

Terms of Reference: Drug and Alcohol Abuse Working Group

Context

Concerns have been raised by members of the public about the escalating impact of drug and alcohol abuse in our area, and especially in Totnes, leading to the temporary closure of public toilet facilities. The Council has a number of key roles in relation to Community Safety and Licensing which may have the ability to positively impact upon the issues being raised. It is therefore considered prudent to review the evidence of the extent of the problem, and to determine what support or solutions we can bring to bear.

Purpose

To heighten Member awareness of the solutions available to tackle anti-social behaviour associated with alcohol and drug abuse, and to make recommendations to Executive (for the ultimate approval of full Council) on a strategy to tackle these issues.

Objectives

1. To engage with concerned parents and young adults to obtain evidence of the scale of the problem facing our communities.
2. To set up a multi-agency meeting of interested partner agencies to assess risks and develop a working strategy based upon our joint powers, policies and procedures.
3. To devise an action plan and strategy for approval, including communications and health promotion campaign to raise awareness of the existing support in place, and determine potential structural improvements to the public toilets including costings to attempt to design out drug taking in these facilities.
4. Where necessary to seek support of local members of Parliament, Police Crime Commissioner, County Councillors, Clinical Commissioning Group et. Al. for funding for service improvements.

The Operation of the Group

The group will initially meet with concerned parents and young adults by the end of March.

Based upon the information gathered the group will agree a programme of work and a frequency of meetings that reflects the evidence found and the availability of our partners to develop the strategy. This work to be completed by no later than August 2018.

The group will be supported by relevant officers from Customer First and Commercial Services as necessary.

The group will comprise of 4 Members consisting of:-

Cllr. John Birch

Cllr. Kathy Cuthbert

Cllr. John Green

& Cllr. Peter Smerdon (Chairman of group)

Action points will be recorded from all meetings.