



Subject:	Drug Support Services and Response – Request for Special Meeting
Date:	4th September, 2018
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director, City and Neighbourhood Services, ext 3260
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services, ext 3281

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	The purpose of the report is to provide Members with the opportunity of a Special Committee Meeting at a suitable date in October 2018.
1.2	The purpose of the meeting would be for PSNI to brief Members on what they are doing to tackle large-scale supply of drugs and for the main commissioners of services (PHA/Trust) to brief Members on what support services are provided to help those suffering with drug related issues.

2.0	Recommendation
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to hold a Special Committee Meeting on a suitable date in October with the PSNI and the main commissioners of drug support services, namely the Public Health Agency and the Belfast Trust.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>A number of Members have expressed concern in recent months about drug use in Belfast and in particular, its changing nature i.e. intravenous drug use and the associated levels of drug litter in the city. Additionally, there has been a lot of media attention on the issue.</p> <p>3.2 Council works closely with other statutory bodies as well as community and voluntary sector partners around this issue and there is a wider recognition that the emergence of heroin use, other opiate based drugs and poly drug misuse (taking a mixture of drugs/alcohol) are changing the nature of drug use across the city.</p> <p>3.3 The result of this is that new challenges and pressures are emerging both in the city centre and in communities across the city including the relationship between vulnerability to addiction and vulnerability to mental health challenges.</p> <p>3.4 Members are therefore asked to consider holding a Special People and Communities Meeting at a suitable date in October 2018 to discuss this issue in more detail with relevant agencies.</p> <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>3.5 Belfast Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) co-funds the following services with the Public Health Agency, aimed at supporting efforts to address these issues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Street Injectors Support Service (£15,000) - Mental Health/Addictions Dual Diagnosis Services (£30,000). <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>3.6 There are no implications at present, however, this is monitored on an ongoing basis given the level of vulnerability present with this client group.</p>
4.0	<p>Documents Attached</p> <p>None</p>