



Legal Highs: Proposed Committee Work

Subject of Committee Work Item	Legal Highs: Understanding the prevalence in Bucks impact and associated costs (social, financial) on the Council as a whole.
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<p><u>Why 'Legal Highs'?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At its work programming workshop the committee received an update from the community safety team on the Community Safety Partnership plan priorities and issues. 'Legal Highs' was identified as an emerging issue that has potential to be more fully explored by the committee within its crime and disorder remit. The service area has recently carried out a needs assessment, one of the first of its kind, on the issues and prevalence in Bucks. There is an opportunity for members to find out more about the issues and prevalence of legal highs, the outcomes of the needs assessment, the recommendations arising out of it, the service area response and actions going forward in relation to the commissioning of drug prevention/intervention services and consider the potential overall cost implications for the council as a whole of this issue. In order to inform whether or not there is value to be added in looking in more detail at the issues and to identify more specific areas for the committee to explore, it is suggested that the committee receives an information overview item on 'Legal Highs' and the Council's commissioning activity to help inform its decision. 	
Aims/Purpose of having a committee item on the topic	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For members to get an overview of the issues. For members to gain an understanding of need and the work that takes place to address the issues and the cost implications for the Council. For members to consider whether they want to do any further work and identify key areas for further examination.
Key lines of questioning	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are legal highs? 2. What is the prevalence of legal highs across Bucks? What is the problem?



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. What are the key issues and challenges in relation to legal high detection and prevention, awareness? 4. What are the social and financial costs of legal highs? 5. What are the overall implication impacts/costs on the council services – council as a whole? 6. What is the partnership response to dealing with the issue? 7. To what extent is there an effectively coordinated partnership response? 8. What are the most appropriate ways of addressing issues around legal highs? 9. What are the key outcomes and recommendations of the needs assessment?
Recommended next steps	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Committee to receive an information update from the service area at its April committee. 2. Committee to decide having received the update and examined some of the issues, whether they feel there is scope for further detailed work/inquiry.