This strategy outlines our approach to reducing the harms caused by drugs and alcohol misuse to individuals, families and communities in Hertfordshire. It has been informed by the Hertfordshire Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment 2015 and subsequent Adults – drugs JSNA support pack 2017-18: commissioning prompts, and 2017 Drug Strategy (Home Office).¹

The Strategy will be supported by a series of annual delivery plans, to be overseen by the Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Board, delivered through task and finish groups as required. It addresses the misuse of both drugs and alcohol and considers the needs of all ages.

What are the issues?

The misuse of drugs and alcohol impact harmfully on individuals, children, families and communities throughout the county.

Individual harms include poor physical and mental health, criminality, breakdown of social relationships, poverty, unemployment, homelessness and substance-related death.

Harms and impact to the wider community include drugs-related crimes, increased demand for emergency and planned health services, increased need for social care support and interventions, public disorder, provision of treatment for dependency, road traffic collisions, assaults (including sexual and domestic abuse), fires, reduced educational achievement and reduced occupational productivity.

The impact of substance misuse is experienced by individuals and communities and is associated with an increased need for a range of statutory and voluntary sector services.

Hertfordshire’s Drugs and Alcohol Strategy 2019 is central to reducing these harms:

- Two thirds of people successfully completing treatment in Hertfordshire do not have employment: a key component of recovery.
- In Hertfordshire, alcohol related knife crime accounts for 15% of all recorded knife crimes; drugs related 5%.
- There is evidence that county lines activity takes place in Hertfordshire and county line operators live in the county.

The general principles of the strategy and delivery plan will be as follows:

- Use plain language.
- Incorporate the views of stakeholders including service users and their representatives.
- Identify interventions based on an assessment of need and evidence of cost effectiveness from national or local research, national guidance and local policy, and promote innovative new ideas to be piloted where appropriate.
- Deliver successful outcomes through effective partnership working, including the sharing of good quality data and information.
- Be county-wide and equitable across the county, responding to the needs of individuals and communities, including children, young people, and adults of all ages, emerging high-risk groups and those with protected characteristics.
- Have an associated delivery plan which will be reviewed annually taking into account emerging needs and local trends.

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3 The term ‘County lines’ refers to the exploitation of vulnerable people by urban gangs to move and supply drugs to suburban areas around the county.
What are we going to do?

In Hertfordshire, we aim to reduce the harms related to the misuse of drugs and alcohol by prioritising evidence-based, cost effective interventions in drugs and alcohol prevention, care and support and reducing demand for all people of all ages within Hertfordshire.

This strategy addresses prevention and early help; care and support; and enforcement and community safety.

In Hertfordshire we have decided that the following three priority outcomes best describe what we wish to achieve.

1. Fewer children, young people and adults of all ages, are affected by drugs and /or alcohol issues.
2. People get the right help with their drugs and alcohol misuse.
3. Fewer communities are affected by drugs and alcohol related crime and behaviours.

How will we make this happen?

Accountability at the highest level in Hertfordshire lies with the Herts Leaders’ Group. The quality and delivery of individual priorities will be the responsibility of designated topic groups accountable to the Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Board. This Board has equal status to other county boards such as the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Criminal Justice Board.

We aspire to move resources towards prevention activity to reduce demand on services. Commissioners of these services will be encouraged to participate.

This strategy is produced on behalf of the Drugs and Alcohol Strategic Board for Hertfordshire, which would like to extend its thanks to all of the agencies, organisations and professionals who have contributed to its creation.
## Our Vision and Priority outcomes

We will work together to reduce the harms caused by drugs and alcohol misuse in Hertfordshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcomes</th>
<th>How will we measure the successes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Fewer children, young people and adults of all ages, are affected by drugs and/or alcohol issues.</td>
<td>Numbers of those accessing information as a result of campaigns. (Data Source: Drugs and Alcohol internet pages) Numbers of children and families provided with appropriate support (Data Source: EHM/Families First)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. People get the right help with their drugs can alcohol misuse.</td>
<td>Number of young people successfully completing their support/treatment programme (Data source: CGL) Number of adults successfully completing treatment (Data source: CGL)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Fewer communities are affected by drugs and alcohol related crime and behaviours.</td>
<td>Number of new introductions to treatment after being drug tested on arrest (Data source: Drug test on arrest)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Outcome 1
Fewer children, young people and adults of all ages are affected by drugs and alcohol issues.

Priority 1.1 We will give consistent information and advice to people and services about drugs and alcohol.

Priority 1.2 We will work with children, young people and families to encourage them to choose not to misuse drugs and alcohol.

Priority 1.3 Our drugs and alcohol campaigns will be targeted to specific risks and groups, using an appropriate range of media.

Priority 1.4 We will work to ensure that vulnerable children and families are identified and provided with appropriate support, adopting a whole-family approach.

Priority 1.5 We will make sure that young people aged 18-25 get the right help from the right services.

Outcome 2
People get the right help with their drugs and alcohol misuse.

Priority 2.1 We will work to deliver high quality drugs and alcohol treatment and aftercare which will enable children, young people and adults to get the right help.

Priority 2.2 A range of services will be accessible across Hertfordshire that are appropriate to the needs of children, families and adults at all levels of harm, risk and complexity.

Priority 2.3 We will reduce drugs-related deaths.

Outcome 3
Fewer communities are affected by drugs and alcohol related crimes and behaviours.

Priority 3.1 Individuals who commit crime to support their substance misuse will continue to gain priority access to treatment.

Priority 3.2 We will take appropriate enforcement action around drugs and alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour.

Priority 3.3 We will work together to disrupt the supply of illegal drugs and illicit alcohol.