

# Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership

Lucy Kennedy – Public Health Commissioner, Substance Misuse.

# Background

## 'From Harm to Hope'

- The national drug strategy published in December 2021
- Sets out the governments 10 year strategy to tackle harms caused by illegal drug use and related crime
- A response to two independent reports published by Dame Carol Black in 2020 and 2021
- Three strategic priorities:
  - Break drug supply chains
  - Deliver a world class treatment and recovery system
  - Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs



# From Harm to Hope

## 1. Break Drug Supply Chains

- 1. restricting upstream flow – preventing drugs from reaching the country
- 2. securing the border
- 3. targeting the ‘middle market’ – breaking the ability of gangs to supply drugs
- 4. going after the money – disrupting drug gang operations
- 5. rolling up county lines
- 6. tackling the retail market –the police are better able to target local drug gangs and street dealing
- 7. restricting the supply of drugs into prisons

## 2. Deliver a World Class Treatment and Recovery System

- 1. delivering world-class treatment and recovery services – rebuild LA
- commissioned substance misuse services, improving quality, capacity and outcomes
- 2. rebuilding the professional workforce
- 3. ensuring better integration of services – people’s physical and
- mental health needs are addressed
- 4. improving access to accommodation alongside treatment
- 5. improving employment opportunities
- 6. increasing referrals into treatment in the criminal justice system
- 7. keeping prisoners engaged in treatment after release

## 3. Achieve a Generational Shift in Demand for Drugs

- 1. building a world-leading evidence base – ambitious new research backed by a cross-government innovation fund
- 2. applying tougher and more meaningful consequences
- 3. delivering school-based prevention and early intervention
- 4. Supporting young people and families most at risk of substance misuse investing in a range of programmes that provide early, targeted support

# Background

- In June 2022 the Joint Combating Drugs Unit (JCDCU) published guidance on setting up and operating Combating Drugs Partnerships as a whole system approach to achieving the outcomes laid out in the drug strategy
- Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership Board (CDPB) was established in late 2022
- The Barnet Combating Drugs Partnership needs assessment was completed and published in June 2023 [Needs Assessment](#)
- A CDPB delivery plan was created based on the recommendations of the needs assessment and aligned with the drug strategy
- A metrics dashboard has also been created to support monitoring of progress in a number of areas

# Combating Drugs Partnership Board

## Membership of the board

- CDP chair and lead member for PH – Cllr Alison Moore
- SRO – Director of Public Health and Prevention
- Representation from:
  - Public Health
  - Community Safety
  - CGL (treatment provider)
  - Family services
  - Adult social care
  - Lead for VVE
  - Probation
  - HMP Wormwood Scrubs
  - Safeguarding Adults Board
  - MET Police
  - OHID
  - Barnet Homes
  - Mental Health commissioning
  - BELS
  - Inclusion Health – NCL
  - Job Centre Plus
  - ICB Safeguarding
  - Lived experience representation



# Key Ambitions

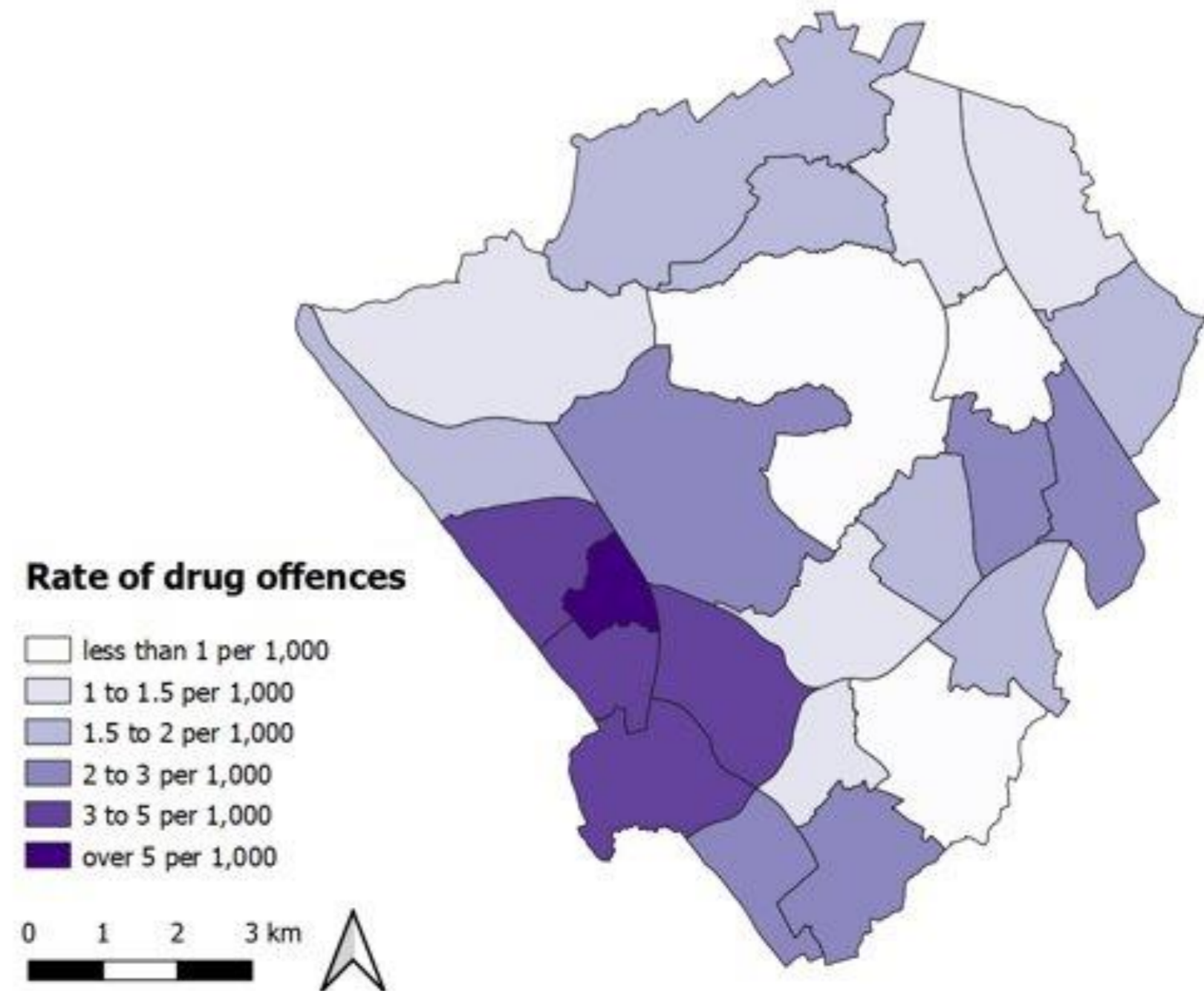
- The Combating Drugs Partnership Board aims to
  - ✓ Reduce drug related crime
  - ✓ Reduce supply of drugs
  - ✓ Reduce drug related harms
  - ✓ Increase treatment engagement
  - ✓ Increase long-term recovery from drug addiction
  - ✓ Reduce the number of people developing problematic substance misuse

# CDPB needs assessment outcomes, workstreams and achievements

Barnet CDPB delivery plan is aligned with the drug strategy priorities and has a number of workstreams within this.

# Breaking drug supply chains

- **Drug offences in Barnet**
- Jan 2018 – Jan 2023
- Barnet rate of drug offences per 1000 is 2.4, generally downward trend
- London rate of drug offences 4.8, generally downward trend
- Ward differences locally



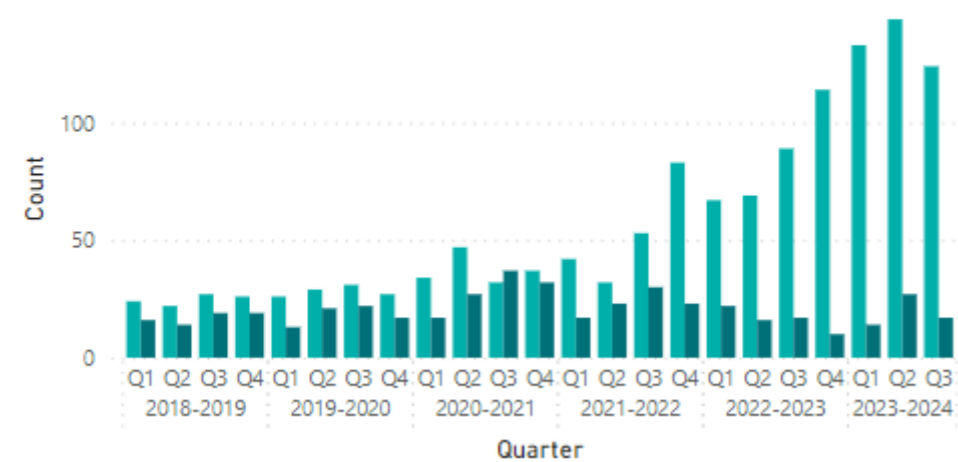


# Breaking drug supply chains

- Clear Hold Build – Police led multi-agency partnership operations across Grahame Park and Burnt Oak tackling serious and organised crime. Targeted work included reducing drug dealing and disrupting supply lines leading to increased numbers of arrests.
- Project Adder – Co-ordinated law-enforcement activity aiming to reduce drug related deaths, drug related offending, the prevalence of drug use and disrupt supply and importation networks. Piloted in various part of the country including two London boroughs this is now being rolled out to all London boroughs.

Drug trafficking

Measure ● Offence ● Sanction



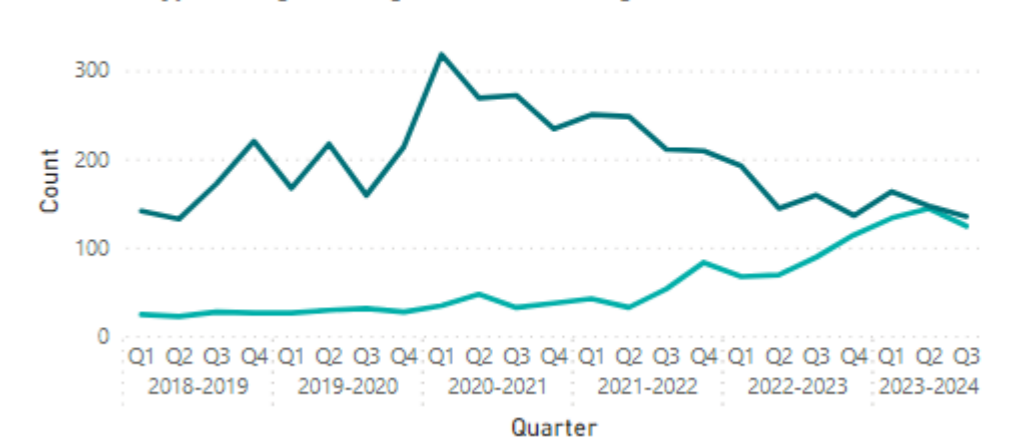
Possession of drugs

Measure ● Offence



Comparison of offences

Crime\_Subtype ● Drug Trafficking ● Possession of Drugs



# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

## Opiate and/or crack users (OCU) prevalence estimates

- New data released Sept 2023
- Covers period 2016 - 2020
- Increasing numbers of OCU in Barnet
- Large confidence intervals so cant be sure of accuracy however rates now look similar to London average (in 2016/17 rates were lower than London average)
- **[Opiate and crack cocaine use: prevalence estimates - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)**  
**[www.gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk)**

# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

## Alcohol prevalence estimates

- New data released September 2023
- Covers period 2016 – 2019
- Rates appear consistent over time
- Large confidence intervals so cant be sure of accuracy however rates look similar to London average.
- [Alcohol dependence prevalence in England - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

- **Unmet Treatment Need**

- New data released in 2023
- Utilises prevalence data and numbers of people in treatment to predict numbers of individuals who need treatment but are not accessing services.
- OCU not in treatment estimated as above the London average
- Alcohol users not in treatment similar to the London average

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# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

- **Adult numbers in substance misuse treatment**
  - Gradual reduction since 2022
  - Prevalence has increased but numbers accessing treatment declining
  - Need to increase identify and support greater numbers into treatment services

# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

- **Criminal Justice and Substance misuse subgroup established**
- ✓ Drug and alcohol worker based at Colindale Police station providing on site assessments and signposting
- ✓ Joint work with Brent and Harrow to provide 5 days a week cover at Willesden Mag Court providing on the day assessments for treatment orders
- ✓ Co-location with probation services
- ✓ Establishment of regular in-reach to prison and better communication with prisoners with addiction issues leading to increased numbers engaging in treatment on release from prison

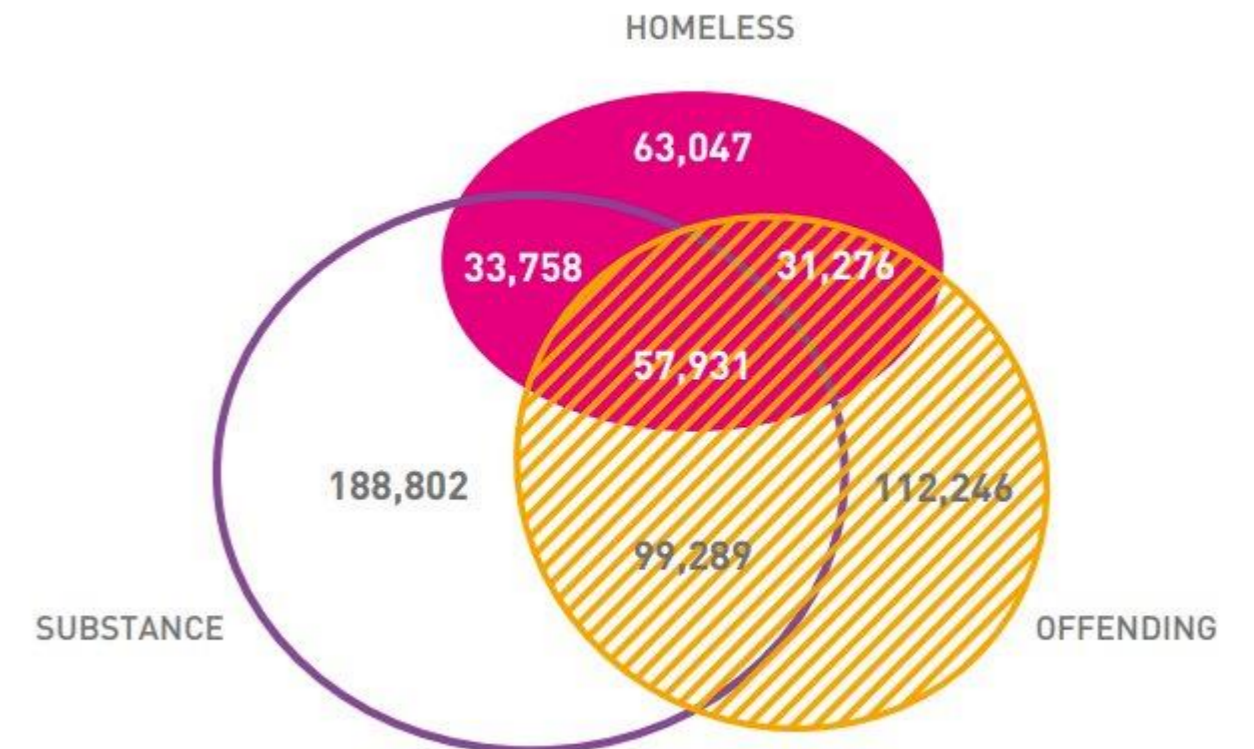
# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

- **Older adults – evidence from literature**
- Adult social care were not engaged as part of the needs assessment and presents an action/opportunity
- People aged 50 and over represented 31.9% of Barnet's population in March 2021, equivalent to 123,756 residents (ONS, 2022). Those aged 65-74 have been identified in literature as the largest growing cohort with problematic substance misuse issues but are underrepresented in treatment service.
- This need is believed to be driven by people misusing alcohol who are not in treatment
- It is believed that around a third of older people who misuse alcohol only begin to do so in later life, something thought to particularly impact women
- Effective interventions to support older people can be provided including identification and brief advice (IBA), thiamine supplementation to prevent or reduce the impact of some cases of alcohol-related brain damage and better working relationships with adult social care

# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

- **Severe Multiple Deprivation (SMD)**
- SMD refers to people with two or more of the following issues: mental health, offending, homelessness, substance misuse
- Difficult to quantify the overlap in these categories, NCL work is starting to look at this
- Often challenging to support people with SMD as services set up to deal with a single issue
- There is often an impact on “blue-light” services where people with SMD aren’t supported adequately

Overlap of SMD disadvantage domains, England, 2010/11



- 30% of people in treatment for drug and/or alcohol misuse are in contact with mental health services .This is similar to London and higher than England.
- 63.4% of treatment episodes were for people who reported at the start of their episode that they had a mental health treatment need.



# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

- **Co-occurring Conditions Sub-group established**
- ✓ Scoping MH/ SMU support across statutory and 3rd sector providers
- ✓ Reviewing existing crisis pathways and improving crisis support for clients and professionals
- ✓ Increased joint working across professional organisations
- ✓ Promoted training opportunities
- ✓ Actions from SAR case review group informing sub-group action plan
- ✓ Development of mental health outreach roles partnership between BEH, Public Health, Barnet Homes and CGL

# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

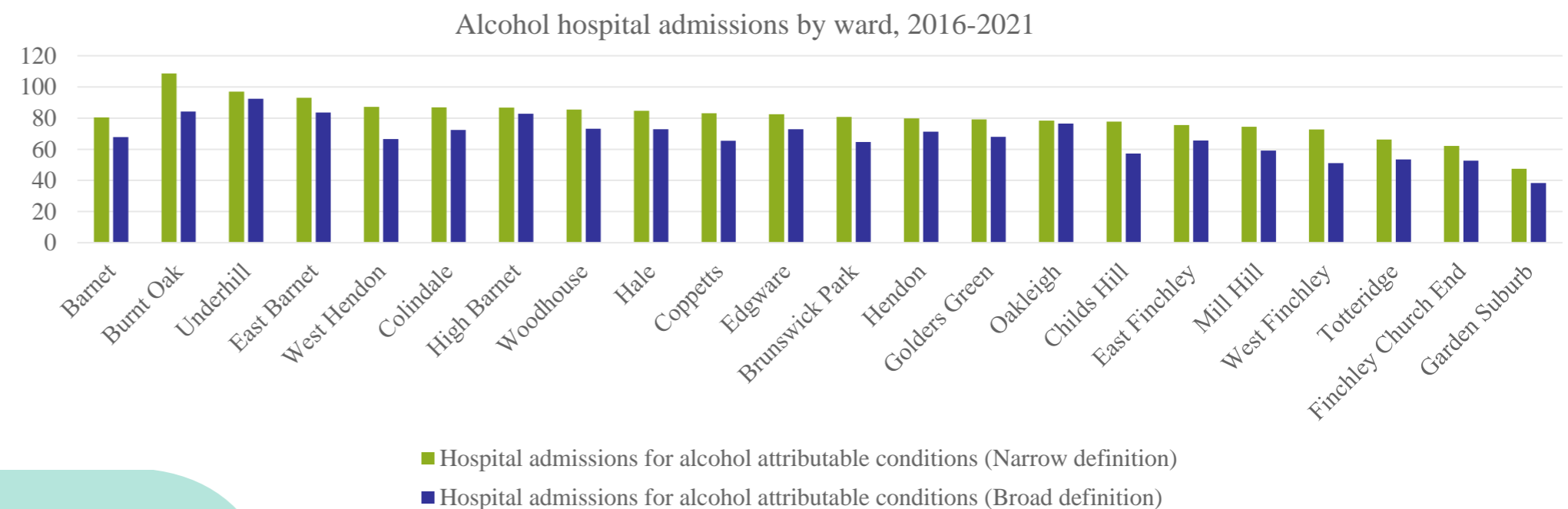
- **Drug and alcohol related deaths**
  - Barnet deaths in treatment are a relatively small number however any deaths are too many and we want to ensure we learn from preventable deaths for the future
  - Alcohol deaths due to chronic alcohol related conditions are a significant percentage of the deaths whilst in treatment

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# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

- **Alcohol admissions to hospital**

- The Barnet rates of hospital admissions for alcohol are lower than the national and London rates
- Wards with higher deprivation also have higher rates of hospital admissions. Burnt Oak and Underhill are of particular note.
- Barnet has a high proportion of adults who abstain which impacts on general alcohol admission and death rates
- 47% of individuals admitted have had more than one admission

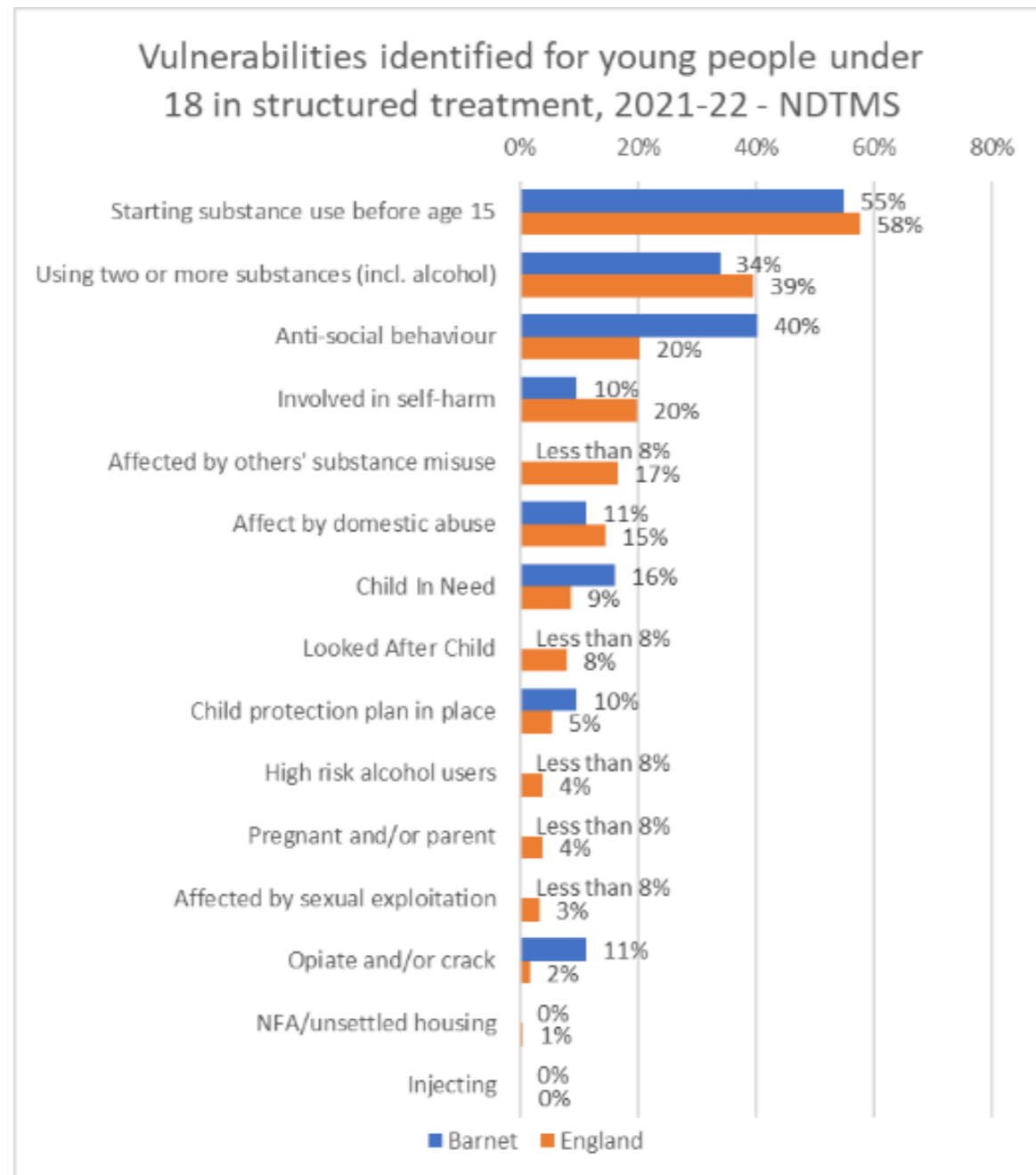


# Delivering a world class treatment and recovery system

- ✓ Ongoing work to increase numbers into treatment
- ✓ Planning has started for a drug and alcohol related death panel to review preventable deaths and implement learning outcomes
- ✓ Initial meeting taken place with the coroners office to build relationships and pathway
- ✓ Co-location of drug and alcohol workers in JCP
- ✓ CGL workers now involved in probation resettlement panels
- ✓ NCL wide review of alcohol support and pathways within hospital has commenced

# Reducing the generational demand for drugs and alcohol

- **Vulnerabilities of Young People in Treatment in Barnet**



- Comparing data for under 18s in structured treatment in Barnet and England shows that Barnet had higher percentages of young people who engaged in anti-social behaviour (25 people), or identified as a Child in Need or with a child protection plan in place (16 people) , or using opiates and/or crack (7 people).

- Barnet had lower percentages of young people involved in self-harm or affected by others' substance misuse.

- % represent small numbers: E.G. whilst 11% of the Barnet young people use opiates or crack, this actually represents 7 people.

# Reducing the generational demand for drugs and alcohol

- ✓ Review of school suspensions and exclusions for substance use
- ✓ Communications out to schools via PHSE networks about substance use education and treatment support available
- ✓ Increased numbers of school/education settings referring into YP treatment services & increased numbers of YP accessing support

Academic Year	Number of suspensions (drugs/alcohol)	% of all suspensions	Number of exclusions	% of all exclusions
2020/2021	82	5%	4	18%
2021/2022	164	6%	1	8%
Autumn term 2022/23	71	7%	1	12%

# Reducing the generational demand for drugs and alcohol

- ✓ Planned consultation with young people at the Youth Forum about what they want to see re education and support/training
- ✓ Public Health contributed to the review of The Statement of Licensing Policy and sitting on the new Licensing Action Group commencing 26/01/24
- ✓ Updating of alcohol related MECC resources and promotion of MECC training and approach [Making every contact count | Barnet Council](#)

**BE DRINK AWARE**

**FACTS AND FIGURES**

Over 10 million people in UK drink at levels that increase risk of health **harm**

14 units of alcohol is the recommended weekly limit for men & women. This is equivalent to 6 pints or 1.3 bottles of wine.

400% increase in liver disease among people in UK since 1970

Alcohol is leading risk factor in people aged 15-49 for > ill health, > early mortality, > disability

55-59 years average age of death from an alcohol-specific cause for males & females

2 days a week not drinking reduces risk from drinking

**HELP AND ADVICE**

- You may be drinking more alcohol than you realise. Regularly drinking more than the recommended daily limits for alcohol risks damaging your health.
- You don't need to get drunk or binge drink to put your health at risk. Everyone has a different tolerance level, so don't try to keep up with your friends. Even a small reduction in the amount of alcohol you are drinking can make a difference to your risk.
- Alcohol puts you at risk of gaining weight, reducing quality of sleep, feeling tired, high blood pressure, liver problems, heart attack and some types of cancer. It can make you vulnerable to accidents & injuries and can impact on relationships with friends & family and your mood & mental health.
- Make it a smaller one or a lower percentage – try smaller size drinks like bottles of beer over a pint or a small glass of wine instead of a large. Swap stronger beers or wines with lower strength. Check strength by finding the alcohol by volume in percentage (%) on the packaging.
- Set a budget and make a plan – limit how much you are drinking and how much you are spending on alcohol.
- Let family & friends know – that you are cutting down so that they can support you.

**LOCAL SERVICES AND ONLINE SUPPORT**

Service	Type	Description	Details
Change Grow Live Barnet - Barnet Drug and Alcohol Services	• Online • Email • Phone • Face-to-face	Provides services for adults and young people, who have problems with alcohol or drugs, along with their families and carers.  Barnet residents can access a full range of services, from advice through to structured treatment programmes and residential treatment if necessary.	Change Grow Live Barnet, Ground Floor, Dennis Scott Unit, Edgware Community Hospital, Burnt Oak Broadway, Edgware, HA8 9AQ (Mon-Fri 09:30-17:00)  Phone: Adults - 0300 303 2866  Email: General enquiries <a href="mailto:barncatinfo@act.org.uk">barncatinfo@act.org.uk</a> Confidential info: <a href="mailto:supportinfo@act.org.uk">supportinfo@act.org.uk</a>  Website: <a href="http://www.changegrowlive.org/barnet">www.changegrowlive.org/barnet</a>
DrinkCoach	• Online	An online alcohol drinking level test and online coaching with alcohol treatment specialists.	Website: <a href="http://www.drinkcoach.org.uk/barnet-alcohol-test">www.drinkcoach.org.uk/barnet-alcohol-test</a>
Drinkaware	• Online • Email • Phone	Drinkaware offers a range of tools, advice and support to help you make better choices about drinking.	Email: <a href="mailto:contact@drinkaware.co.uk">contact@drinkaware.co.uk</a> Phone: 0300 123 1110 (Drinkline) Website: <a href="https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/">https://www.drinkaware.co.uk/</a>
Alcohol Change UK	• Online • Email • Phone	Alcohol Change UK focus entirely on reducing the harm caused by alcohol.	Email: <a href="mailto:contact@alcoholchange.org.uk">contact@alcoholchange.org.uk</a> Phone: 020 3907 8480 (Not a helpline) Website: <a href="https://alcoholchange.org.uk/">https://alcoholchange.org.uk/</a>
Drinkline	• Phone	Drinkline runs a free, confidential helpline for people who are concerned about their drinking, or someone else's.	Phone: 0300 123 1110 Open Mon-Fri 9am - 8pm, weekends 11am - 5pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	• Online • Face-to-face • Phone • Email	Come together with others to share experience, strength and hope to solve a common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.	Website: <a href="http://www.alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk">www.alcoholicsanonymous.org.uk</a>  Phone: Free national helpline 0800 917 7650 Email: <a href="mailto:help@aa.org.uk">help@aa.org.uk</a>

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**BARNET** LONDON BOROUGH

# Future areas of work

- Domestic abuse – review quality of access to treatment for victims and perpetrators.  
Recruitment of womens worker to CGL
- Training programme for professionals and community groups on substance misuse identification and referral, to strengthen system wide skills and knowledge
- Increased engagement with GPs to develop Shared Care practices, consistent assessment and recording of substance use, referral pathways and development of GP practice based alcohol clinics
- Review of workforce development needs and plan utilising new Health Education England guidance (not yet released)
- Establish drug and alcohol related death panel



# Future areas of work

- Addressing gaps in housing provision
- Audit A&E admissions and outcomes for drug and alcohol users to identify patterns and areas of good practice or development
- Continued development of substance use education and support in education settings
- Continued development of pathways into treatment for children and parents
- Increase completion of DrinkCoach audit and uptake of online coaching offer
- Review provision of support for older people including identification and referral pathways
- Investigate prevalence and support options for adults with alcohol related dementia

# Substance Misuse Support in Barnet

**CGL Barnet** offers information, advice and treatment to adults and young people for both drugs and alcohol [Drug and Alcohol Service - Barnet \(changegrowlive.org\)](https://www.changegrowlive.org)

- ❖ 121 support, opiate substitute prescribing, group interventions, needle exchange, blood borne virus testing and Hep B vaccinations, detoxification, recovery support
- ❖ Specialist rough sleeper outreach team

**DrinkCoach** offer an online self audit of alcohol use, sign posting information and online coaching sessions for alcohol use [Alcohol Test | Barnet — DrinkCoach](https://www.drinkcoach.org.uk/alcohol-test-barnet)

# What can I do?

- MECC conversations can be had at any time – make yourself aware of the MECC resources or complete the training [Making every contact count | Barnet Council](#)
- Be aware of what substance misuse support is available in Barnet and how to refer or signpost to services
- Book yourself or your team training with CGL for substance awareness, harm reduction or identification of substance use concerns
- Consider how your work may overlap with the aims of the CDP and get in touch about working together!

# Questions or ideas for collaboration?

