

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON MISUSE OF DRUGS

(86th Meeting)

Thursday 17th December 2020 2.30pm MS Teams

PART A

In attendance –

[REDACTED], Chief Probation Officer, and Chairperson
[REDACTED], Consultant Psychiatrist HSS
[REDACTED], Chief Pharmacist
[REDACTED], Director Customs and Immigration
– General Practitioner.
– States of Jersey Police
– Crown Advocate,
[REDACTED], Clerk

Note: The minutes of this meeting comprise of Part A and Part B

Minutes. **A1.** The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 7th October 2020 were accepted.

Apologies. **A2.** Apologies were received from the following, [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], [REDACTED], and [REDACTED].

Matters Arising. **A3.** The Council noted that there was no Medical Officer of Health to take over from ST as this Council membership was an ex officio position.

A4. Cannabis products

[REDACTED] informed the Council of an ongoing criminal case involving the importation of sweets containing THC. He expressed concerns that some people might be unaware that these products contained a class A drug. [REDACTED] suggested that they might be confusing them with legal CBD products, and also expressed concerns over the slow onset of effects leading to over consumption. [REDACTED] (police) stated there would be media release and would look to publicise the issue with the youth service.

A5. Update on Alcohol and Drug Strategy

[REDACTED] (police) informed the Council that he had received an update from [REDACTED] in which had been delayed due to Covid. [REDACTED] stated that he had discussed the group's thinking and ambition with the Minister for Home Affairs who is supportive of the overall aim. In support of this he is content with using some of the Building a Safer Society (BaSS) fund to engage with a project manager/support to enable to progress a draft strategy, coordinate the work and research in order to achieve the aims set out early in the New Year. He added that he had set out a high level statement (Appendix 1) describing the purpose of the group, and requested the Council's comment and suggestions.

[REDACTED] (*Customs*) leaves.

A6. Maintaining awareness of legislative changes in UK

█ (in his absence) messaged if the Council could discuss how the group monitors and considers legislative changes made by the UK especially as there had been some developments regarding benzodiazepines. █ stated that he used to attend the ACMD in London with █, but given █ and Covid this had not occurred for some time. █ stated that he would be happy to resume attendance and the Council suggested that █ might also want to attend, otherwise members could take it turn to attend. █ agree to forward a link to the ACMD website so that Council members could receive email updates on issues as they arose.

A7. Increase in demand for codeine-based products

█ stated that █ had expressed concerns over the increase in codeine based over the counter medications. █ also stated he would welcome any control as some of his patients present with complications with high ibuprofen intake at codeine dose. PMC added that MHRA were looking at this and deciding whether to make it a POM or reducing pack size, but in Jersey this could be done under the Medical Council; he would check with the MHRA to get an update. The Council agreed that this would need wider consultation before proceeding.

AOB – █ (Chair) stated he would circulate four dates for meetings during 2021.

Appendix 1.

DRUG AND ALCOHOL STRATEGY

In planning for a new 5-year drug and alcohol strategy for the island of Jersey there is a need to coordinate activity, consultation, research and analysis to enable a ‘whole systems’ approach to ultimately publish a 2021-2027 Drug and Alcohol strategy. It is recognised by statutory and voluntary organisations that a new strategy, setting out a clear vision and purpose to tackle the health, justice and wellbeing aspects of drug and alcohol misuse is needed. The aim will be to drive forward greater collaboration, innovative thinking, together with prevention and early intervention to improve outcomes for those involved in and affected by drug and alcohol abuse.

A Drug and Alcohol strategic group will oversee the development of the new strategy, based on a framework of key strategic themes, proposed to be:

- Prevention and early intervention
- Developing recovery systems of care
- Support for children, young people and families
- Public health approach to justice

A group will oversee the development of this work, link in with stakeholders and partners and seek Ministerial advice and guidance. Clear identifiable outcomes will be key to a strategy that will make a positive difference to islanders and a performance framework will be required to ensure the success of the strategy can be measured.

The Group will meet regularly to oversee the development of the work, link in with the Misuse of Drugs Advisory Council and update the Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Health.