

Report of:	Mark Adams - Director of Public Health Councillor Dorothy Davison - Executive Member for Adult Social Care and Public Health
Submitted to:	Executive - 11 May 2021
Subject:	Final Report of the Health Scrutiny Panel - Opioid Dependency: What Happens Next? - Service Response

Summary

Proposed decision(s)
That the Executive approves the service response, and accompanying action plan to Health Scrutiny Review: Opioid Dependency: What happens next?

Report for:	Key decision:	Confidential:	Is the report urgent?
Executive	No.	This report is not confidential.	For the purposes of the call-in procedure, this report is not urgent.

Contribution to delivery of the 2018-22 Strategic Plan		
Business Imperatives	Physical Regeneration	Social Regeneration
	Making Middlesbrough look and feel amazing.	Tackling crime and anti-social behaviour head on Creating positive perceptions of our town on a national basis.

Ward(s) affected
All

What is the purpose of this report?

1. The report provides the response, and accompanying action plan, to Health Scrutiny Review: Opioid Dependency: What happens next?

Why does this report require a Member decision?

2. There is a requirement for the Executive to formally consider the final reports of the Council's scrutiny panels and agree departmental service responses and accompanying action plans.

Report Background

3. Opioids are drugs which come from opium poppies or which have been synthetically produced to mimic the poppy's effects. That includes legal medicines like morphine and codeine, as well as the illegal drug heroin.
4. Middlesbrough has high levels of estimated drug misuse, 25.51 opiate and crack users per 1000 population, triple the national rate of 8.4 and is the highest in the country. (PHE, 2019)
5. The average age of drug related deaths in Middlesbrough is 38.2 years old. In comparison, average life expectancy is 76.2 years old.

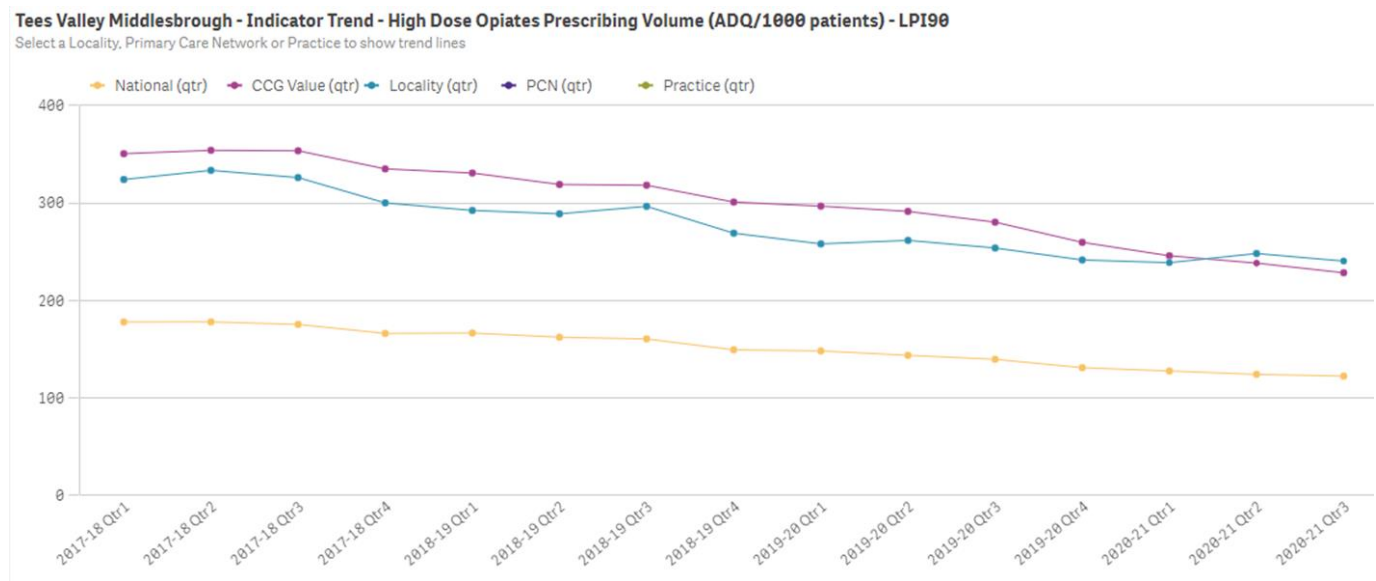
6. During 2020/21 Health Scrutiny undertook a review to:

- To examine local opioid dependency rates
- To consider the commissioned services in place and level of resource currently invested by the local authority and partner agencies in reducing dependency in Middlesbrough
- To investigate the work undertaken by the local authority and partners to tackle opioid dependency
- To identify good practice and evidence based approaches that aim to support opioid tapering / pain management (including campaigns to increase people's knowledge of the risks associated with prescribed opioids and over the counter medications)

There is significant existing good practice within the town to address these issues including:

- The Preventing Drug Related Deaths post has conducted reviews of deaths and looked at patterns of drug use.
- Middlesbrough Council has taken part in Heroin and Crack Cocaine Action Area (HACAA) work with Cleveland Police
- An integrated service model has been developed to look at wider issues.
- Capital funding has been secured for Middlesbrough's Alcohol Centre of Excellence (MACE) – Hall Gate depot building.
- Live Well Centre approach has been adopted.

Since 2017/18 there has been a reducing trend in opiate prescribing locally with the gap between local and national prescribing rates reducing over time.



There are exciting opportunities to further address these issues through:

- Project ADDER (Executive paper submitted January 2021)
- Changing futures (Executive paper submitted April 2021)
- Partnership working across the health care system (As outlined in the action plan)

What decision(s) are being asked for?

7. That the Executive approves the response, and accompanying action plan Health Scrutiny Review: Opioid Dependency: What happens next?

Why is this being recommended?

8. The Health Scrutiny Review: Opioid Dependency: What happens next? report and subsequent action plan will be used to enhance wider action across partnerships to tackle addictions and associated vulnerabilities across Middlesbrough as part of a whole system response to this complex problem.

Other potential decisions and why these have not been recommended

9. No alternative decisions were considered as the recommendation by the Health Scrutiny Panel. Actions complement the work of project ADDER and the ambitions of partner agencies to tackle this agenda.

Impact(s) of recommended decision(s)

10. The Health Scrutiny report will support wider action around increasing tackling addictions. This will lead to prevention of and improved recovery from addictions and a reduction in drug related deaths.

The action plan will be implemented in partnership with wider Council colleagues, other statutory organisations including NHS Tees Valley CCG and TEWV.

Legal:

11. The proposed actions suggested by the service do not raise any issues in terms of legal implications. It is noted that in regards to recommendation A, it is simply a suggestion at this stage that ongoing conversations take place around the option of safe spaces in the future, and that any further steps would need careful consideration in line with the current legal status at that time.

Financial

12. Costs associated with the implementation of the plan have been budgeted for as part of the implementation of Middlesbrough integrated service model or; form part of a nationally funded delivery of Project ADDER or; have been met by partner agencies as outlined in the action plan.

Policy Framework

13. The proposed action has no impact on the Council's policy framework.

Equality and Diversity

14. Advice will be sought regarding requirements around an Equality Impact Assessment(s) for individual interventions as required. EIA level 1 has been completed for project ADDER and the Middlesbrough integrated service model. No negative implications for protected characteristics have been identified.

Risk

15. Risk logs are in place for project ADDER and the Middlesbrough integrated service model

Actions to be taken to implement the decision(s)

16. Progress on implementation of the identified actions will be provided.

Appendices

17. There are no appendices.

Background papers

Body	Report title	Date
Health Scrutiny	Health Scrutiny Panel Opioid Dependency: What happens next?	January 2021
Executive	Project ADDER (Addiction, Diversion, Disruption, Enforcement and Recovery) – external funding investment in a whole system approach to tackling drug misuse in Middlesbrough.	19 th January 2021
Executive	To provide an update on the Changing Futures funding opportunity.	13 th April 2021

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