

## **Legal Highs in Buckinghamshire**

From: Huseyin Djemil, DAAT Commissioner  
To: Kelly Sutherland and TEC Select Committee Members  
Cc: Lee Scrafton (DAAT), Chris Oliver (CSU), Amanda Poole (TS),  
Rebecca Carley, Tracey Ironmonger, Phil Dart  
Date: 10/6/15  
Ref: Legal Highs / Novel Psychoactive Substances (NPS)  
Purpose: Progress Update

1. Actions from the ETL Select Committee on 14/4:
  - 1.1 DAAT officers to look into the legislation used in Ireland and report back to the committee.  
**Completed; briefing note sent by email on 14/4**
  - 1.2 Further update on the development of a partnership Action Plan and timelines would come back to the 23<sup>rd</sup> June meeting of the committee. **In progress, update below; DAAT officers to attend Sept/Oct ETL Select Committee to update members**
2. Developments since last ETL select committee
  - 2.1 The DAAT (Joint Commissioning Advisory Group) have hosted a Drug and Alcohol Commissioning development event to engage and consult with statutory and non-statutory partners on new governance structures as part of developing BCC Drug and Alcohol Action Plan (which includes Legal Highs/NPS and is in line with the National Drug Strategy [Reducing Demand, Restricting Supply, Building Recovery: Supporting People to Live a Drug Free Life](#))
  - 2.2 The new BCC Drug and Alcohol Action Plan (now including Legal Highs/NPS) is a collaborative development between the DAAT, BCC Public Health and the BCC Community Safety Team. We are also soliciting input from Adult Social Care, Children & Young Peoples Services, Child & Adult Mental Health, the Clinical Commissioning Groups, the BCC Trading Standards Team, Thames Valley Police (and the PCC's Office where appropriate), The National Probation Service and the new Community Rehabilitation Company (MTC Novo) as well input from existing drug and alcohol treatment service providers and other community groups as required
    - 2.2.1 The BCC Drug and Alcohol Action Plan will draw on previous DAAT and Public Health Needs Assessments, the findings from the more recent (2014-15) NPS Needs Assessment, The Bucks Service User Consultation, The DAAT Service Audit and The DAAT Mystery Shopper Exercise to ensure a well-rounded, evidence based approach.
    - 2.2.2 We will also incorporate relevant developments announced in The Queen's Speech regarding the new Psychoactive Substances Bill into the BCC Drug and Alcohol Action Plan
  - 2.3 Further briefings are in place for districts councils (AVDC and WDC)
  - 2.4 Training for staff and stakeholders (specialist and generalist) planned for 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> July 2015 with further workforce development planning ongoing
  - 2.5 Some funding issues e.g. cut via BCC Communities, Health and Adult Social Care Business Unit of £1.2m (£200k DAAT) and a further potential in-year £1.2-1.5m via a national Public Health England (PHE) budget cut (poss 10% saving within DAAT budget approx. 400k). This may mean prudent savings/budget management this year to generate savings to meet cut and a service reconfiguration/retender next year (will have to start this year) to ensure services don't suffer – process and detail to be confirmed.