimed at promoting safer practices and raising awareness about substance misuse. These campaigns have specifically addressed emerging issues, such as nitrous oxide and ketamine providing vital advice and support to help reduce risks and protect the community.

This year SCDP expanded on the work of CHAMPS and delivered a geographically targeted multimedia campaign promoting their Lower My Drinking app to adults. Using the campaign's digital assets, the aim was to increase the number of app downloads and reduce the rise in harmful drinking. Promotional activities were evaluated, revealing an increase in app downloads and website self-assessments.



## New Developments

- **Investment:** Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) funding has continued to support workforce capacity and the delivery of key interventions over the past two years. New areas of investment and development in 2024/5 include addressing physical and mental health needs of service users; the expansion of young person & family's provision; addressing unmet need (based on OHID data) and enhancing recovery & Lived Experience support.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Sefton has joined the Cheshire and Mersey Local Drug Information System (LDIS) Model, led by the Liverpool John Moores University, Public Health Institute Intelligence Team. The purpose of this wider model is to address threats and emerging issues across the geographical boundaries drawing more efficiently on expertise and resources and providing access to testing
- **'Re-Frame' Diversion Programme:** Since February 2022, Sefton has been one of four areas nationally participating in the 'Re-Frame' programme, funded by the Youth Endowment Fund, to support young people and prevent criminalisation through early engagement. Between 10th February 2022 and 21st August 2024, 193 young people in Sefton were referred to Re-Frame, with the majority (88%) successfully engaging in the programme.
- **Insight and engagement research:** This research aimed to provide valuable insights into the support needs of individuals with recommendations to be considered as part of future plans to address drug and alcohol use in Sefton.

## Next steps

As we move forward with the Combating Drugs Partnership the next steps will focus on building upon the progress we've made so far. We will continue to strengthen partnerships with local organisations, enhance support services, and expand our outreach efforts to ensure we reach those who need help the most. Our focus will also be on evaluating the impact of current initiatives, identifying areas for improvement, and implementing targeted interventions based on local needs.

## Find more information on SCDP

Sefton's CDP website serves as a central hub for information, enabling residents, stakeholders, and service providers to access up-to-date information related to drug prevention and treatment.

**Access Sefton Councils webpage:** [Combating Drugs Partnership \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://sefton.gov.uk/combating-drugs-partnership).