

# Birmingham City Council

## Report to Cabinet

17<sup>th</sup> March 2020



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**Subject:** TRIPLE ZERO STRATEGY - APPROVAL TO CONSULT  
**Report of:** Dr Justin Varney, Director of Public Health  
**Relevant Cabinet Member:** Councillor Paulette Hamilton  
**Relevant O &S Chair(s):** Councillor Rob Pocock  
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Are specific wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No – All wards affected
If yes, name(s) of ward(s):		
Is this a key decision?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, add Forward Plan Reference: 007503/2020		
Is the decision eligible for call-in?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, provide exempt information paragraph number or reason if confidential: N/A		

### 1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 The Council, led by Public Health, has been working closely with the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and other strategic partners to develop ambitions for the City's response to drug and alcohol misuse.
- 1.2 The key ambitious outcomes the City would like to work towards by working in partnership are:
- Zero deaths due to drugs or alcohol addiction
  - Zero overdoses due to drug or alcohol addiction
  - Zero people living with addiction to drugs or alcohol not receiving support to manage their addiction.

- 1.3 These three ambitions form the basis of the “Triple Zero Drug and Alcohol Strategy”; a draft strategy document has been produced in partnership with the PCC, West Midlands Police, NHS, drug and alcohol service providers and other strategic partners. This strategy includes the rationale for the Triple Zero ambitions and a framework for action covering six themed workstreams:
- I. Prevention
  - II. Early intervention
  - III. Treatment, Support & Recovery
  - IV. Children and young people
  - V. Additional challenges
  - VI. Data and Evidence
- 1.4 It is intended that the Triple Zero City Strategy will open for public consultation on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 to avoid the PCC political sensitivity period and be extended for 12 weeks to take account of this. Permission is sought from Cabinet for approval to consult on the Strategy.
- 1.5 Appended to this report are: Triple Zero City Strategy; Triple Zero City Strategy Consultation Questionnaire; and Triple Zero City Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA).

## **2 Recommendations**

- 2.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:
- Give approval to consult on the Triple Zero City Strategy as set out in this cover report and appended documents.

## **3 Background**

- 3.1 Birmingham is a diverse, global, vibrant city with over a million citizens, however too many of our citizens’ lives are being damaged by addiction to alcohol or drugs.
- 3.2 Addiction to drugs comes in many forms and the landscape of drugs has evolved significantly over the last twenty years. The Triple Zero City Strategy will address a broad definition of drug addiction including novel psychoactive substances, steroid abuse, club drugs and prescription drug addiction as well as the more traditional opioid based drug addiction models.
- 3.3 Alcohol addiction is often described in the context of harmful and hazardous drinking. National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) defines harmful drinking as a pattern of alcohol consumption that causes health problems, including psychological problems such as depression, alcohol-related accidents or physical illness such as acute pancreatitis. Harmful drinkers can become alcohol dependent, which NICE defines as characterised by craving, tolerance, a

preoccupation with alcohol and continued drinking in spite of harmful consequences.

- 3.4 Tackling alcohol and drug addiction and the harm that it causes requires partnership working across the City. Preventing addiction requires action across the life course to reduce access, reduce demand and give people other pathways to managing life challenges. Supporting those living with addiction to reduce the risk of death and overdose requires early identification, brief interventions as well as, for some, longer term treatment and support. Enabling those living with addiction to manage and overcome their addiction and regain balance means working with educators and employers, as well as health and social care providers, to provide opportunities for individuals to achieve a healthy and productive life.
- 3.5 There are specific approaches that we will undertake with Children and Young People (CYP), parents with drug and alcohol misuse issues, and young people in treatment moving from the children's support services to the adult ones.
- 3.6 Led by Birmingham City Council in partnership with the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner, the Triple Zero Drug and Alcohol Strategy sets out a refreshed approach to creating a healthier and safer city for all the residents of Birmingham.

#### **4 Recommended Proposal**

- 4.1 The Framework for Action detailed within the Strategy sets out a range of actions towards the Triple Zero ambitions based upon international evidence and best practice.
- 4.2 Following public consultation, the results will be analysed and will be used to inform the final Triple Zero City Strategy. It is intended that the Triple Zero Drug and Alcohol Strategy will come back to Cabinet for consideration in Autumn 2020.

#### **5 Consultation**

- 5.1 An extended twelve week public consultation process is planned to span 24<sup>th</sup> March 2020 - 16<sup>th</sup> June 2020 to allow time for the newly elected PCC and WMCA Mayor to comment as stakeholders; the consultation will be recorded on Be Heard and will be supported by a range of focus groups, community events, ward forum presentations, and presentations to the Health and Wellbeing Board, Overview and Scrutiny and key partner agencies. Real time analysis of the demographics of responses to the consultation will be used to target populations who are under-represented, a model first developed in the Public Health Green Paper consultation, and now adopted within Public Health as the gold standard.
- 5.2 The consultation document (Triple Zero Drug and Alcohol Strategy) and questionnaire are appended to this report.

## 6 Risk Management

Risk Analysis			
Identified Risk	Likelihood	Impact	Actions to Manage Risk
The new West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner does not support the Triple Zero approach.	Low	High	Comprehensive consultation on the Triple Zero Strategy; early engagement with new PCC; avoid consultation over the purdah period.

## 7 Compliance Issues:

### 7.1 How are the recommended decisions consistent with the City Council's priorities, plans and strategies?

7.1.1 The Triple Zero Drug & Alcohol Strategy aligns to the following Council priorities:

- An aspirational city to grow up in
- A fulfilling city to age well in
- A great city to live in

7.1.2 These priority areas are supported by the overarching commitment to reduce health inequalities (a duty of the Local Council under the Health and Social Care Act 2012).

### 7.2 Legal Implications

7.2.1 Section 12 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012 introduced a new duty at Section 2B of the NHS Act 2006 Act for all upper-tier and unitary local authorities in England to take appropriate steps to improve the health of the people who live in their areas. The Triple Zero Drug and Alcohol Strategy outlines an approach to reduce health inequalities experienced by and improve health outcomes for those with drug and alcohol addictions.

### 7.3 Financial Implications

7.3.1 Local authorities receive an annual ring-fenced Public Health grant from the Department of Health. The core condition of this grant is that it should be used only for the purposes of the Public Health functions of local authorities. Drug and alcohol treatment is one of the recommended functions that can be commissioned from the Public Health Grant.

7.3.2 Birmingham City Council currently commissions two providers, one for adults and one for children and young people's treatment and support and the total contract value is circa £14.8m.

7.3.3 The current draft of the strategy doesn't suggest any change in the current contract and financial arrangements but will provide a basis for the future

commissioning plans both for the Council and partners, including the NHS and PCC.

#### **7.4 Procurement Implications**

- 7.4.1 None identified for the consultation process itself.
- 7.4.2 Existing contractual arrangements are in place for a 2-year period to support delivery of the strategy and a further long-term procurement strategy will be developed once consultation is concluded and the final Triple Zero strategy is approved.

#### **7.5 Human Resources Implications (if required)**

- 7.5.1 None identified.

#### **7.6 Public Sector Equality Duty**

- 7.6.1 The Equality Impact Assessment is attached in supporting documents and highlights the steps that are planned during the consultation to encourage participation from minority groups that may not be as likely to engage with the digital consultation platform.
- 7.6.2 The current draft strategy explicitly highlights differences in prevalence of substance misuse in different minority groups based on national evidence as well as differences in the profile of current service users. A further EIA will be undertaken to review the strategy following consultation.

### **8 Appendices**

- 1. Triple Zero Drug and Alcohol Draft Strategy
- 2. Triple Zero Drug and Alcohol Strategy Consultation Questionnaire
- 3. Triple Zero Drug and Alcohol Strategy Equalities Impact Assessment