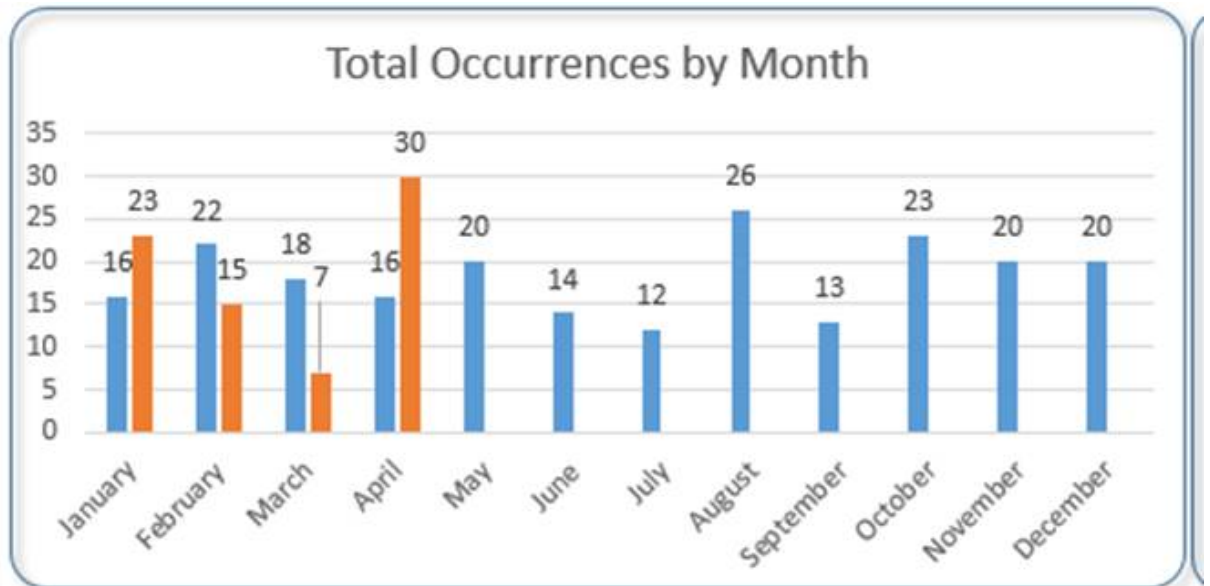


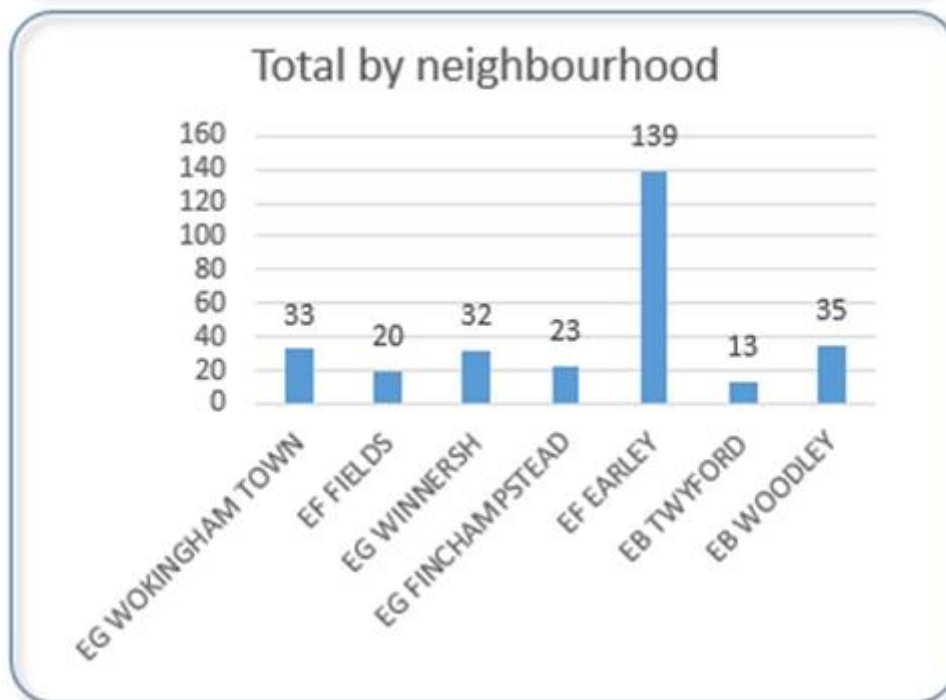
## APPENDIX 1

### 1) How widespread is the drugs problem in the Wokingham Borough Council area?

Wokingham – Drug Offences (January 2022 to April 2023) by month:



Wokingham – Drug Offences (January 2022 to April 2023) by neighbourhood:



## Adults in Treatment (Wokingham) (2013 – 2022)

Category	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
Opiate	145	150	120	110	110	120	120	130	155
Non-opiate only	25	30	35	25	30	35	35	65	65
Alcohol only	135	135	140	110	105	120	120	140	155
Non-opiate & Alcohol	35	40	50	35	40	40	40	50	55

### Main points from the Berkshire West Drug and Alcohol Needs Assessment (October 2022) Executive summary

- There are an estimated 6,000 adults across Berkshire West who have problem drug or alcohol use with rates per population higher than the England average in Reading, particularly around opiate use.
- There is a large gap between those estimated to require treatment and those who are currently accessing.
- Each year, around 150 deaths in Berkshire West are alcohol related and a further 20 are related to drugs.
- Approximately 2,500 hospital admissions are due to alcohol specific causes, poisoning by drug misuse, or drug related mental and behaviour disorders.
- Across Berkshire West there has been an increase in young people admitted to hospital due to substance misuse.
- There is a strong association between problem drug use and violent crime. 30% of those suspected of a serious violent crime in the Thames Valley have previous history of drug use/supply and drug-related homicides are increasing.
- Potentially associated with targeted policing, the recording of crimes relating to the possession of cannabis and drug trafficking are on the rise.
- We know of 375 children in Berkshire West who are living with adults who are in drug or alcohol treatment.
- Rates of people in drug treatment are increasing across Berkshire West
- We see an increase in cannabis use amongst the treatment population particularly in West Berkshire
- There has been an increase in the use of cocaine amongst people living in West Berkshire and Wokingham. Use of alcohol and opiates/crack have remained more stable in comparison.
- 57% of adults in drug treatment and 61% of adults starting alcohol treatment were identified as having a mental health treatment need at the start of treatment with 70% and

80% already accessing mental health support.

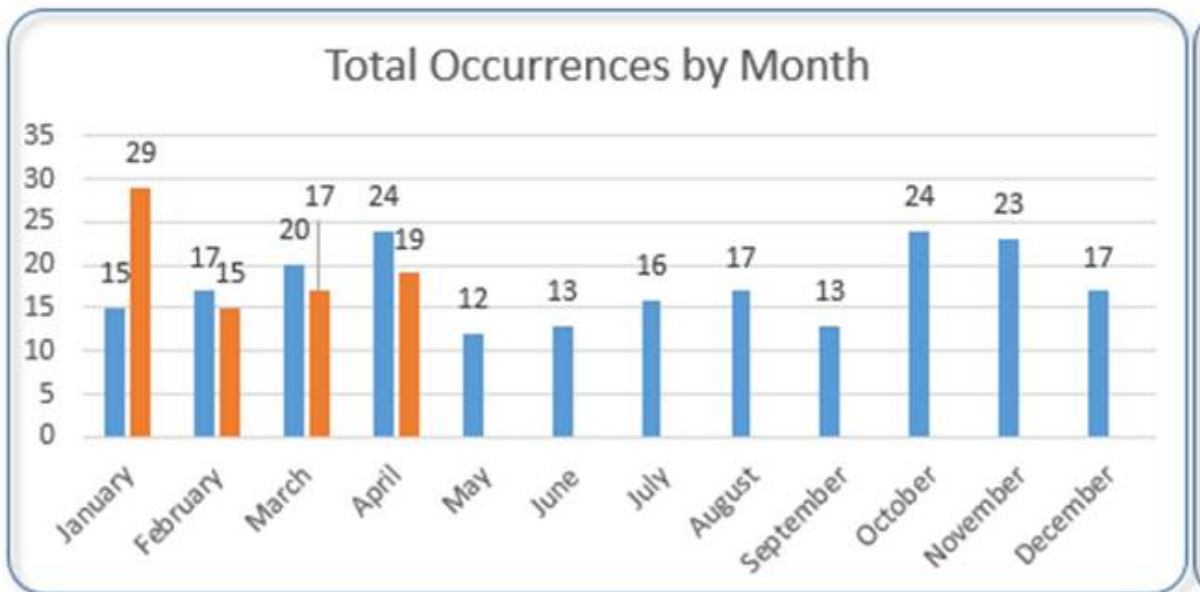
- This report shows clear differences in pattern of problem drug and alcohol use, and associated harms across the three local authority areas. These differences serve to highlight the importance of tailoring services across and within all levels of prevention to match population need.

**2) What actions are being considered to break the cycle of demand?**

The implementation of Buprenorphine, a medicine used to treat dependence on opioid (narcotic) drugs such as heroin or morphine, is a treatment for opiate addiction that means service users are more likely to stay on medication and not relapse into drug use.

**3) Could further comment be provided regarding the relatively high levels of ‘drug driving’?**

Drink / Drug Offences (January 2022 to April 2023): this is both Drink and Drug Offences as TVP don't separate them.



The ability of Police to carry out roadside drug wipes on motorists suspected of being impaired by drugs will have resulted in a rise in the number of charges/convictions. The increase in cases may, or may not, be because of more drug use but is more likely to be that it's only relatively recently being tested at the roadside. A response from TVP on the policy and Roads Policing statistics have been requested.

**4) What is being done to combat the use of Nitrous Oxide, especially amongst school children?**

Whilst illegal to sell nitrous oxide to anyone under the age of 18, it is not illegal to possess. It is a problem nationally and locally, The government is proposing to ban the sale or possession as part of its recent ASB Action Plan proposals.

Education package developed for teachers, students and guardians and offered to all Wokingham Secondary Schools which includes awareness around nitrous Oxide.