

# Policy



<b>Substance Misuse Referral Pathways Policy</b>			
<b>DCP-P-014 (previously D280)</b>			
<b>Version</b>	1.0	<b>Host Force</b>	Devon and Cornwall Police (DCP)
<b>Effective Date</b>	27/07/2021	<b>Host Policy Unit</b>	Devon and Cornwall Police Policy Unit
<b>Version Date</b>	27/07/2021	<b>Policy Owner</b>	Vulnerability Command
<b>Review Date</b>	27/07/2023	<b>Policy Author</b>	Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategic Co-ordinator
<b>Associated Procedures</b>	DCP-Opr-027 Substance misuse referral pathways		
<b>Policy Summary</b>			
It is the intention of this document to provide policy information in relation to the Force referral opportunities. More needs to be done to support people regarding their substance use to reduce health harms and associated criminal behaviour. In this policy, the term 'substance use' will be used to describe the use of one or more of the following: alcohol; drugs; and all other substances, including the non-medical use of prescription medication.			
We welcome any comments or suggestions you wish to share about the content or implementation of this policy. If you would like to make contact to discuss further, please email: <a href="mailto:ForcePolicyandProcedures@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk">ForcePolicyandProcedures@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk</a>			

## 1. Purpose, Standards and Legal Basis

Research has shown that a high proportion of all crime in the United Kingdom is related to substance misuse. The Force will seek to work in partnership with our partner agencies, to ensure that health and crime harms resulting from substance use among detainees and members of the community they encounter are minimised. It is therefore imperative that all officers and staff are aware of the individual role they play in linking individuals who use substances with advice, guidance and referral opportunities to appropriate support. This may be accessed via statutory/commissioned services or through voluntary agencies in the local area.

Devon and Cornwall Police are obliged to abide by all relevant UK legislation and shall comply with the following legislation and other guidance as appropriate:

- The Data Protection Act (2018) and General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)
- The Health and Safety at Work Act (1974)
- Human Rights Act (1998)
- Freedom of Information Act (2000)
- Equality Act (2010)
- Authorised Professional Practice
- National Decision Model
- Visions, missions, values
- Equality and diversity issues including the Public Sector Equality Duty,
- Code of Ethics and Standards of Professional Behaviour

This policy is underpinned by the Devon & Cornwall Police Mission and values, as well as the Code of Ethics and National Decision Model

## 2. Roles and Responsibilities

This policy and its associated operational procedure hold specific responsibilities for:

Any Devon and Cornwall Police representative  
Peninsula Strategic Drug and Alcohol Partnership group

This is not an exhaustive list and other roles may hold responsibilities under the remit of this policy and its associated procedure.

## 3. Policy Information

In the Modern Crime Prevention Strategy 2016 drug use is identified as one of the 'drivers of crime'. It states that 45% of acquisitive offences (excluding fraud) are committed by regular heroin/crack cocaine users. Heroin and crack cocaine use can accelerate and extend criminal careers, creating a cohort of very prolific offenders. Reducing the number of heroin and crack cocaine users is likely to

have the largest impact upon crime levels in terms of volume. Getting drug-users to the right treatment is seen as key to reducing crime.

An encounter with a Devon and Cornwall Police Officer or other representative, including the point of arrest, has been identified as a unique opportunity to refer an individual for support. Offering therapeutic treatment to substance-using offenders provides a unique opportunity to decrease substance use and reduce the associated criminal behaviour. Getting substance users, the right treatment is seen as key to reducing crime and those who engage with and remain in treatment, reduce, and often eliminate their substance-related offending.

Involvement with drug services is voluntary and is not an alternative to prosecution or due process.

Across Devon and Cornwall there are four separately commissioned treatment areas. The Peninsula Strategic Drug and Alcohol Partnership group quarterly meetings ensure collaboration and consistency. Policies are agreed so that communities and individuals affected directly by drug and alcohol use are not disadvantaged due to their geographical location.

For those who have a harmful relationship with drugs or alcohol, there are a range of interventions offering support. Evidence-based, health-centred, rights-based and gender-responsive approaches to drug use and related diseases have been shown to deliver better public health outcomes. The Force recognises the importance of referring individuals at the earliest opportunity into treatment services and local treatment services recognise the role the Force has as a stakeholder in delivering early intervention opportunities. The Force also recognises the need to offer harm reduction to those who are not yet in a place to pursue abstinence-based treatments. Harm reduction acknowledges that individuals have the freedom to make choices around their substance use. Furthermore, a crucial element of harm reduction is that it is non-judgemental and attempts to eliminate the stigmatisation of substance users.

Harm reduction is a range of treatments and techniques made available to a person using substances to support them to use as safely as possible in a non-judgemental way (e.g. needle syringe provision, education, advice and substitute prescribing). This is aimed at those who are not ready for abstinence-based treatment. The focus is to reduce the harms from substance use as opposed to a focus on preventing substance use itself (abstinence).

Any Devon and Cornwall Police representative can directly refer an individual to drug and alcohol support services as detailed in procedure DCP-OPr-027.

#### **4. Monitoring and Review**

Review and amendments will be coordinated by the Policy Unit.

The policy owner has overall responsibility for ensuring the content of the policy is appropriate and up to date.

This policy will be reviewed every 2 years subject to legislation/process changes.

### **5. Associated Documents**

- [Mission & Values](#)
- [Human Rights Legislation](#)
- [Records Management](#)
- [Freedom of Information Act 2000](#)
- [Government Security Classification](#)
- [General Data Protection Regulations / Data Protection Act 2018](#)
- [National Decision Model](#)
- [Code of Ethics](#)
- [Standards of Professional Behaviour](#)
- [Authorised Professional Practice \(APP\)](#)

### **6. Document History**

<b>Present portfolio holder</b>	Prevention Department
<b>Present document owner</b>	Commander, Vulnerability
<b>Present owning department</b>	Vulnerability Command
<b>Below details required for version 1.0 and major amendments only</b>	
<b>Name of board</b>	Business Board
<b>Date approved</b>	22/07/2021
<b>Chief Officer approving</b>	DCC Colwell

### **7. Version History**

<b>Version</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Reason for Amendments</b>	<b>Amended by</b>
1.0	27/07/2021	Review and input into new templates	Drug and Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategic Co-ordinator