

DEPUTY MAYOR AND THEMATIC LEAD FOR DRUGS

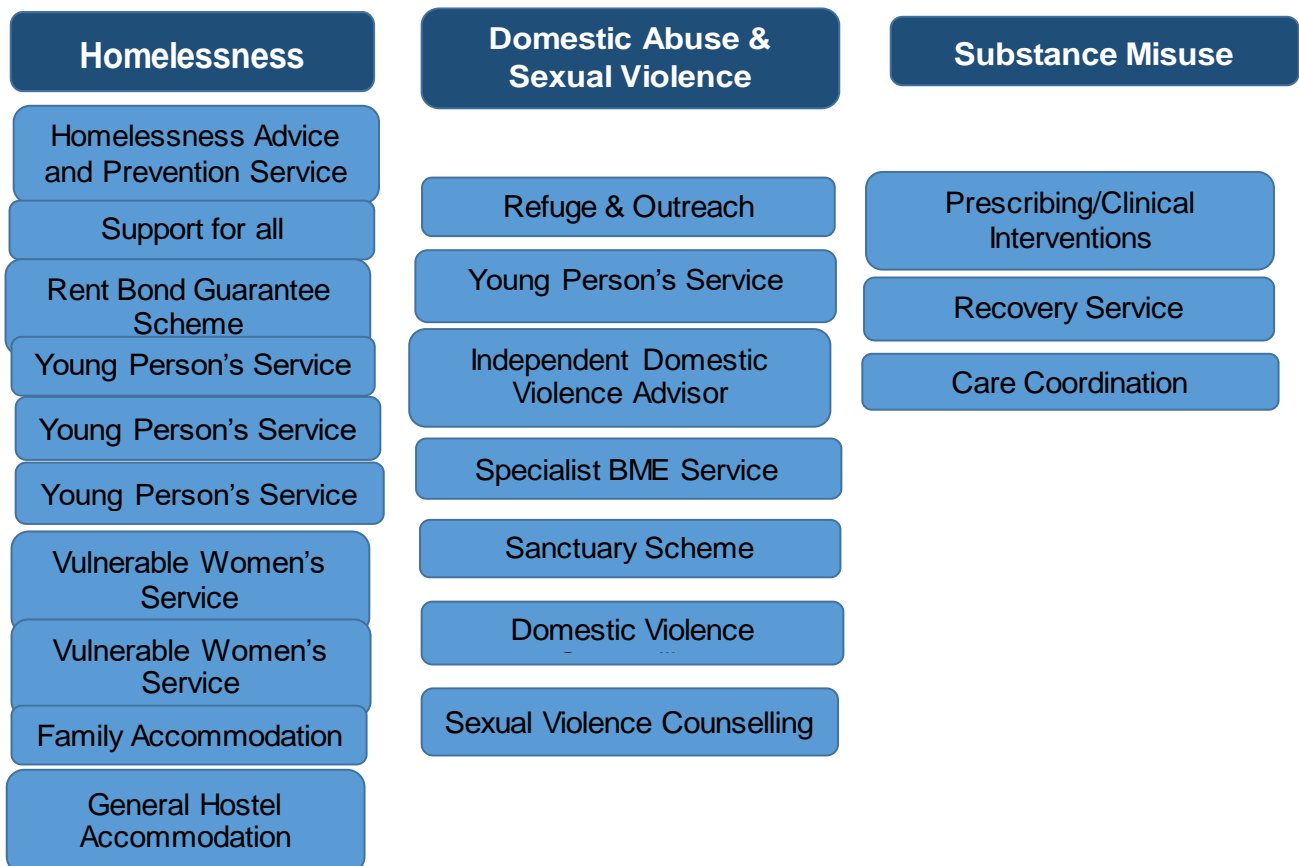
EXECUTIVE REPORT TO COUNCIL 9 OCTOBER 2019

COMMISSIONING OF INTEGRATED SERVICES

Over the past 8 weeks, work has been ongoing with officers within community support and public health to look at how the Council commissions services for those individuals with needs around homelessness, domestic abuse, sexual abuse and substance misuse.

The saving targets identified in the Medium Term Financial Plan required the service to look more closely at budgets and provided an opportunity to examine how the Council is providing the services – in a disjointed, inefficient and confusing manner.

The diagram below demonstrates how the Council currently commissioned these services:

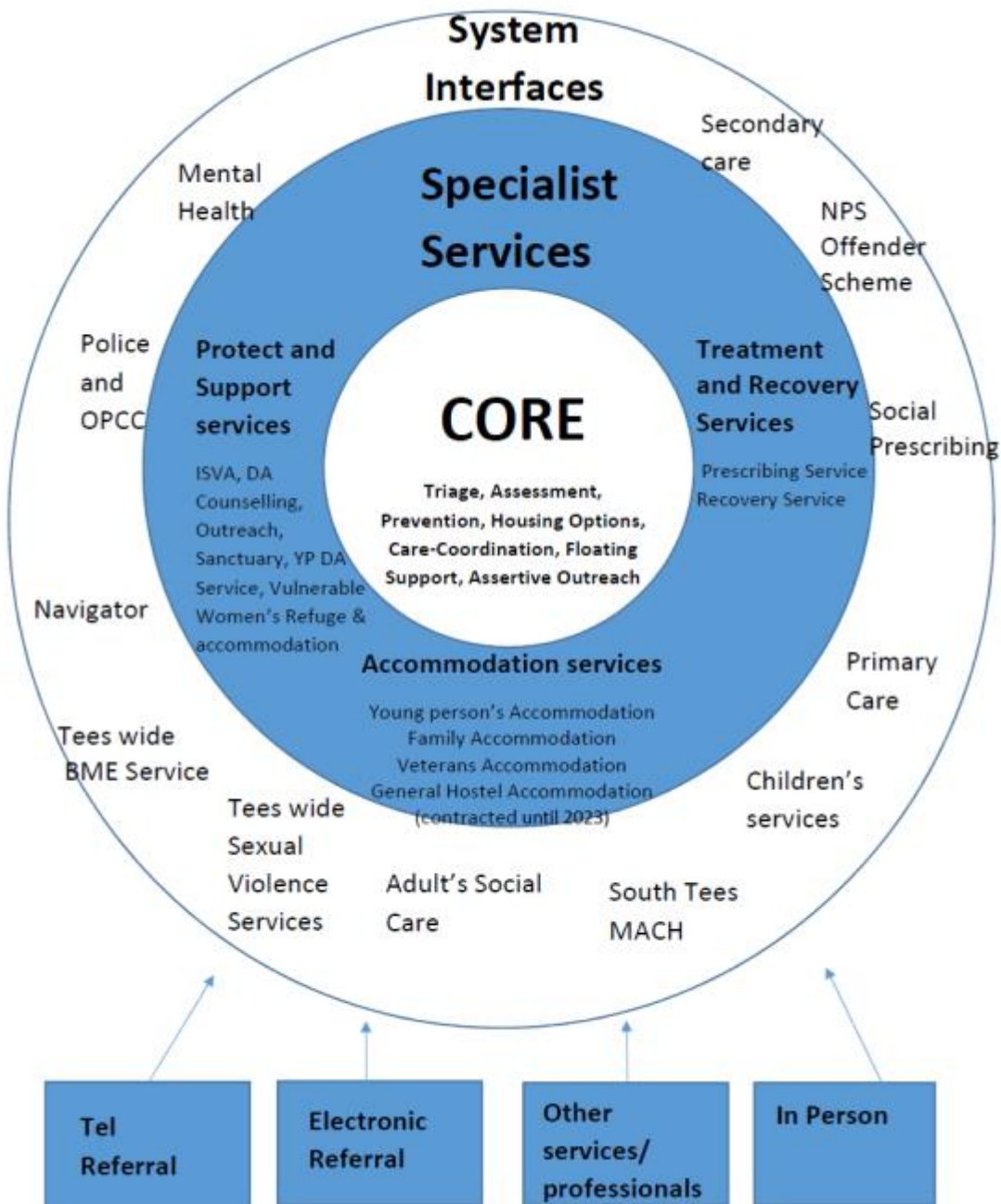


- Veterans Service
- Offenders Service

As part of the ongoing process fortnightly Project Board meetings have been held to drive the decision making around how the Council can redesign services to provide a more person centred approach.

Options for an integrated commissioning model will be presented to the full Executive on Tuesday 8 October 2019 and a full Member briefing will take place on Monday 7 October 2019 and all Councillors are urged to attend.

The diagram below illustrates how the integrated commission model will look:



If Executive approve the proposals, specifications will be drawn up. A market sounding event will also take place in November to allow officer to test the market with providers.

Procurement activity will begin in December 2019 and new services will be in place by 1st September 2020.

In addition, a Project Manager has been appointed to lead on the Middlesbrough Alcohol Centre of Excellence (MACE) which will heavily link into the work around the integrated commissioning model.

The MACE project is being delivered via a Public Health England (PHE) capital grant of £245k. This will involve developing an existing council building to house specialist alcohol services, via the internal reconfiguration of the building and utilising existing specialist substance misuse service capacity to operate the centre. The MACE must be operational within the 2019/20 financial year.

SCRUTINY REVIEW OF OPIOID RELATED DEATHS

The latest Office for National Statistics (ONS) report presents figures for deaths related to drug poisoning (involving controlled and/or non-controlled drugs) and drug misuse in England and Wales from 1993 onwards. They are at the highest levels ever recorded and the issue is not just related to illicit drugs. Middlesbrough Council's Scrutiny Panel have decided to review this issue, as the problem is particularly prevalent locally:

- Over half of Teesside coroner inquests classed as drug related contain an opioid;
- Heroin is the most commonly detected opioid, but frequently deaths feature other drugs present that may have contributed to the death alongside heroin (such as benzodiazepines, alcohol, pregabalin, zopiclone);
- ONS data shows that the North East is the region with the highest rate of drug related deaths in England and Wales (age standardised rate per 100,000 people);
- Middlesbrough has the 2nd highest rate of drug related deaths in the north east (Hartlepool 1st);
- The number of deaths reported in Middlesbrough by ONS for 2016-18 was 48. In 2006-08 this was 24.

WE KEEP TALKING AND THEY DIE CONFERENCE

The second, annual Foundations conference is to take place at the Jury's Inn, Middlesbrough on 8th October 2019. Drug related deaths are at their highest recorded level and continuing to increase, therefore, the time for talking is over - we need to take action to halt the deaths. The aim of the conference is to provide key individuals and organisations (from local authority, health, criminal justice, third sector, etc.) with information to improve strategies and support for this extremely vulnerable group of people, because together we can make a difference. As with the successful 2018 conference, 'You Can't Recover If You're Dead', there will again be a range of national and international harm reduction experts sharing their knowledge and expertise, as a call for action to reduce drug related harms. The free event has already 'sold out' but there is a waiting list in case of cancellations.

MIDDLESBROUGH RECOVERY WALK

11th Annual Recovery Walk

Each year FAVOR UK have a bidding process choose one UK city or Town to host the National Recovery Walk. The event always takes place in September, as this is International Recovery Month. The aim of the walk is to raise awareness of substance use disorders and show that recovery from addiction is possible. The focus of the UK Recovery Walk is also to highlight the many different faces of addiction, and that there are many pathways into recovery to the general public. This is one way of helping to tackle the stigma faced by people suffering with addiction, busting some of the myths that exist in society and giving hope to those who may be struggling.

At the events, people in recovery, their families and friends share their stories of recovery, this can help those who are wanting to get into recovery themselves, but also helps others to understand how addiction affects not only the person using, but others around them too.

This year, Recovery Connections staff, ambassadors and service users were successful in their bid to bring the 11th Annual Recovery Walk to Middlesbrough. A project steering group was set up by people either in recovery themselves, those who have a connection to recovery and those just wanting to help to carefully plan the walk and all the activities on the day.

In the run up to the walk, there were activities out in the community such as football tournaments and the Fresh Hot Coffee bike being used to speak to people about recovery. The day before the walk a conference was held with speakers coming together to talk about stigma and how we need to unite and collectively put a face on recovery. The fountain in Centre Square was also turned purple and the Middlesbrough Recovering Together flag was put up on the Town Hall, with Deputy Mayor Antony High helping facilitate this.



(Recovery Conference, Bar Zero)



(MRT flag on Town Hall)

The day of the walk started off with bands performing, and BBC Tees presenter Gary Philipson introducing the acts to the stage in Centre Square. The walk took place at 12:00pm, with a route planned through the centre of Town, with people carrying banners in support of recovery from all over the UK.



One of the most popular acts on the day was the Fallen Angels Dance Theatre performance, who are a dance theatre company made up of people in recovery from addiction. The people performing had put a lot of hard work into planning and rehearsing the routine in the build up to the day, with many stepping out of their comfort zone to take part- especially with the number of people in attendance at the day hitting over 2000!



(Fallen Angels Dance Theatre)



Following the walk, it was back to Centre Square for more bands and a host of other entertainment, free food and face painting. There were also stalls offering support and advice on Centre Square, including the offer to be trained in using Naloxone- a life-saving opiate reversal injection that is given out to help reduce drug related deaths. The whole day had a brilliant atmosphere, getting special mentions from Middlesbrough Mayor Andy Preston and media interest. The walk next year will take place in Newcastle after they submitted a successful bid to host in 2020. The steering group responsible for pulling together the day done an excellent job, with the day going without a hitch. It took a lot of time and dedication from everyone involved, and the massive turn out and positive feedback from the day are a reflection of this. We wish Newcastle every success in hosting it in 2020!

Councillor Antony High

Deputy Mayor and Thematic Lead for Drugs