



Norfolk Drug &
Alcohol Partnership

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NORFOLK'S RESPONSE TO SYNTHETICS

Norfolk's Response Plan

Overview

Joint Combatting Drugs Unit (JCUD) requested all areas to develop a preparedness plan for Synthetic Opioids.

Norfolk's plan takes a broad approach covering **all synthetic substances**, not only synthetic opiates.

The **Plan** has **3 Elements**:

- 1. Prepare:** Assess and prepare the system to have the capability, resources and structures in place to respond effectively to potential risks
- 2. Monitor:** Track risks and emerging trends, analyse local intelligence, and communicate findings across the system to support early identification.
- 3. Respond:** Implement a co-ordinated Incident Response that includes both **Harm Reduction** interventions and **Enforcement** activity.



Incident Response

- **Clusters** of / or **Spikes in overdoses** (both fatal and non-fatal) could be an incident of concern
- An incident of concern identified: a meeting between key partners is triggered to deliver a **targeted** and **proportionate multiagency response**.
- The core components of the Incident Response are:
 - **Intelligence** – toxicology of substance; numbers affected; potential at risk cohorts, deaths/clinical status of those affected
 - **Communication** – what information is shared with partners and agencies to effectively respond to incident, harm reduction information targeted to those at risk and communication to the wider public / media. .
 - **Operational Responses** – to reduce harm, reduce pressures on frontline services and disrupt supply lines.

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Information Sharing

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Cascade Local Drug Information System (LDIS) alerts to all relevant agencies.

2

Work with Treatment Providers and relevant agencies to identify at-risk individuals

3

Incident Response Plan and risk management strategies communicated to all key agencies for at risk individuals: such as Prisons, Hospitals, Police, Homelessness services and Events Organisers.

Communications



Identify key audiences for harm reduction messaging and alerts.



Plan timely, clear, and consistent communications for public and professionals.



Align messaging across agencies.

Risk Management Activities



Develop plans for known individuals identified as high-risk of harm.



Share information and plans with relevant agencies for co-ordinated response.



Targeted Activity: Co-ordinate joint outreach between providers. Satellite or pop-up provision in areas of identified harm: treatment provision, deployment of paramedics or First responders.

Harm Reduction



Identify and target priority services (e.g., hostels).



Distribute harm reduction materials through multiple channels.



Rapid issue of naloxone to at-risk individuals and agencies



Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST) Provision: **Low-threshold access, with same-day prescribing** where clinically appropriate to reduce risk and improve engagement.

Enforcement



Increase police visibility in hotspot areas.



Target individuals involved in supply chains.



Fast-track forensic testing of seized substances.



Feed intelligence from arrests and patrols back to response group.

Next Steps....

- NDAP to work with Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF).
- Close working with Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs) to support harm reduction at festivals.
- Share and embed the Response Plan with partners.



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