



Combating Drugs Partnership  
Progress Report  
October 2024

## Foreword by the Chair

As Chair of the Combating Drugs Partnership and SRO for Cumbria, and as someone who has worked combatting drugs and the harms they cause for over a quarter of a century, I am pleased to present the annual progress report on the work of the Cumbria Combating Drugs Partnership and its delivery of the 'From Harm to Hope' strategy.

As outlined in the report Cumbria continues to work towards the delivery of the national strategy at a local level. Cumbria Police in collaboration with wider CJS partners and with the aim to **Break Drug Supply Chains** continue to target those individuals who bring the supply of drugs into our county and the associated crimes that accompany this activity.

Our Public Health partners and treatment providers continue to work towards the **Delivery of a World-class Treatment and Recovery System** by ensuring access to treatment provision and successful outcomes for the individuals involved. We continue to monitor our performance data and are starting to see these figures rise from our previous progress report in July 2023.

Across the partnership we consider preventative approaches in every area of our business recognising that prevention is key to assist with the future demand across all our organisations and to keep people safe. By **achieving that generational shift in demand for drugs** we help to reduce the need for supply chains and also reduce future demand for treatment and recovery provision. Details of some of our preventative approaches are outlined in the report.

While statutory partners have a key role in delivery we must also recognise the work of our voluntary/third sector and lived experience individuals and organisations. This has been invaluable certainly in relation to our 1CLIC (County Lines Informed Cumbria) project. The Lived Experience element has been key in the delivery of this work protecting communities and vulnerable individuals.

Our governance and structure is firmly embedded with all our partner agencies engaged in local delivery. As such we are in the position to react to any additional direction the new Government may have on the progression of combating the impact that substance misuse and associated activity can have in our communities.

No one agency alone can address the issues associated with drugs; partnership working and collaboration is key in achieving positive outcomes for the county of Cumbria, as such I would like to thank everyone involved for their hard work, dedication, commitment and continued support.

## David Allen

Chair, Safer Cumbria Partnership  
Police, Fire & Crime Commissioner for Cumbria

## Vision

*For a county with lower-than-average levels of drug and alcohol misuse, a world class treatment and recovery system, and where individual and social harms of addictions are minimised, especially where these impact on children and families.*

Following the Dame Carol Black independent review of drugs in 2020 and 2021, the Government responded with the national drug strategy 'From Harm to Hope' – a 10-year strategy for combating drug related crime and reducing drug related harms.

From Harm to Hope focusses on reducing supply and demand for illegal drugs and delivering a high-quality drug treatment and recovery system. The priorities are to:

**Break drug supply chains**

**Deliver world class treatment and recovery services**

**Achieve a generational shift in the demand for drugs**

As part of the 2021 drugs strategy, every local area across England was asked to form a Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP). These partnerships bring together a range of local partners - including enforcement, treatment, recovery, and prevention – and provide a single setting for understanding and addressing shared challenges related to drug-related harm, based on local context, and need.

In response to national guidance the Cumbria Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP) was formed building on existing multiagency partnerships and is now well established. The designated Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) is David Allen, Police & Crime Commissioner, and chair of the Safer Cumbria Partnership (SCP).

The CDP is represented by the SCP Board and the Addictions Board, the Addictions Board is accountable to the SCP Board and comprises of several sub-groups. The organogram (Appendix 1) shows the current CDP structure and subgroups.

The Safer Cumbria Partnership provides a platform for organisations to deliver a coordinated approach to criminal justice, the serious violence duty and counter terrorism. It is therefore well placed to offer governance and strategic oversight as the Senior Responsible Owner and to be nationally accountable for the CDP.

The Cumbria Addictions Board has multiagency representation and strives to foster a joint, strategic approach to tackling addictions in Cumbria. The board delegates work to subject specific subgroups. Subgroups meet quarterly feeding into the Addiction Board meetings, also held on a quarterly basis. The board provides the operational function to deliver the work on combating drugs and is jointly chaired by Cumbria Police and Public Health.

## Drug and Alcohol Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)

To inform the local response, the JSNA highlights areas for improvement and focus and informs the Addiction Board Action Plan. An update of the JSNA is currently underway and is due for publication in January 2025. The County of Cumbria is served by Cumbria Police and two Local Authorities: Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council.

### Drug related harms



The rate per 100,000 deaths related to drug misuse across Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council is 20.7 and 13.7 respectively. The England average is 8.5 per 100,000 in 2021-23.



The rate per 100,000 deaths related to alcohol across Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council is 41.4 and 46.4, respectively. The England average is 39.7 per 100,000 in 2022.



The rate per 100,000 alcohol-specific hospital admissions for Cumberland Council and Westmorland and Furness Council is 574 and 501 respectively. The England average is 581 per 100,000 in 2022-23.



Alcohol-related hospital admission rates in Cumbria overall are lower than the England average of 581 per 100,000.

### Drug demand, misuse and treatment



In Cumbria, 16% of adults in treatment reported illicit use of prescription-only medicines or over-the-counter medicines, compared to 9% nationally.



The number of adults in Cumbria with alcohol dependence not in treatment has fallen from 82% to 79.8%, the England estimate is 80.5%.



People successfully exiting treatment (all substances) is 48%, this compares to 46% nationally.

### Drug and alcohol related crime



From the 2022/23 to 2023/24 period, alcohol related incidents of crime have fallen by 3.9% in Cumbria.



Cumbria has a lower baseline level of drug related crime, with a rate of 2.3 crimes per 1,000 population, compared to the national average of 3.5.

## Priorities in Cumbria

- Reduce the number of drug related deaths.
- Continue to increase the number of people in treatment, and successfully completing treatment.
- Continue to reduce the number of county lines operating in Cumbria and their associated impacts.

## Progress so far

- ✓ The two-year 1CLIC pilot (a programme funded from the Serious Violence Duty funding allocation aimed at targeting County Lines in Barrow) has been extended and rolled out into Carlisle. For details see appendix 2.
- ✓ Various new positions across agencies will support the Combating Drugs work. Examples, include Health and Justice coordinators, Substance Misuse Youth Prevention Workers, a Public Health Manager for Substance Misuse and a Public Health Senior Data Analyst (the latter two are joint post across the two Local Authorities in Cumbria).
- ✓ A dedicated Individual Placement Support (IPS) team help people with drug and alcohol dependence find and sustain work and have close links with Department of Work and Pensions coaches. Since April of 2024, the service has successfully assisted 34 individuals in securing paid employment. If this pacing persists until the fiscal year's conclusion, the team will surpass their target by 30%.
- ✓ Considerable work was undertaken with Liverpool John Moore's University and as a result the Drug and Alcohol Related Death Panel is in place. Key agencies are represented at this panel.
- ✓ A hospital in-reach programme to encourage patient engagement with addictions services.
- ✓ The number of people successfully completing treatment and alcohol detoxes increased from 38.1% (2021/22) to 40.1% (2022/23). The national average success rate is 36%.
- ✓ Continuity of care rates (treatment after prison release) are increasing.
- ✓ From 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024, there have been 92 enforcement disruptions recorded by Cumbria Constabulary.
- ✓ During the same period there was 16.7kg Cocaine, 157.6kg Cannabis and 961 Cannabis plants seized by the Force along with 24 warrants executed and 84 arrests relating to drug activity and from drug investigations £119,998 seized.
- ✓ Successful implementation of a rolling education framework for naloxone training to services and community organisations.
- ✓ Cumbria Police are now rolling out the carrying of naloxone with operational officers.

- ✓ Funding secured to provide Nitazine testing strips to substance users with the aim to prevent drug related deaths.
- ✓ Drug testing on arrest has been embedded across the Force Custody Suites.
- ✓ The Local drug information system has been implemented across the County to provide dedicated drug alerts.
- ✓ Work has taken place with service providers and the Probation Service to ensure Treatment provision is in place for those individuals released from custody under the early release scheme national programme.
- ✓ A synthetic opioid action plan is currently being formulated to ensure an agreed process is in place if synthetic opioids are identified.

### How will we measure success?

Partnership data continues to be monitored at local and national levels, and pieces of work will be evaluated. Overall success would show:

- Visible recovery in our communities - an increase in people accessing treatment and support services.
- A reduction in drugs/substance misuse deaths.
- A reduction in crime linked to County Lines and Drug related activity.

Quality assurance and review of the Cumbria substance misuse service, run by Humankind, was rated 'Good' across a spectrum of indicators set by the 'Care Quality Commission' at their last inspection. The report can be viewed in full at [Cumbria Addictions Service - Care Quality Commission \(cqc.org.uk\)](https://www.cqc.org.uk).

### Next steps

- The Cumbria Addictions Board will persist in collaborating with partners to advance the objectives of the strategy, by continuously monitoring data. A workshop was recently held with all key agencies. As a result, a collaborative update to the Addictions Board Action Plan is in progress and is expected to be finalised soon.
- Healthwatch Cumberland have published a report on a project exploring peoples experience of addiction and recovery. The recommendations in this report, along with a set of updated Key performance Indicators will be incorporated into the updated Addiction Board Action Plan.
- The Subgroups of the Addictions Board are due to be reviewed in November 2024 in order to ensure the structure reflects the demands of phase 2 of the Addiction Board action plan.
- Work is underway to capture the Northwest Ambulance Service 'near miss' data.

- Improvements to strengthen the correlation of national data with local intelligence and data collection is a key action.

### User voices

Feedback from individuals involved in the 1CLIC programme:

*'What was different this time was they came to see me as soon I got out and offered support and practical help. They supported me to get housed and help with appointments, they actually took me and supported me at appointments. That was a big help in itself.'*

*'I would recommend them (the team) to everyone. For the first time I have been clean for two months and after six months I am going to buy myself a present and then my plan after a year of being clean is to buy myself a little dog. I am about to be a grandmother and I have things to look forward to. I am excited about seeing my grandchild and I have never felt so positive and have real hopes for the future. I can visualise a future now and that's down to (the team).'*

*'I suppose the catalyst was losing my job. I was driving drug deals and if it hadn't been for (the team) I would have probably committed suicide. I had lost friends and those close to me, was using cocaine and just running my life into the ground. I was degrading my life and heading towards death or jail'.*

*'I think the big thing was the empathy they both showed me. They saw my problem from my point of view and offered to help me. As a team they are the perfect mix.'*

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## Appendix 1

### Combating Drugs Partnership Structure

Board  
Level  
Strategic  
Board

Safer Cumbria Partnership Board – Combating Drugs Partnership

Operations  
Board

Cumbria Addictions Board

Sub-  
groups

Multiagency Drug  
Harm Prevention  
Group

Alcohol Harm  
Prevention Group

Children &  
Young Person's  
Substance Misuse

Recovery  
Community

Gambling Harms

Cumbria Drug  
related Death,  
Reduction &  
Response Panel

**Chair:** Public Health

**Aims:** Reduce harms from alcohol & drugs misuse through collaborative working

**Chair:** Humankind

**Aims:** Addressing alcohol related recommendations from Combating Drugs JSNA & sharing information

**Chair:** Intensive Early Help

**Aims:** To provide Youth Substance Misuse system leadership and implement review recommendations

**Chair:** The Well Communities

**Aims:** To champion the voice of lived experience in the recovery system

**Chair:** Local Authority

**Aims:** Develop reporting metrics for the CDP and monitor progress against the Plan

**Chair:** Humankind

**Aims:** Collectively review, learn and develop from DRD in Cumbria & reduce number of preventable deaths

Data Intelligence Group

Chaired by Police and feeds across the system



## Appendix 2

### 1 CLIC (County Lines\* Informed Cumbria) Summary

The 1 CLIC project identifies vulnerable people who are most at risk of being approached by County Lines\* gangs and provides dedicated support to enable them to move away from potential criminal behaviour and to make positive life decisions.

*\*County Lines is a term used to describe gangs and organised criminal networks involved in exporting illegal drugs into one or more importing areas within the UK, using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of 'deal line'.*

1 CLIC is a partnership between Cumbria Police and The Well Communities, a Lived Experience Organisation. As outlined in the July 2023 progress report 1 CLIC offers a range of services including increased access to the Well Communities to facilitate support, social engagement and access to services, vulnerability visits to persons at risk of being cuckooed and actively visiting persons connected to County Lines.

Following on from the successful pilot in Barrow and utilising funding from the Serious Violence Duty, the programme has been expanded into Carlisle in the North of the county.

Upon expansion into Carlisle, a previously unknown County Line group was identified as operating in the area. The group were targeting females in their 20's to stay at and operate from their homes. Working with the victims and undertaking numerous visits and support provision resulted in the premises being 'too hot' for the group to operate from and as such the group have left the area and not, to date, returned. Not only has this reduced the risk of exploitation to the females, but it has also removed the Class A, high harm drugs from circulation in the area.

Work continues to progress in the South of the County where there have been no County Lines in Kendal in 2024. Prior to that it has been sporadic activity. This is a considerable achievement as there had previously been two embedded lines in Kendal. This has resulted in a reduction in County Lines linked violence and also a reduction in exploitation.

County Line activity has been significantly more sporadic in Barrow, with periods of inactivity. When a line does come to Barrow, it is not able to run a long-haul embedded operation and comes to do a 'firesale', selling its product quickly, they are aware they will be targeted quickly.

Another key benefit of being out in the community is identifying other issues, which have resulted in the referral of vulnerable adults to support services. When a County Line is shut down, messages are dispatched to the individuals to inform them of the closure and furnish them with information on support services that can assist with any ensuing issues.

### 1CLIC Key achievements since January 2024 and expansion into Cumberland include:

- A strong working relationship between The Well Communities CIC and Cumbria Constabulary.
- Proactive visits within the community (over 1050 since Jan 2024).
- 1-CLIC are now represented at several key partner boards meetings.
- Presentations around County Lines, drugs and signs of exploitation have been provided to 11 schools/colleges/PRU's totalling 545 pupils so far.
- Awareness of 1-CLIC has been raised through local news outlets widespread coverage in the whole region.
- 1-CLIC staff have received provision of and training in naloxone kits.
- Increased partnership working between 1-CLIC and the British Transport Police.
- 1-CLIC took part in the largest ever StreetSafe in Cumbria – 1843 premises visited as part of CHB, residents from the Well took part with partners.