Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership Progress Report 2024/25

Foreword

Welcome to our 2024/25 progress report for the Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership (NDAP). I am Cllr Scott Carlton, Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities at Nottinghamshire County Council and act as the Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for the Partnership.

The NDAP is a multi-agency partnership working to deliver the outcomes of the national From Harm to Hope Strategy in Nottinghamshire. It provides a joined-up forum which enables partners to understand and address shared challenges related to substance use and its related harm. The partners work to address the causes, treatment and recovery needs and consequences of substance use for the population of Nottinghamshire.

As part of my SRO role I represent and account for Nottinghamshire's local delivery and performance back to central government.

Across Nottinghamshire, estimates suggest that there could be more than 175,600 people who use substances, with over 12,800 who may be dependent, all whom could be supported through the plans set out by the Partnership.

The Partnership will be working to ensure that people get the support they need. Recognising that anyone can be at risk of developing a substance use problem during their lives. We want to work with the people and communities affected and give people the tools and the confidence to live healthier, more independent lives.

This short report is broken down in three simple sections and for those of you that prefer visuals it is followed by a one-page infographic:

- ***Background** – on the national drugs strategy, how the NDAP came to exist and what our local needs are.*
- ***Progress** – what successes we have achieved so far.*
- ***Get involved –** if you want to know more and get involved, please contact us.*

I hope you find this report both interesting and informative.

Regards

Cllr Scott Carlton
Nottinghamshire County Council

PART 1
BACKGROUND

What are Combating Drugs Partnerships?

As part of the national drugs strategy From Harm to Hope (FHTH) in 2021, every local area across England was requested to form a Combating Drugs Partnership (CDP). The aim of these local partnerships is to bring together a wide range of local partners to have a shared understanding of 1) the local need in the population for those who require support for their drug and alcohol use and 2) have a collective ability to drive forward local actions towards the national drugs strategy.

Nottinghamshire's CDP

Who are the local members?

The Nottinghamshire Drug and Alcohol Partnership (NDAP) was formed in October 2022 under the name of the Nottinghamshire Combating Substance Misuse Partnership. The name was formally changed in November 2023 following discussions on how to reduce stigma across Nottinghamshire and use language advocated by the voice of those with lived/living experience. The geographical footprint aligns to the boundaries of Nottinghamshire County. NDAP currently has membership from the following organisations:

Elected Members

- Nottinghamshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities, who acts as the "Senior Responsible Owner" or SRO.

Nottinghamshire County Council

- Public Health
- Adult Social Care Commissioning
- Children's Services
- Place department

Healthcare Services (commissioners)

- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board
- NHS England - Regional Health and Justice Commissioning Manager
- Primary Care
- Inpatient substance misuse services

Substance use treatment and recovery service providers

- Change, Grow, Live (CGL) - provides services in Nottinghamshire County.
- Framework - provides services in Nottingham City.

Police and Criminal Justice System

- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
- Nottingham Police - Chief Constable
- Probation – Regional Service Director
- Prisons - East Midlands Prison Group Director (Drug strategy / Reducing re-offending)

Jobcentre Plus

- Regional DWP Representatives

Wider partners / relevant subgroups

- Chair of the Partnership's Priority 4 subgroup
- Chair of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Alcohol Harm Reduction Group

- Housing associations and providers of supported housing and homelessness services
- Youth offending teams
- Voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) and other community organisations
- Coroner's offices
- Fire and rescue authorities

What are the local priorities?

The NDAP has four priorities, the first 3 are taken directly from the national drugs strategy and we added one more to focus on the voice of those with lived/living experience:

- **Priority 1:** Reducing the Drug Supply Chain
  Lead: The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

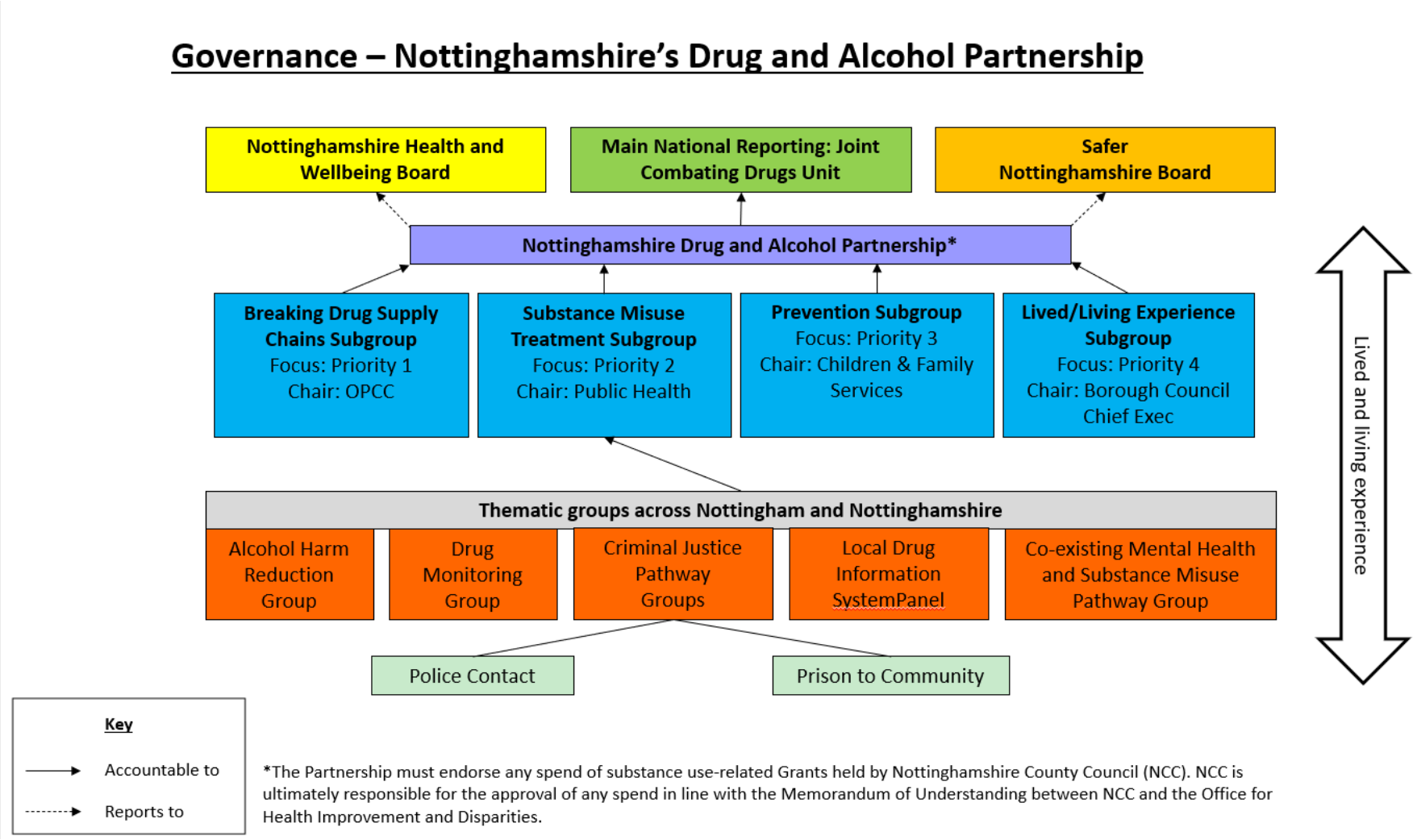
- **Priority 2:** Delivering a World Class Treatment and Recovery System
  Lead: Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health.

- **Priority 3:** Achieving a Generational Shift in the Demand for Drugs
  Lead: Nottinghamshire County Council Children and Families.

- **Priority 4:** Using the Voice of Lived and Living Experience
  Lead: Change Grow Live and chaired by the Chief Executive of Broxtowe District Council.

The next page shows a diagram of how the NDAP, and it's subgroups report in to other relevant local or national boards/partnerships. This is called our "governance structure". Underneath Priority 2 there are a range of joint / shared working groups across both Nottinghamshire County and Nottingham City – as many of the challenges of delivering a world class treatment system are the same across both localities.

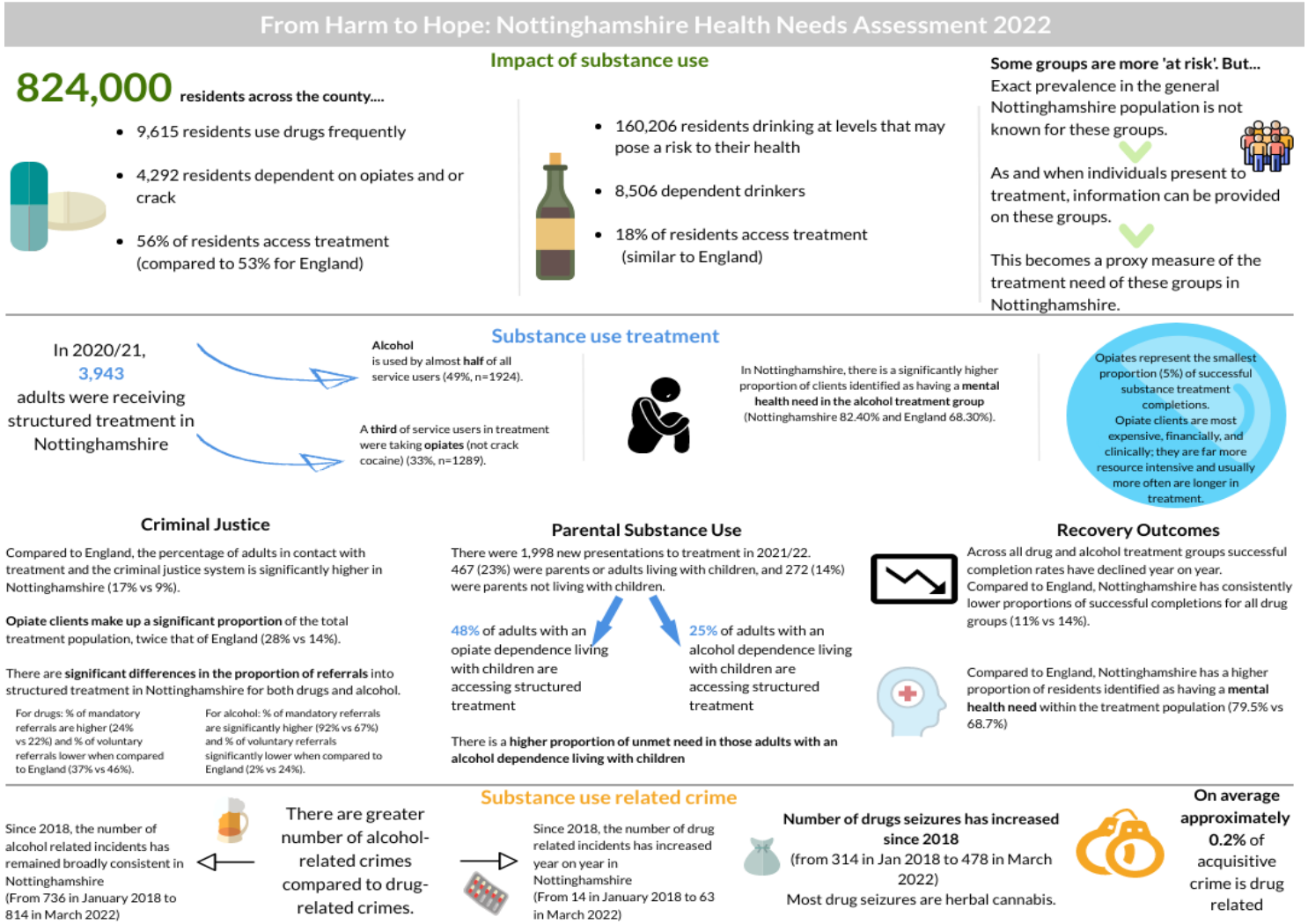
Governance structure of the NDAP



*The Partnership must endorse any spend of substance use-related Grants held by Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC). NCC is ultimately responsible for the approval of any spend in line with the Memorandum of Understanding between NCC and the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

Summary of the drugs (and alcohol) needs in Nottinghamshire

A Nottinghamshire needs assessment was undertaken in September 2022, so that we understood the local challenge we faced when we started our FHTH journey and the recommendations it generated then formed the basis of the NDAP delivery plan (2022-2025). For more information please see: Nottinghamshire From Harm to Hope HNA FINAL.pdf. The main points from the needs assessment are highlighted below:



PART 2
PROGRESS

How is Nottinghamshire addressing drugs (and alcohol) caused harms?

Below is a brief overview of the successes the NDAP have had in addressing the national FHTH priorities.

Priority 1 Outcomes: Reducing the Drugs Supply Chains

Since January 2024 Nottinghamshire Police have provided 500 expert witness reports to the courts in relation to drug supply and drug trafficking offences. These reports highlight, in the opinion of the expert, there is evidence of drug supply and are used in the prosecution and conviction of all drug supply offences for Nottinghamshire.

Targeting the 'middle market' – supply of drugs wholesale to neighbourhood dealers

Activity has been undertaken and continues to target those involved in criminal drug activity who pose the most significant threat and risk to the area. The work often encompasses lengthy and protracted investigations many of which remain active during the reporting period.

A single operation has resulted in combined sentences of 82 years for the eight offenders found guilty at court, a ninth suspect is still awaiting sentencing.

In addition:

- Multiple members of a regional organised crime group supplying high volumes of multi kilo class A drugs into the region have been jailed for more than 90 years.
- Enforcement activity resulted in several people being sentenced for their involvement in a multi-million pound criminal operation for both class A and B drugs which resulted in sentences of 65 years year in total, with the principal member being sentenced to 22 years.

Investigations and enforcement activity continues with further operations still awaiting court trials or sentencing.

'Going after the money' – by disrupting gang operations and seizing cash

For all cases charged with drug supply the Crown Prosecution Service are encouraged to request an asset confiscation order if it has been discovered that the defendants have benefitted financially from their drug dealing – e.g. evidence of a cash rich lifestyle, large quantity of cash seized etc.

For cases charged with drug supply at a lower level of culpability, indicative of cash and/or asset seizures below £1000.00, this money is dealt with by the judge under the misuse of drugs act. The judge then directs where this money should go. Recently in Nottinghamshire some judges have granted direct to a trust, which then donate to crime prevention community groups.

Rolling up county lines – bringing perpetrators to justice and safeguarding victims

Since January 2024 Nottinghamshire Police have conducted 29 pre-planned enforcement operations against county lines operations. Following enforcement activity there has been, 30 arrests and 14 separate drug seizures and 8 cash seizures, resulting in 22 individuals being charged with criminal offences. In the same reporting period, six of the cases charged have already appeared in court, resulting in over 74 years in custodial sentences combined.

Priority 2 Outcomes: Delivering a World Class Treatment and Recovery System

Between April 2023 to March 2025, Nottinghamshire received an additional £6.7million of funding from national From Harm to Hope grants: including

- Supplementary Substance Misuse Treatment Grant (SSMTRG),
- Housing Support Grant (HSG),
- Inpatient Detoxification Grant (IPDG) and the
- Individual Placement Scheme (IPS)

As a result of these grant allocations, local targets were then set for Nottinghamshire:

- Increase the number of people in drug and alcohol treatment by 10%
- Increase in the number of people in patient detoxification places
- Increase the number of people in recovery from using drugs and alcohol
- Reduce the number of drug related deaths.

The SSMTRG is used specifically to increase the numbers of people presenting to drug and alcohol treatment and then into recovery. Outcomes and successes so far include:

- A total of 4,530 adults are now in treatment for drug and alcohol dependency.

- A 33% increase in the number of young people presenting to drug and alcohol treatment.

- An ADHD pathway in now in place within CGL – led by Psychologists to support screening, diagnosis and direct referrals for medication prescribing.

- Our focussed Youth Justice worker within CGL was highlighted by the Ministry of Justice Inspectorate as excellent practice.

- We have 74 new posts within CGL to support more people into treatment and on to recovery.

- There are now 75 people on Buvidal – the new long-acting opiate substitute treatment.

- Trauma informed approaches are embedded into the CGL offer to support those people in drug and alcohol treatment.

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People who are in a housing crisis will not stay in drug and alcohol treatment and are more likely to drop out. Hence, the aim of the HSG is to support people coming into treatment, or those already in treatment who also have a housing need. Outcomes and successes so far include:

- We have received 503 referrals to the housing support team for people with both a substance use and identified with a housing need.

- A total of 28 people with co-existing mental health and substance use needs have been supported out of homelessness.

- We have prevented 79 evictions.

- Working with Citizens Advise, we have been able to secure £118,000 worth of additional income for people in treatment with CGL.

- We have been able to house 29 people who were previously homeless.

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The IPDG grant is operationalised at the East Midlands level – all the local authorities come together and use available bed spaces at one detoxification facility (called "The Level"). Outcomes and successes so far include:

- An increase in the number of people in Nottinghamshire accessing and completing a drug and / or alcohol detoxification.

- 100% of people completing a detoxification are referred back to CGL.

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IPS is a programme which employs specialise employment advisors to support people in drug and alcohol treatment to find employment. Outcomes and successes so far include:

- We have received 161 referrals to IPS support.

- We have helped 34 people to gain employment.

- Amazingly of the total jobs achieved in Nottinghamshire, approximately half (47%) of those have been achieved by people who use opiates. This is highly unusual, as the national IPS evaluation (January 2024) reported that overall IPS seemed to be less effective for those that use opioids (it was more effective for people using alcohol or "other drugs").

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Wider work under Priority 2, includes:

- In early 2024, a self-assessment / audit of the NDAP was made against the Commissioning Quality Standards, and notably scored 37 out of 38 (97%) on the high-quality treatment system domain.

- Working with our NHS colleagues at Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Integrated Care Board, a mapping exercise has taken place to look at overlaps and gaps in commissioning of related services which support people who use drugs and alcohol.

- A 3-year Alcohol Harm Reduction Plan has been developed across Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire County, with key priority actions to deliver each year.

- A "real time" monitoring and surveillance system has been set up to monitor drug related deaths. All relevant wider partners have signed up to share information/data, then use the system to submit an alert of a drug related death, gather any intelligence around the circumstances of the death as quickly as possible and then determine if a Local Drug Information System meeting is required to support alerts out to professionals and people who use drugs.

- In anticipation of the emerging threat of synthetic opioids (laboratory made drugs made to mimic opioids, but considerably more dangerous/toxic), local partners have assessed the Local Drug Information System's protocol and further developed it into an incident response plan. The incident response plan has been approved by the Local Health Resilience Partnership and been shared back to the national Joint Combating Drugs Unit (JCDU).

- "Continuity of care" ensures people who use substances and are released from prison get picked up by community services to continue their treatment/recovery. We have improved continuity of care rates from 33% to 50% across Nottinghamshire following intensive data analysis with prisons and CGL.

Priority 3 Outcomes – Achieving a Generational Shift in the Demand for Drugs

- Increased awareness with education providers around the identification of children impacted by substance use and the services available in Nottinghamshire. In doing so, we have created and designed an interactive online resource which updates schools on the latest data and trends as well as outlined referral pathways into community treatment.

- Supported both primary and secondary schools to shape and develop behaviour policies around knives and weapons, search and seize and substance use.

- Change Grow Live delivering a school-based prevention and early intervention programme. Working with a School in Ashfield to pilot the programme and support includes developing the school's Relationship and Sex Health Education (RSHE) curriculum to include drug and alcohol use.

- Referrals from secondary education to Change Grow Live remain consistent, and a positive connection has been made with the Mansfield Safeguarding Partnership, Youth Service, Mental Health in Schools Teams, and Family Hubs. It is evident that there are increased numbers of referrals being made following training having been delivered to these services.

- Evaluation of the school-based prevention and early intervention programme is underway and will be completed by end of Spring 2025, thus helping to contribute to the evidence-base around interventions to reduce the chances of young people using drugs and misusing alcohol.

- Improving the training offer across Early Help Partnership and Children's Social Care, this includes Intervention Brief Advice and the training offer from Change Grow Live.

Priority 4 Outcomes - Using the Voice of Lived and Living Experience

- We have commissioned Professor David Best to support the development of a Nottinghamshire Inclusive Cities movement to make recovery from drugs and alcohol visible within Nottinghamshire.

- We have founded a Nottinghamshire Inclusive Recovery Cities (IRC) core group developed and led by CGL, Double Impact, Hetty's and Nottinghamshire County Council.

- We held our first Inclusive Recovery Cities event at Mansfield Football Club in October 2024 with over 100 people in attendance including organisations that support recovery and people who are also in recovery from drugs and alcohol.

- We have recruited over 50 “community connectors”. These are people who may themselves be in recovery from drugs and alcohol who want to support other people in recovery and link people into meaningful activities. Four domains have been created for community connectors to be a part of:
    - Arts and Leisure
    - Churches and Faith
    - Volunteering
    - Employment and skills.

- Going forwards it is hoped that residents of Nottinghamshire will get involved in the Inclusive Recovery Cities movement through the next series of events taking place around the County.

PART 3
GET INVOLVED

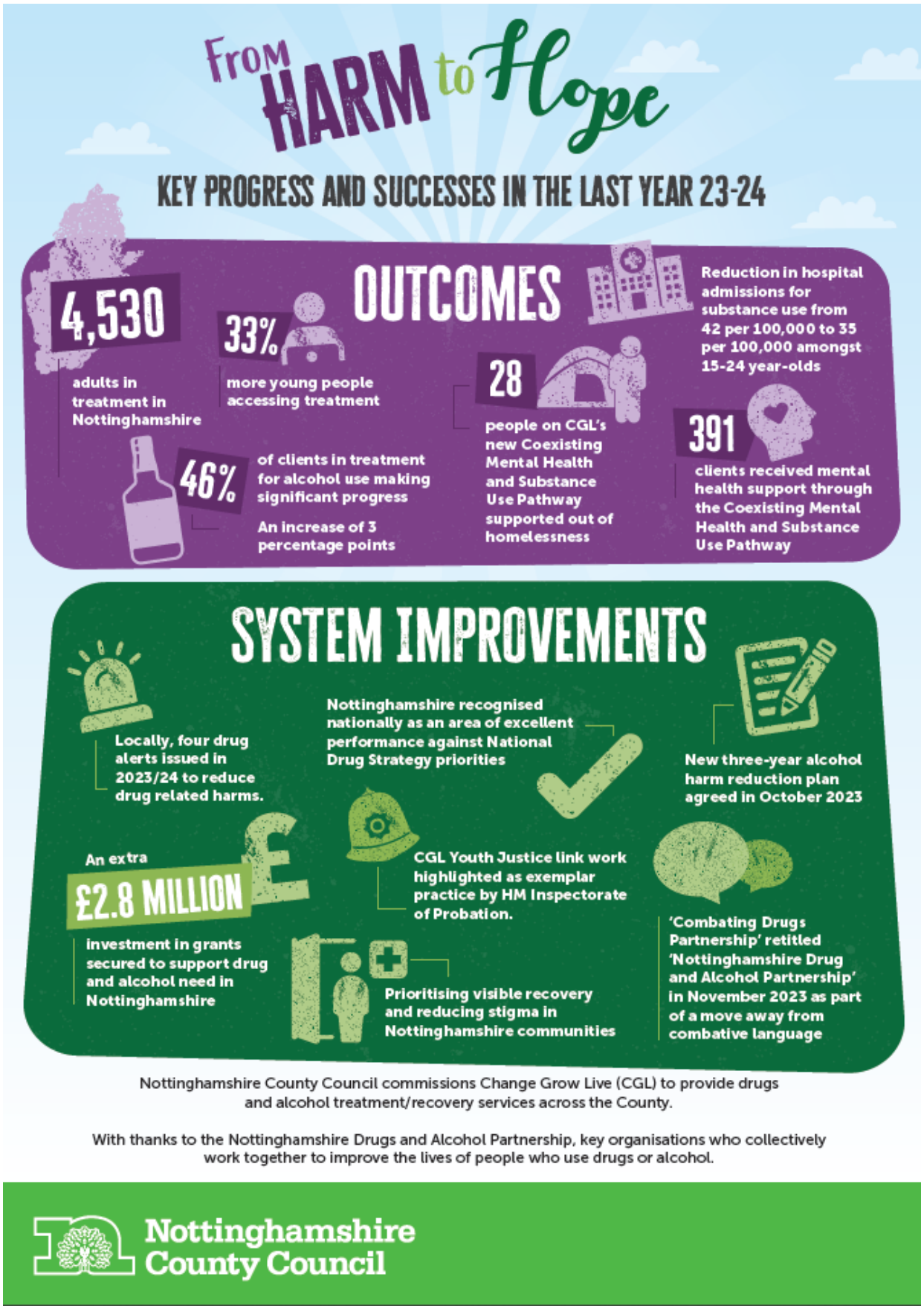
Before November 2023, our Priority 4 in Nottinghamshire focussed on reducing health inequalities. However, it soon became apparent that reducing health inequalities was something that all the other three priorities were also working on, so didn’t need a standalone priority. So, following on from a discussion at the NDAP on stigma and how stigma affects people coming forwards for treatment and recovery, the NDAP took the decision to change the focus of Priority 4 to that of the voice of lived/living experience.

Through the work of Inclusive Recovery Cities movement led by CGL our treatment and recovery service, Double Impact who are a local Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LEROs) and Hetty’s who are a charity that supports families and loved ones of those using drugs and alcohol, we aim for the public to get involved so that we can show case visible recovery in Nottinghamshire and reduce the stigma associated with people who use drugs and alcohol.

How can you get involved in the NDAP?
For more information on how to get involved in Priority 4 or any information outlined in this report, please contact nottinghamshire.substanceuse@nottscc.gov.uk

PART 4:

Infographic [Substance Use (drugs and alcohol) - Nottinghamshire Insight]



Nottinghamshire County Council commissions Change Grow Live (CGL) to provide drugs and alcohol treatment/recovery services across the County.

With thanks to the Nottinghamshire Drugs and Alcohol Partnership, key organisations who collectively work together to improve the lives of people who use drugs or alcohol.

Nottinghamshire County Council