



# **York Drug and Alcohol Partnership Board Strategy – 2025/2026 priorities**



# Introduction

This document outlines the 2025 / 2026 Drug and Alcohol priorities for York, which contribute to the wider strategic direction and the national 10 years Drugs Strategy 'from harm to hope'.

The national strategy specifies that local areas are required to have a strong partnership that brings together all relevant organisations and key individuals and provide a single point of contact for central government. In York, the Drug and Alcohol Partnership has proactive oversight of the implementation of planned priorities of the strategy ensuring that local organisations work together and jointly agree provision and areas to be improved.

The National Combating Drugs Outcomes Framework provides a structure for the metrics for monitoring. These include 6 outcomes that form the base for York's annual priorities:

<b>Strategic outcomes:</b> S1. Reduce drug use S2. Reduce Drug-Related crime S3. Reduce drug related deaths and harm	<b>Intermediate outcomes:</b> I1. Reduce drug supply I2. Increase engagement in treatment I3a. Improve recovery outcomes I4b. Improve mental health outcomes
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## York Drug and Alcohol Strategy 2023-28

### Vision for York Drug and Alcohol Strategy:

To take a public health approach across organisations through the York D & A Partnership Board to make York a place where people can be safe from the harms caused by drugs and alcohol

### What are we going to do:

Across 6 areas we aim to reduce stigma, influence policy, reduce harm and provide access to quality services

#### Reduce Drug Use

Targeted & comprehensive education and training  
Increase engagement between YDAS & under 18 services  
Supporting young people and families most at risk of substance misuse or criminal exploitation

#### Reduce drug-related crime

Identify & tackle the causes of substance misuse and promote diversion from criminal sanctions

#### Reduce drug related deaths and harm

Provide sound harm reduction advice  
Ensure robust process  
Strengthening Drug alert process across York & NY

#### Reduce drug supply

Understand and tackle drugs supply & demand:  
Drug market profile  
Community drug checking/testing protocol

#### Increase engagement in treatment

Increasing referrals into treatment in the criminal justice system  
Better integration of services  
Strengthening pathways

#### Improve recovery outcomes

Support the recovery community to grow and thrive  
To gain Inclusive Recovery City Status  
Improving employment

### How will we check on progress:

Number of school based prevention and early intervention

Training sessions delivered

Engagement with families identified most at risk

Drug related homicide  
Neighbourhood crime

Monitor number of deaths  
Number of drug related hospital admissions  
Distribution of naloxone

Number of county lines closed  
Number of organised crime gang disruptions

Numbers in treatment  
Prison Continuity of Care numbers  
Treatment effectiveness

York Recovery Hub to be established  
Inclusive Recovery City Status achieved  
Number supported through IPS service

## S1. Reduce drug use

2025 Local priority objectives	Performance measure(s) Lead Organisation(s): Public Health & York Drug and Alcohol Children & Young People Service
S1.1, Establish a sub-group focused on children and young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Group established with participation from all relevant partners</li> <li>• Action plan developed</li> </ul>
S1.2, Rollout of The Gate's 'What's the score' conversation tool for young people in schools and young people's services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of professionals trained in use of 'What's the score?'</li> <li>• Number of YP referrals received by The Gate</li> </ul>

There is an ambition over the course of the 10-year strategy that the rising trend in drug use will be reversed.

The D&A Partnership agreed that the focus for this year to enable the longer term aims of the strategy will focus on prevention for children and young people and decided a group to work towards the aims below would be created, with aims around:

- *Preventing the onset of drug use among children and young people; strengthening young people's sense of belonging in society.*
- *School-based prevention and early intervention; support local implementation of evidence-based approaches to reduce substance use through schools and the wider community.*
- *Supporting families and young people most at risk of substance use; facilitating early intervention, increasing identification and support for young people at particulate risk of substance use harms.*

An integral project to support this will be to roll out 'What's the Score' conversation tool, along with other training for frontline staff working with families.

## S2. Reduce drug-related crime

2025 Local priority objectives	Performance measure(s)  Lead Organisation(s): North Yorkshire Police, York & North Yorkshire Combined Authority, York Probation Delivery Unit
<b>S2.1, Review of ATR and DRR targeting and delivery pathways to strengthen diversion approach and maximise delivery requirements.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review completed and recommendations for improvement being implemented</li> <li>• Numbers of ATRs and DRRs imposed and successfully completed</li> <li>• Re-offending among people who have ATR/DRRs</li> </ul>
<b>S2.2, Set up better quality data capture of criminal justice and OoCR referrals including intervention type to enable monitoring those who engage with YDAS</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outcomes of Criminal Justice referrals tracked and analysed by OFPCC/NYP, including 'reoffending' data</li> </ul>

It is well evidenced that drugs is a key driver of crime, with reoffending being largely linked to substance use. Criminal justice partners and focusing on ensuring those that meet the criminal justice system get support and referrals to the drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service.

## S3. Reduce drug-related deaths and harm

2025 Local priority objectives	Performance measure(s) Lead Organisation(s): Public Health and York Drug & Alcohol Service
<b>S3.1, Establish York Hospital Drug and Alcohol Care Programme for the identification of, and optimal treatment and effective discharge planning for people at risk of drug or alcohol related harm.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• AUDIT-C / equivalent assessments for all patients reportable</li> <li>• Number of referrals from hospital to York Drug and Alcohol Service</li> </ul>
<b>S3.2, Strengthen York and North Yorkshire Local Drug Information System and harm reduction activity</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Numbers of Naloxone kits distributed to people who use drugs and their friends/family who will be best placed to use it in the case of overdose</li> <li>• Synthetic opioids preparedness testing exercise complete and learning taken forwards</li> </ul>

Drug and alcohol related deaths and harm continue to increase nationally, and with the introduction of Nitazenes in the drug supply more to reduce harm will be the focus for the D&A partnership for this year.

Another focus includes early identification of those within secondary care at risk of drug or alcohol related harm to support effective discharge planning to enable referral to key services and/or provide harm reduction advice.

## I1. Reduce drug supply

2025 Local priority objectives	Performance measure(s) Lead organisation(s); North Yorkshire Police
<b>I1.1, Reduce the number of drug supply lines operating in North Yorkshire and the City of York</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Number of drug supply lines</li></ul>
<b>I1.2, Work in Partnership to improve community resilience to drug supply line infiltration through the use of place-based approaches such as Clifton Clear, Hold, Build</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Intelligence feeds</li><li>• APMIS Disruption Data Dashboard</li><li>• Community survey data</li></ul>
<b>I1.3, Increase the number of vulnerable adults and children safeguarded from exploitation by County Lines and drug traffickers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• NRM referrals</li><li>• APMIS 'Prevent and Protect' data</li></ul>

North Yorkshire Police are a key partner to assist with the reduction of drug supplies within York. May operations have already taken place and closed county lines and other serious organised crime groups. This will continue throughout 2025 and will be monitored through within NYP and the D&A partnership.



## I2. Increase engagement in treatment

2025 Local priority objectives	Performance measure(s)  Lead Organisation(s): York Drug and Alcohol Service
<b>I2.1, Enhance gender-specific pathways for women into substance use treatment to better respond to distinct needs and remove barriers to access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of women engaged in treatment with York Drug and Alcohol Service</li> </ul>
<b>I2.2, Increase the proportion of adults discharged from prison with substance use treatment need who are successfully engaged in community-based structured treatment following release from prison within 7 days</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proportion of individuals contacted within 5 working days of referral from prison treatment service by YDAS</li> <li>Proportion of adults with substance use treatment need who are successfully engaged in community-based structured treatment following release from prison within 21 days (NDTMS and contract monitoring)</li> </ul>
<b>I2.3, Review of pathways into substance use treatment services by NYP/Out of Court Resolution (OoCR) Team</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review has been completed and recommendations for improvement are being implemented</li> <li>Numbers of criminal drug and alcohol referrals and Out of Court Resolutions (if identified substance use need) into YDAS</li> </ul>
<b>I2.4, Increase number of young people provided treatment and support in relation to their own substance use by The Gate</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of young people under 18 in treatment for their own substance use</li> </ul>

York Drug and Alcohol Service, (Change, Grow, Live as the contract holder) are the lead for this priority and continue to work with partners to ensure the service is meeting the needs of those that need specialist services.

The Clinical lead for Change, Grow, Live, Chairs the Clinical Leads meeting to ensure that strong pathways are identified and any issues that may be a barrier between services are worked through to safeguard the needs of individuals.

## I3. Improve recovery outcomes

2025 Local priority objectives	Performance measure(s)  Lead Organisation(s): Recovery Community Groups & Public Health
<b>I3.1, Open Community Recovery Hub as a central venue for promoting recovery and hosting activities which support ongoing sustainable recovery from substance use disorders and other addictions and people affected by a family member's substance use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Community Recovery Hub open</li> <li>• Number of different groups and events hosted in the Hub each month</li> <li>• Number of visits each month</li> </ul>
<b>I3.2, Establish strong IPS service within the treatment and recovery system</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Number of people supported effectively by the Individual Placement Support service to sustain employment</li> </ul>

Recovery continues to be an integral element to the journey of those that access specialist treatment services. A key action for 2025 will be the opening of the Community Recovery Hub which will provide a venue for individuals to attend, supporting their ongoing journey.

## I3B. Improve Mental Health outcomes

2025 Local priority objectives	Performance measure(s) Lead Organisation(s): Public Health & Mental Health
<b>I3.1B, Improved support for individuals being referred by mental health services to York Drug and Alcohol Service or being referred by York Drug and Alcohol Service to mental health services for assessment of need. The Provider will a) ensure individuals are supported during the time they are referred between services and b) facilitate successful engagement with the service receiving the referral and c) improve dialogue between services where joint-working or re-consideration of a referral is needed.</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of YDAS referrals to MH services who attend MH service assessment</li> <li>• Percentage of MH service referrals to YDAS who attend YDAS assessment</li> </ul>
<b>I3.2B, Stronger multi-agency work between TEWV and York Drug and Alcohol Service, including attendance by relevant TEWV professionals at multi-disciplinary case meetings called by York Drug and Alcohol Service and joint pathway development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service Managers / Leadership Level Clinicians / appropriate substitutes participate in York Drug and Alcohol Clinical Leads meetings.</li> <li>• Percentage of multi-disciplinary case meetings called by York Drug and Alcohol Service where TEWV are invited that are attended by relevant TEWV professionals.</li> <li>• Percentage of joint TEWV-YDAS service-users whose care plan has been jointly developed with the service-user and both service</li> </ul>

York D&A partnership recognises the role that mental health of individuals, whether with a diagnosed mental health condition or not, can be instrumental to the care they may receive. It was decided to introduce an extra priority focusing on mental health as a separate element this is to ensure it isn't lost within other priorities.

The D&A partnership acknowledge the significance that alcohol related harm has on the population of York. The diagram below demonstrates the long term approach to reducing alcohol related harm. The Board will be co-ordinating and mapping activity associated with this as a standard agenda item at the meetings.

### Alcohol related harm:

To take a public health approach across organisations through the York D & A Partnership Board to make York a place where people can be safe from the harms caused by alcohol

### What are we going to do:

#### Influence Availability and Affordability

*Partnership work to reduce alcohol harms through availability and affordability*

#### Availability

Work with licensing team to:

- Support licensed premises to offer choice of no/low alcohol
- Have a CYC alcohol policy for events
- Restrictions on entrance/till placement in offtrade

#### Affordability

- Contribute to national consultations
- Consider Minimum Unit Pricing with support from national/regional teams
- Consider pricing of no/low alcohol alternatives– work with licencing team

#### Shape how York thinks about alcohol

*Population-wide alcohol awareness information to be made accessible and available to all to prevent and reduce alcohol related harm*

#### Brief Conversations

- Ensure training rolled out for professionals/volunteers

#### Children/Young People

- Ensure that HSP has appropriate resources
- FASD prevention awareness

#### Reduce stigma and improve access to services

*Work across the city to challenge stigma and to enable the population of York to reach out for support. Ensure that those requiring access to services have the availability of a range of services to meet need*

#### Inclusive Recovery City

- To agree a vision for York as an Inclusive Recovery City
- To have 'sign off' as a recoverycity

#### Communication

- To have a code of best practice for producing communications, Press releases, social media ensuring appropriate language

#### Treatment service

- To ensure the serviceprovider offers a range of services incl. for those wishing to reduce their alcohol use

#### Secondary Care

- York Hospital D&A care programme to identify people drinking above low risk levels and offer advice/referrals as required

#### Primary Care

- Provide primary care referral support