

DRUG AND ALCOHOL DELIVERY BULLETIN

October 2017



Welcome to the September 2017 issue of the Drug and Alcohol Delivery Bulletin.

National News

- LDP Standard for Drug & Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times
- ABI Local Delivery Plan Standard 2016-17 review
- Changing Scotland's Relationship with Alcohol – Refresh
- Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol
- Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy) Regular Quarterly Update
- Scottish Government Engagement with Alcohol and Drug Partnerships
- First Ministers Proclamation of Support of the 28th International Recovery Month 2017

Upcoming Events

- Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs – It's all Relative – Scottish Families Conference
- Scottish Drugs Forum upcoming Training Dates and New Courses

NEWS UPDATES

- Aberdeenshire ADP - Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)
- Aberdeenshire ADP - Notes from the Alcohol Policy in Practice CPS Course September 2017
- Aberdeen City ADP - Refreshed 'Getting Our Priorities Right Guidance'
- Highland ADP - Making Recovery Visible in Remote & Rural Communities
- Highland ADP - Stimulant Overdose Awareness E- Learning Resource
- East Dunbartonshire ADP – Positive Partnership Working
- West Dunbartonshire ADP – Addictive Services Partnerships
- North Ayrshire ADP – Café Solace and Recovery Street Film Festival 2017
- Edinburgh City ADP – Harm Reduction

- **CREW – NPS Report**
- **Alcohol Focus Scotland – Publication of new resource pack to support licensing stakeholders**
- **Corra Foundation - Partnership Drugs Initiative Update**
- **Scottish Sports Futures: The Power of Sport & North Ayrshire**
- **SRC – The Recovering Connections – Changing Stigma**
- **SDF: Quarterly Update**
 - **Reports on Older Drug Users**
 - **Naloxone Peer Training and Supply group**
 - **Seeing Employment as an Opportunity to Flourish in Rotterdam**
 - **Addition Worker Training Project**
 - **Stigma challenged at Hepatitis See patient art workshops and exhibition**
 - **HIV briefings to services in Glasgow still available**
 - **Two new Episodes of 'Conversations With' Video Series**

NATIONAL NEWS

LDP Standard for Drug & Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times

The latest quarterly statistics (April to June 2017) to inform performance against the Local Delivery Plan (LDP) Standard for drug and alcohol treatment waiting times were published on 26th September 2017. These statistics can be accessed in full via the following link: <http://www.isdscotland.org/Health-Topics/Drugs-and-Alcohol-Misuse/Publications/>.

- In April-June 2017, 94.9% of the 10,865 people who **started their first drug or alcohol treatment** waited three weeks or less, similar to the same quarter last year (95.0%).
 - For the 6,557 people seeking **alcohol treatment**, 95.3% waited three weeks or less, similar to the same quarter last year (95.7%).
 - For the 4,308 people seeking **drug treatment**, 94.2% waited three weeks or less, similar to the same quarter last year (93.9%).
- At the end of this quarter, 2,926 people were waiting to start their first drug or alcohol treatment, of which 214 (7.3%) had been waiting more than six weeks. This is an increase from the same quarter last year when 101 (3.3%) people were waiting more than six weeks.
- The quarterly trend over the past three years shows little change in performance.
- **In prisons**, 1,282 people started their first drug or alcohol treatment between April-June 2017, with 94.5% waiting three weeks or less and 69.4% waiting one week or less.
- All NHS Boards, except NHS Borders, NHS Highland, NHS Lothian and NHS Tayside met the Local Delivery Plan Standard.

Should you wish to discuss this data in more detail please contact Elizabeth Butters, Substance Misuse Team via Elizabeth.Butters@scot.gov.uk.

ABI Local Delivery Plan Standard 2016-17 review

The ABI Local Delivery Plan (LDP) standard remains a Ministerial priority and continues for 2017-18:

NHS Boards and their Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) partners will sustain and embed alcohol brief interventions in the 3 priority settings of primary care, A&E and antenatal and broaden delivery in wider settings.

2016-17 Data

The Information Services Division (ISD) publication of June 2017 showed that there were 86,560 ABIs delivered in Scotland. This is 42% more than the 61,081 set out in the Local Delivery Plan standard for 2016-17. 55,950 of the ABIs delivered were in the priority settings and ten of the 14 NHS Boards met or exceeded their standard for delivery of all ABIs. Seven NHS Boards met or exceeded their standard for ABIs delivered in priority settings. The number of ABIs in wider settings has increased for the fourth consecutive year and accounted for 35% of all ABIs recorded in 2016-17.

For further information or if you have any queries please contact Lisel Porph, ABI Programme Manager, Scottish Government (Lisel.Porch@gov.scot - 0131 244 3211)

Changing Scotland's Relationship with Alcohol - Refresh

The refresh of the Alcohol Strategy is now due to be introduced later in 2017, following the judgement of the UK Supreme Court.

Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol Update

The Scottish Government believes that a minimum price per unit of alcohol, as part of a concerted range of measures, would be the most effective and efficient way to tackle alcohol misuse in Scotland. Minimum pricing will target heavy drinkers as they tend to drink the cheap, high strength alcohol that will be most affected by the policy.

Alcohol misuse is not a marginal problem or restricted to one particular sector of society. Excessive daily and weekly consumption is common across different age

and socio-economic groups, although we know that the greatest harm is experienced by those who live in the most deprived areas. Tackling alcohol-related harm has the potential to help address Scotland's wider health inequalities.

It is a policy which has twice been approved by the Scottish courts, passed overwhelmingly by the Scottish Parliament and tested in the European Court. Minimum unit pricing was heard by the Supreme Court in July 2017 and we expect a decision in Autumn 2017 (anytime from 2 October). This is the final legal process.

We look forward to the judgment of the Supreme Court on minimum unit pricing and, if it is the positive outcome we hope for, we will move as quickly as is practicable to put the policy in place.

Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy) Regular Quarterly Update

Every Drug and Alcohol Bulletin will provide a regular update on DAISy as agreed by the DAISy Implementation Group. The Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy) is a national database being developed to collect Scottish drug and alcohol treatment and recovery outcomes and waiting times data from services delivering specialist drug and alcohol interventions across the whole of Scotland.

DAISy is now in the IT development stage and with a project completion date of April 2018. Key milestones achieved in the last quarter are:

- **Consent and the data sharing model** – A report has been sent to the NHS Board Information Governance Leads for their consideration. The paper outlines the consent and data sharing model and asks for feedback on any impact with the implementation of General Data Protection Regulation in May 2018. This will be shared with the DAISy implementation meeting as soon as it is ready.
- **Leaflets** - Service user leaflet is finalised and available in the secure area on ISD's DAISy web page.
- **Implementation Plans** - A DAISy checklist for ADPs to use as a basis for local implementation plans has been developed. Scottish Government National Support is engaging with all ADPs on an individual basis to complete the checklist. For more information please contact Elizabeth Butters (Elizabeth.Butters@gov.scot). Meanwhile two example implementation plans have been shared and circulated.
- **Recovery Outcome (RO) Tool** - Training rollout with SDF is progressing with most ADPs organising training prior to the DAISy database training. ADPs who have not completed the training are encouraged to please contact SDF workforce development (richardb@sdf.org.uk) to organise training.

- **Training and Pilot** – Information on the DAISy training model has been provided by most ADPs. ISD are working towards organising facilities and dates will be available soon. ISD have also circulated the criteria for the pilot at the DAISy implementation meeting. Please contact ISD (elaine.strange@nhs.net) to discuss nomination for the pilot or to provide information about training for your ADP area.
- **Prisons** – The DAISy project board have met with prisons health board leads to share information about DAISy. Information has also been shared with Scottish Prison Service.

DAISy High level Project Milestones are outlined below:



Scottish Government Engagement with Alcohol and Drug Partnerships

Following the Minister's announcement of the "Road to Recovery" refresh at the Drugs through a Health Lens event in July 2017, the Scottish Government wishes to continue the conversation with the Alcohol and Drugs Partnership network across the country, building on the work of the ADP review. This will be an opportunity to explore how the new refresh allows us to take a 'fresh look' at the current and emerging landscape with Integrated Joint Boards, and how local planning and delivery arrangements are working for drugs and alcohol services. We want the focus to continue to be on improvement, with the expectation of further investment of £20m announced in the recent Programme for Government. We would ask you to hold the date of Tuesday 28th November and details will follow in due course.

First Ministers Proclamation of Support of the 28th International Recovery Month 2017

The First Minister Nicola Sturgeon wrote a Proclamation of Support for the 28th International Recovery Month 2017. In the letter she applauds the work of recovery communities and families transforming their grief at the loss of life to drugs into action to build recovery from addiction. For more about recovery month and to download a copy of the proclamation follow this link:

<http://www.scottishrecoveryconsortium.org/index.php?id=2612>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs – It's all Relative – Scottish Families Conference

Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (SFAD) invites family members, practitioners, academics and policy-makers to 'It's all Relative', a family conference. This two-day conference gives the community supporting those with problems around alcohol or drugs the opportunity to come together and share experiences, as well as hear from expert speakers and attend sessions on holistic support for families.

Please note there is no charge for tickets for family members. Please contact SFAD if you have any questions regarding costs or support for travel arrangements. Phone 0141 221 0544 or email info@sfad.org.uk.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/its-all-relative-scottish-families-conference-tickets-37649136581>



**Scottish
Families**

Affected by Alcohol & Drugs

Scottish Drugs Forum upcoming Training Dates and New Courses

There are places available for a number of upcoming SDF training courses taking place across Scotland, which are free to access for people working within services in Scotland.

In addition to established core courses, two new courses are now available, which are extremely relevant to the current challenges in Scotland as they address prevention of drug-related deaths and supporting older people with a drug problem.

'Staying Alive – Preventing Drug-related Deaths'

This course addresses the challenges of the 'Drug-related deaths in Scotland' report, including the latest publication for 2016. It aims to highlight evidence-based strategies that can have a positive impact on reducing drug-related deaths with a focus on service improvements.

'Older and Wiser?' – Working with people who use substances as they age

This training is based on the findings of the Scottish Drugs Forum 'Older People with a Drug Problem' report, published in June 2017, which addresses the largest cohort within the drug-related death figures in Scotland.

[Click here to view upcoming training dates and locations](#)



SDF
Scottish Drugs
Forum

Workforce
Development
Programme

NEWS UPDATES

Aberdeenshire ADP - Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP)

In 2016, community planning became a statutory requirement with the introduction of the Community Empowerment Act (Scotland) 2015. The Act places a legal duty on community planning partners to demonstrate that they are making a significant impact on achieving outcomes at a local level through partnership working.

In March 2017, the Aberdeenshire Community Planning Partnership (CPP) Board formally agreed three priorities within their Local Outcomes Improvement Plan (LOIP):

- Changing Aberdeenshire's Relationship with Alcohol
- Reducing Child Poverty in Aberdeenshire
- Connected and Cohesive Communities

The CPP Board agreed that the societal problems caused by the consumption of alcohol in Aberdeenshire are so significant and so unequally spread that additional measures are required to change Aberdeenshire's relationship with this toxic, addictive and carcinogenic substance.

A focus on changing the culture around alcohol consumption is where the CPP envisages it can provide the greatest 'added value', for example through a focus on: the role of licensing boards; education (adults); and increasing professional understanding of alcohol consumption.

The overarching aim is of Aberdeenshire as a safe and enjoyable place to live where residents experience improved length and quality of life as a result of having an environment and culture where low-risk alcohol consumption is the norm and where those in need can readily access help unhindered by stigma.

To deliver this, three broad improvement areas have been identified to help deal with this challenging brief head-on:

- **Prevention:** We have an environment and culture where low-risk alcohol consumption is the norm and drunkenness is considered harmful.

- **Protection:** Protect those vulnerable to harm from alcohol use to ensure a safe and healthier environment.
- **Care & Support:** Enable more people at risk of alcohol harm to reduce the risk by increasing their engagement with effective services.

An Alcohol LOIP Working Group has been set up to progress these improvement areas and develop outcomes which are informed by various forums, consultations and engagement events, including input from, Alcohol Focus Scotland, the Public Service Reform Team at NHS Health Scotland, the CPP Executive and Aberdeenshire's Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) Committee. The plan can be viewed at <http://www.ouraberdeenshire.org.uk/our-priorities/>

Aberdeenshire ADP - Notes from the Alcohol Policy in Practice CPS Course September 2017

Wayne Gault attended the 4-day CPD course on Alcohol Policy in Practice at Stirling University and has kindly written an article to share what he learnt on the course and his reflections after the event:

“Despite working for an ADP for more years than I care to mention, mid-September 2017 was the first time I’d attended an in-depth 4 day CPD course on Alcohol Policy in Practice at Stirling University, coordinated by Dr Niamh Fitzgerald. It was a great program and I wished I’d attended much earlier in my ADP career.”

I was familiar with much of what was covered in the first 2 days but nevertheless learned new things, for example:

- *Sir Ian Gilmore, Chair of the UK Alcohol Health Alliance: Reduced plausibility of the J-curve argument suggesting low consumption drinkers have better outcomes than abstainers.*
- *Dr Carol Emslie, Substance Use Lead at Glasgow Caledonian University: Sexual minority groups are more likely to experience alcohol-related problems than those who identify as heterosexual due to the use of alcohol to construct a range of gendered identities.*
- *Dr John Holmes, University of Sheffield: A better understanding of the underlying basis for Minimum Unit Pricing and Low Risk Consumption Guidelines.*
- *Dr Sally Adams, Bath University: The impact*



of alcohol priming from environmental cues on alcohol seeking behaviour.

- *Dr Niamh Fitzgerald, University of Stirling: The key to effective ABI by maximising 'client change talk'. WHO will be publishing a state of the art ABI manual on 22 Oct.*

Days 3-4 introduced a greater range of ideas new to me, for example:

- *Prof Karine Gallopel-Morvan: The experience of the 'Loi Evin' laws restricting alcohol marketing in France.*
- *Dr Nathan Critchlow, University of Stirling: The fundamental importance of marketing to the alcohol industry.*
- *Laura Mahon (AFS) & Jon Foster (IAS): Increasing influence on licensing boards through greater use of stories.*
- *Prof Jeff Colins, University of Edinburgh: Politics of the global alcohol industry and its conflict with public health.*
- *Prof Mike Daube, Curtin University: Advocacy to challenge the industry tactics used to undermine health policy.*
- *Colin Shevills (Balance NE) and Katherine Brown (IAS) facilitated a mock participant debate between alcohol industry and public health interests.*

Aberdeen City ADP - Refreshed 'Getting Our Priorities Right Guidance'

Aberdeen City ADP in partnership with the Aberdeen City Child Protection Committee, are highlighting their refreshed GOPR guidance as part of a wider suite of multi-agency documents published to support and inform the work of front-line practitioners. This was launched as part of 'an hour well spent' encouraging all staff to familiarise themselves with the guidance".

The link to the full document can be found at:

<http://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/nmsruntime/saveasdialog.asp?IID=76280&SID=25995>



**GETTING OUR PRIORITIES RIGHT
MULTI AGENCY PRACTICE GUIDANCE**

Highland ADP - Making Recovery Visible in Remote & Rural Communities

The first-ever Caithness Recovery Awareness Week delivering activities and training to highlight drug and alcohol recovery has proved a great success.

Held at several locations around Caithness from Monday 28th August to Friday 1st September 2017, an encouragingly wide spectrum of the local community - both young and old – turned out to give their support.

The training courses provided by the event partners were especially well attended with 90 places being taken up.

Organiser Lesley Campbell, NHS Highland's local health improvement co-ordinator, said:

“It was our first-ever Caithness Recovery Awareness Week and the team were very pleased with the community backing we received. It was really encouraging. We not only had people attending who knew or cared about people in recovery, but we had participants from all walks of life, including solicitors and foster carers, who were interested in finding out more and who wanted to help make a difference.”

Activities included Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service drop-ins; Vocational Support open days, along with Al-anon, Alcoholic Anonymous and Narcotic Anonymous open meetings throughout the area.





There was a poignant community event with a 'Loved and Lost' Balloon Release and information stands in local shopping areas.

The Caithness Drug and Alcohol Forum which helps deliver the HADP strategy in the local area organised a workshop entitled; "Recovery Rising - One Year On"

Some 391 hours of training was delivered throughout the week, that ranged from courses on "Discussing drugs and alcohol with young people" through to "Naloxone, overdose awareness and prevention" sessions. HADP also piloted "Basic drug and alcohol awareness" training that was well received by local practitioners. Sessions on "Understanding Stigma", "Drugs and Bugs" and "Tooting versus Shooting" delivered by the Scottish Drugs Forum were also very well received. The awareness week has ensured that recovery is now more visible in more remote and rural areas such as Caithness. Thanks to all partners for their contribution.



Ranald MacAuslan and Lesley Campbell at the 'information stand' during the Caithness Recovery Awareness Week.

Highland ADP - Stimulant Overdose Awareness E- Learning Resource

Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership and NHS Highland Health Improvement have collaborated to raise awareness of stimulant overdose and the current advice aimed at reducing harm. An **e-learning resource** was developed for the start of the summer festival season, after reports of high potency ecstasy pills being in circulation.

Stimulant use can contribute to overdose and on occasion death, including at festivals. Therefore recognising the signs and responding appropriately has the potential to reduce harm and help to save lives. The festival season in Highland usually involves safety messages being shared with the public and partners, however there was a more specific need to progress this work.

The Stimulant Overdose Awareness **e-learning resource** was launched and is aimed at festival staff including welfare, medical and stewarding teams. The course has the support of festival organisers and partners. It is available here: <https://evemacleod.typeform.com/to/PGfx6o>



The image shows a landing page for an e-learning course. At the top left is the NHS Highland logo. To its right is the Highland Alcohol & Drugs Partnership logo, which consists of two overlapping circles, one purple and one light purple, with the text 'HIGHLAND alcohol & drugs PARTNERSHIP' inside. Below these logos is the title 'Stimulant Overdose Awareness'. Underneath the title is a list of four aims for the course: 1) Enhance knowledge of stimulants and their effects, 2) Raise awareness of situations and behaviours that increase the risk of overdose, 3) Outline current advice to reduce harm, and 4) Clarify the main signs of overdose and options for responding. At the bottom center is a 'start' button with the text 'press ENTER' next to it.

To date, over 130 people have completed the course, with the majority coming from the ambulance service, welfare organisations and stewarding teams. In addition, other NHS staff, local authority colleagues, and Police Scotland officers have completed the course. Most participants have been based in the Highlands, however people from other areas in Scotland, and an Event Manager from a festival

in England, has also completed the course. Only a handful of participants have had to retake the post course quiz: the majority scored 85-100%.

Unfortunately there were a number of stimulant related incidents at various Highland festivals, thankfully with no fatalities.

Other data collected shows that most participants complete the course using their smart phones, and do so within 15 minutes. Discussions and suggestions of how the resource could be improved for next year are underway, and the potential of other platforms for the e-learning to be hosted on, are being explored.

*For more information contact: Eve MacLeod, Health Improvement Specialist
eve.macleod@nhs.net*

East Dunbartonshire ADP – Positive Partnership Working

During the last six years, East Dunbartonshire ADP has been involved in significant developmental work based upon clear evidence of need as reflected in our Comprehensive Needs Assessment of Drug and Alcohol Services in East Dunbartonshire.

In order to ensure sustainability and longevity of tenure in service development, a tri-partite approach has been developed to funding including the ADP, Housing and Homelessness Services, Children and Families services and external funders. We are proud of our achievements and the benefits which these collaborative, cross boundary partnerships bring including a wider menu of supports and positive enhancement to our local Recovery Orientated System of Care.

Positive Partnership working by East Dunbartonshire ADP, Turning Point Scotland (TPS) and Housing and Homelessness Services.

Background:

TPS has delivered a Housing First service in East Dunbartonshire since early 2015. It offers support to individuals who are homeless and who may have complex needs including drug and alcohol use, mental health issues and in some cases, involvement in the criminal justice system.

A requirement of this model is access to permanent housing from which to engage community supports, healthcare and social structure / network development. Due to a severe shortage of social rented housing in the area an accelerated route to housing was agreed. Individuals who historically would have difficulties in

attaining/sustaining a tenancy continue to sustain their tenancies with ongoing support from East Dunbartonshire Housing First.

Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (SFAD)

SFAAD has been working in partnership with East Dunbartonshire ADP for over four years. Over 190 family members/ friends have utilised the service across this time illustrating the need for support.

Recognising that the first appointment for treatment services can be daunting, the initial appointment letter offers an invite, where agreed, for a family member or significant other to attend encouraging family inclusive practice and facilitating support for families from the Scottish Families Family Support worker if required.

Stigma and isolation are significant issue for families. After attending the group for the first time, one lady stated –

‘I couldn’t believe it when someone spoke about loving their son but at times hating him too. That’s exactly how I feel but had never been able to say it for fear of being judged. There was no judgement in that room, just understanding.’

Family members are taught an evidence based, compassionate yet effective approach to interacting with their loved one, known as CRAFT (Community Reinforcement & Family Training).

It is recognised that revisiting, where appropriate, often fractured family relationships can be key in that individuals recovery journey.

Many family members have accessed Naloxone training, and have been encouraged to improve the quality of their own lives, accessing numerous activities – yoga, flower arranging, mindfulness, art therapy and relaxation days, some obtaining a diploma in Reiki and Indian Head Massage, they have participated in the kilt walk and will be joining the national recovery walk in Dundee and have been availed of volunteering opportunities.



Group Recovery Aftercare Community Enterprise (GRACE)

GRACE is a peer led recovery aftercare organisation supporting individuals to sustain recovery from life traumas which may have precipitated the breakdown of home life, unemployment, chronic physical and mental health issues, isolation and disengagement from support structures.

GRACE offers a recovery aftercare programme including opportunities for training, peer support and relapse prevention, developing the confidence to participate in positive opportunities in leisure, further education and employment.

GRACE continues to develop a service ensuring access to a range of opportunities and services through close work with local and national partners supporting individuals to step back into their lives.

West Dunbartonshire ADP – Addictive Services Partnerships

West Dunbartonshire Health & Social Care Partnership

West Dunbartonshire Addiction Services and Police Scotland Partnership Pilot Scheme

West Dunbartonshire Addiction Services provide a range of health and social care services to individuals across the authority who may be experiencing difficulties related to drug and/or alcohol misuse.

The pilot was developed over 2016 to

- Progress and maintain effective working relationships and links between Police and Social Work from Addiction services.
- Provide an assertive outreach service delivered by a qualified Social Worker to 'hard to reach' **Vulnerable Adults** who are experiencing chaotic and complex drug and alcohol use, often with co-existing mental health issues, and coming to the regular attention of the Police, and engage them into appropriate services.
- Reduce substance misuse related offending and time spent by Police attending incidents where substance and mental health issues are predominant and often no crime has been committed.

It was agreed that Police would refer between 10 and 15 vulnerable adults identified via the Police Scotland Adult Support and Protection referral system and who have

been referred via this route approx. 5 times or more in the year and who did not appear to be already involved with any Addiction service or receiving any support with substance misuse issues. These tended to be issues related to mental health, age, physical disability or cognitive impairments and evidence of significant self-neglect.

Fortnightly meetings between the Social Worker with the Adult Protection referral coordinator at the Police hub at Dumbarton Police Station as well as telephone and email contact where appropriate took place to highlight individuals who meet the criteria and have given their consent to share at the time of incident(s).

The Social Worker carries out research looking at CareFirst records and discussing with Addictions colleagues to establish if this person is known to the service or in treatment, background information including any previous assessments, whether the person is open to any other services etc.

Community based joint-working and joint-assessment with any partner agencies who are involved with the Vulnerable adult including Health, Criminal Justice Social Work, Mental Health, Youth services and Housing agencies to provide guidance, support, advice and education around any alcohol and/or drug dependence issues. The Social Worker completes an initial assessment and refer the person into the Addictions service where appropriate and consent has been given.

Findings: Between April and August 2016: 12 vulnerable adults were referred by the Adult Protection referral coordinator to the Social Worker.

- 5 male and 7 female.
- The youngest is 19 years and the oldest 72.

Of the 12 vulnerable adults

- 12 have alcohol issues
- 3 also had drug issues
- 10 have ongoing mental health issues.
- 4 have ongoing involvement with CJSW.

Of the 12 adults

- 3 declined a service
- 7 are now in service
- 2 are ongoing

The Partnership has continued in 2017 and the Adult Protection Referral Coordinator for Police Scotland identified another 9 referrals (7 Clydebank and 2 Dumbarton) across March and April 2017. 6 of these persons are now in service, 1 was an inappropriate referral and 2 are ongoing.

West Dunbartonshire Addiction Services Partnership with Carers of West Dunbartonshire's SEARCH Project

West Dunbartonshire Addiction Services have continued to work in partnership with Carers of West Dunbartonshire's SEARCH Project (Support and Education for Alcohol Related Challenges in the Home) in 2016/17. West Dunbartonshire have the second highest number of carers per head of population in Scotland and the addiction teams in Dumbarton and Clydebank have been able to help identify not only carers looking after someone who was misusing alcohol, but also carers who may be using alcohol to cope with their stressful and challenging caring responsibilities.

The SEARCH Project is apparently unique in Scotland, and the UK, in focusing in on this particular area of carer need.

The recent evaluation of The SEARCH Project indicated that it has been significantly busier than anticipated, with over 70 referrals, around half coming from The Addiction Service. At January 2017 Dumbarton made 18 referrals of which 8 are engaging and receiving support. Clydebank made 14 referrals of which 6 are engaging and receiving support.

This has been facilitated by keeping the project as a standing item on Team Meeting agendas. Also the co-location of Elaine Milne (SEARCH Carer Support Worker) in CAT Clydebank and CAT Dumbarton is a particularly distinctive feature, thereby widening the referral pathway to carer-focused support, previously seen to be difficult to access.

The Addiction Service has therefore helped SEARCH in its mission to reach these individuals as early as possible, make them aware of their rights to assessment and support, thereby opening up access to services that could help sustain them in the caring role.

The Addiction Service has also helped to break through some of the barriers that prevented people from asking for help by having conversations with service users and, where appropriate with their carers or family member.

"I would never have thought of myself as a carer; SEARCH helped me see that I needed support"

Sometimes this has involved explaining to people that even if they don't think of themselves as (or accept the 'label') carers, the role they perform is a caring one, with certain rights and entitlements.

The Addiction Service has therefore evidenced implementation of the Quality Principles, notably QP8: Services should be family inclusive as part of their practice. In other words that the Service User is given the opportunity to involve other people who can support their recovery. The principle further stipulates that the service should encourage and help them to do this and help the service user minimise the impact that their drug or alcohol use may have on those around them.

“I’m not afraid anymore, I have built up a strong network of friends/family and support”

The Addiction Service has also evidenced promotion of the national health and wellbeing outcomes which apply to integrated health and social care, notably Outcomes 3. People who use health and social care services have positive experiences of those services, and have their dignity respected; Outcome 4. Health and social care services are centred on helping to maintain or improve the quality of life of people who use those services. Outcome 5. Health and social care services contribute to reducing health inequalities and Outcome 6. People who provide unpaid care are supported to look after their own health and wellbeing, including to reduce any negative impact of their caring role on their own health and well-being. And Outcome 9. Resources are used effectively and efficiently in the provision of health and social care services.

North Ayrshire ADP – Café Solace and Recovery Street Film Festival 2017

Cafe Solace

Cafe Solace is a local café, delivered by volunteers in recovery from alcohol and other drug problems, currently provided within three localities in North Ayrshire; for all community members, broadly and specifically for people from more deprived areas of North Ayrshire; providing volunteering opportunities, increasing skills and confidence, engagement with support services and access to low cost, high quality food. The café was identified by Recovery at Work (a constituted community group of people in recovery) as a vehicle for ‘giving back’ and supporting their community. Food poverty, combined with a lack of recovery community support, was identified as a local need.

The café, since commencing in May 2015, has served over 8,000 customers, created 40 volunteers (mainly people in recovery), providing a supportive and informal community hub, enhancing community engagement particularly with marginalised groups, reducing isolation, and challenging stigma and discrimination.

North Ayrshire ADP were delighted to learn that Café Solace was shortlisted to the final three within the Tackling Inequalities and Improving Health category for the 2017 COSLA Excellence Awards. Members of Café Solace and North Ayrshire ADP delivered their presentation to the COSLA judging panel on 12th September. As a finalist, Café Solace is a COSLA silver winner and will find out the overall winners at the Awards Ceremony on 5th October.

This is a tremendous achievement and recognition of all the hard work taking place over the past few years in becoming a valuable asset within our communities. The North Ayrshire ADP would like to thank everyone involved and for those supporting the café model continually grow in North Ayrshire.

Furthermore, North Ayrshire ADP were honoured to learn that the local MP Patricia Gibson raised a motion within the Houses of Parliament in recognition of Café Solace.

Recovery Street Film Festival 2017

Further to sharing information in a previous bulletin in relation to Funky Films showcasing their work at the Scottish Parliament in May, the group submitted a short film entry to the Recovery Street Film Festival. This is a national film festival with entrants from across the UK, all making films to raise awareness of recovery. Their submission, entitled, "Our Younger Selves," was shortlisted in the final 10. Written and produced by members of Funky Films, they spent weeks working on the project and enlisted the help of young actors to make their film a reality.

The crew attended the awards ceremony in London on the 1st September where the 10 finalist's films were shown. The group were thrilled to get this far in the competition, and to be sharing their work on a national level, which turned to delight when they were awarded 2nd place. The short film is being screened in venues across the UK during recovery month.

This is another great achievement by all those within Funky Films, Recovery at Work and North Ayrshire ADP.

This link takes you to all of Funky Films work so far <http://bit.ly/2wg4o6H>



Edinburgh City ADP – Harm Reduction

Harm Reduction in Edinburgh 2017

Over the past year we spoke to service users, service providers and reviewed a range of routine data sources to determine the health needs of people who inject drugs in Edinburgh. We identified **three overarching needs** and **six recommendations** to improve harm reduction services.

We need...

- More intelligence led services.
- To make the best of all available assets and resources.
- A stronger systems approach to care with more collaborative working.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1

1 Improve access and retention for opiate substitution therapy (OST)

- Staff in specialist services are generally perceived as helpful and supportive.
- Currently long waits to access OST & low retention mean that a high percentage of clients disengage from services at critical points.
- Up to 80% of treatment is provided by GPs.
- 58% of people who access injecting equipment provision (IEP) in Edinburgh are also on OST.



2

2 Provide harm reduction as part of all service contacts

- 78% of regular IEP clients **only** access community pharmacies (NEO 2015-16) mainly providing basic IEP services.
- 51% of 475 respondents were prescribed Take Home Naloxone – optimise distribution via hospitals, social care, GPs and pharmacy (NESI 2015-16).
- No formal referral pathway to harm reduction services exist from A&E or acute hospital wards.

3

3 Reduce missed opportunities for hep C testing and treatment

- NESI 2015-16 reports a rise of 7% in hep C prevalence to 48% since 2013-14.
- 51% of current or ex-injectors referred for hep C treatment at the Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh did not attend their first appointment.



4

4 Improve support for general health and wellbeing

- 24% of people receiving treatment for drug addiction are over 40 years of age and have significantly higher rates of hospital admission for co-morbidities such as hepatitis, mental health, chronic respiratory problems or alcohol misuse.
- In 2016 a co-morbidity was present in 64% of drug related deaths (DRD).



5

5 Strengthen services for vulnerable groups

- Most at risk of drug related death (DRD) = men, 35yrs+ with a history of opiate/ benzo use & not in stable, optimised OST.
 - 26% DRD were people who had been released from police custody within the previous 6 months.
 - 25% of DRD in 2016 were women.
 - 30% of people regularly accessing IEP reported being homeless or roofless.



6

6 Ensure quality improvement across all services

- Agree local service standards.
- Scale up small tests of change.
- Improve the quality of data and feedback to frontline services.



To read the full needs assessment visit: <http://bit.ly/2ibtRrD>

The full Report 'Harms Reduction in Edinburgh: A Health Needs Assessment with People Who Inject Drugs 2017' is available at:

<http://www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk/Services/A-Z/HarmReductionTeam/Documents/HarmReductionEdinburghHealthNeedsAssessmentPeopleWhoInjectDrugs.pdf>

CREW – NPS Report

Crew NPS and Drug Trends Annual Report

In May 2016, the Psychoactive Substances Act (PSA) was enacted, prohibiting the sale of substances capable of producing a psychoactive effect.

After almost a year of reporting, Crew asks what has changed and what has been the impact?

The 'NPS at Crew Annual Report 2016-17' is available at:

<http://3d4dd23785678ef3154e-b6e25eb72df69608d37cf0f90c328ddf.r59.cf3.rackcdn.com/CREW%20NPS%20and%20Drug%20Trends%20Annual%20Report%202016%20-%202017.pdf>

The report includes information on:

- NPS
- Harms
- Legislation
- The Psychoactive Substances Act
- Drug Related Death

Alcohol Focus Scotland – Publication of new resource pack to support licensing stakeholders

Following the local government election in May 2017, new local licensing boards have been formed. These boards undertake the important task of regulating the availability of alcohol and standards of sale in the licensed trade. The membership of each new board now has until October 2018 to produce a new statement of licensing policy, including an assessment of whether there is any overprovision of licensed premises in the local area. Local licensing policy statements describe how licensing boards intend to promote the licensing objectives, and once published are used by boards to guide their decision making.

Latest news relating to alcohol and drugs policy in Scotland

To support both licensing boards and professionals working in the licensing system to develop robust, evidence-based policy statements that effectively promote the licensing objectives, Alcohol Focus Scotland has developed a [new licensing resource pack](#).

The pack has been designed to support all those involved in Scotland's licensing system, including Licensing Standard Officers, licensing boards and forums, health stakeholders, clerks and the police. It sets out how the licensing process in Scotland works and provides resources to support the collection of evidence on local alcohol-related harm, the development of licensing board policy statements, and effective overprovision policies.

Over the coming weeks, hard copies of the pack will be sent to licensing boards, licensing forums, Alcohol & Drug Partnerships and other key stakeholders. Each section and resource is available to print as a separate document [online](#).

The pack adds to the range of AFS resources and support for licensing boards and licensing stakeholders, including:

- [AFS Community Toolkit](#) – which is designed to help anyone who would like to have a say on how alcohol impacts
- [Local harm profiles](#) - which sets out the key local statistics on alcohol harm
- The AFS Licensing Health Stakeholder Group which provides an online forum and networking meetings for health stakeholders to discuss effective health input into the licensing system.

For more information about the resource pack, or any of AFS's other resources, please email jenn.ruddick@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk.



Corra Foundation - Partnership Drugs Initiative Update

Rebrand

Lloyds TSB Foundation for Scotland rebranded on 28th August 2017 becoming the Corra Foundation.



The name 'Corra' comes from Scots mythology, associated with transcendent knowledge and change, symbolising the Foundation's objectives and aspirations as it moves forward. The brand colours are taken from the Duncan Modern Tartan, a nod to the roots of the organisation.

The Partnership Drugs Initiative (PDI), one of the Corra Foundation's grant programmes, will continue to work in partnership with charities and statutory services to improve the outcomes and life chances for children affected by alcohol or drugs.

If you would like further information on the PDI programme, please visit

www.corra.scot/grant-programmes/partnership-drugs-initiative

or email rowan@corra.scot kelly@corra.scot

Scottish Sports Futures: The Power of Sport & North Ayrshire

The power of Sport:

For the last 4 years Scottish Sports Futures Charity have been working in partnership with North Ayrshire ADP to "change lives through sport". The collaboration which includes NA ADP funding of two SSF programmes is a unique and dynamic approach to early intervention and diversion that has reached over 1380 young people in the last 12 months.

Jump2it is a primary school early intervention programme that introduces sporting role models from the Glasgow Rocks pro-basketball team to present powerful health and wellbeing messages in a fun and interactive road show followed by coaching and tournaments. The Shell Twilight Basketball initiative provides late night diversionary sport that runs every Friday night, is free to attend and combines

physical activity, personal development and health education. This week the strength of the partnership was recognised with a finalist nomination for Twilight in the *Partnership in Sport Category for North Ayrshire Community Sports Awards*.



Impacts have included:

- 139 young people in Dalry and Irvine positively engaged at peak times of anti-social behaviour in areas identified by police and local partners
- 3 young people from Dalry taking part in an Ambassador programme to become young leaders, peer role models and community volunteers
- 77% of participants surveyed had learnt something new from Alcohol workshops delivered (including presentation from RAW participants) and 62% said they would consider doing things differently as a result
- 950 pupils in 16 primaries introduced to positive role models with 84% able to recall alcohol facts and 90% stating they have made a positive lifestyle change due to the programme either small or large.

Mark Gallagher, Lead Officer, North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership :

“The ADP has been working effectively in partnership with Scottish Sports Futures for the past 4 years through delivery of the Jump2It programme within primary schools. One of our four key priority areas within our strategy is prevention, which aims to increase awareness and attitudes of substance use that will reduce the overall level of addiction related problems. The launch of Twilight is another excellent development in relaying these important messages that will have a positive impact on the lives of young people and their local communities raising awareness of risky behaviour whilst promoting opportunities to engage in physical activity.”

<http://scottishsportsfutures.org.uk/shell-twilight-basketball-launches-irvine/>

Latest news relating to alcohol and drugs policy in Scotland



The SSF partnership in North Ayrshire includes youth services, active schools, Police Scotland, North Ayrshire College, KA Leisure and Ayrshire Tornadoes – a group that the ADP have facilitated and together have allowed us to offer a coordinated approach to interventions, provide a positive platform for addressing sensitive issues, upskill local staff, create positive networks for regular and accessible physical activity, and develop young leaders to inspire their peers. Underpinning this approach SSF deliver ETC an SCQF accredited training programme that supports our delivery teams, partners and young people to build transferable life skills through sport.



Scottish Sports Futures have ambitions to roll out this successful package of intervention across other ADP communities and would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in working together.

For more information please contact emma@ssf.org.uk Tel 0141 218 4640 or visit www.ssf.org.uk

SRC – The Recovering Connections – Changing Stigma Event

The Recovering Connections – Changing stigma to respect event held at Tramway in Glasgow on September 1st got recovery month off to a glorious start in Scotland. Around 350 people gathered in the largest community circle so far to consider the impact of Stigma on our recovery chances, our families and our future lives.

Organised by the Partnership for Action on Drugs in Scotland (PADS) communities sub group, this was the first national gathering of Scotland's new visible recovery communities. The event had both an educative and research focus but that didn't mean the event was dry and boring by any means!

In the large community circle we opened the event with a contribution from the Minister for Public Health and Sport, Ms Aileen Campbell. This was followed by a performance from recovery artist Lee, poetically evoking his relationship with methadone. A Scotland wide recovery check in allowed us all to hear what's hot and happening in recovery communities all over Scotland, from recovery radio shows to walking recovery to arts and mutual aid. Our workshops on STIGMA in the morning gathered experiences of Stigma and placed them in the context of the various manifestations of Stigma. Afternoon workshops resisted our experiences and explored what actions we might effectively take.

In between open spaces in the programme taken by Recovering Justice, Families Anonymous, ORT recovery, REACH advocacy, 'Methadone Memoirs' launch, Drug Deaths dialogue brought new ideas and contacts to the participants.

The PADS communities sub group has gathered a wealth of material around the lived experience of Stigma in Scotland right now and will be considering its next year's work around what we are learning from the event.

SDF: Quarterly Update

Reports on Older Drug Users

Report call for action to respond to the needs of older drug users - <http://www.sdf.org.uk/new-report-calls-action-respond-needs-older-drug-users/>

Scottish Drugs Forum has launched the final report of an expert group on the challenges Scotland faces in responding to the needs of some of its most vulnerable citizens – the growing population of older drug users.

The report, '[Older People with Drug Problems in Scotland: Addressing the Needs of an Ageing Population](#)' looks at the needs of people with drug problems who are 35 years and over and highlights the increasing number in their 50s and 60s.

Older people with drug problems face significant health issues including the effects of premature ageing and the complex causes and results of their drug use.

The Expert Working Group on Older People with a Drug Problem has spent over two years looking at evidence, commissioning research and hearing from testimony from experts across the UK.

The report's key findings include the following:

- That older people with drug problems will increasingly become the norm within services and services need to adapt to better meet the needs of this population – both specialist and non- specialist.
- This group have a range of complex needs, including being very isolated and experience significant underlying physical and mental health problems.
- They are not engaging well with existing services or tend to drop out of services on a regular basis.
- This group is at high risk of fatal overdose and dying of other causes if they are not retained in care.
- There is significant and increasing cost to the health service.

Scottish Drugs Forum have also published a companion report, which informed the Expert Working Group on Older People with a Drug Problem's report, which is entitled '[Older People with Drug Problems in Scotland: A Mixed Methods Study Exploring Health and Social Support Needs](#)'

Naloxone Peer Training and Supply Group

UK's first ever Naloxone Peer Training and Supply group celebrates launch - http://www.sdf.org.uk/news_peer_naloxone_training_supply/

Scottish Drugs Forum's [National Naloxone Programme](#) held an awards ceremony to mark the launch of the UK's first Naloxone Peer Training and Supply Programme and to celebrate the achievements of the volunteers.

The initiative has seen a number of existing volunteers within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde [Naloxone Peer Volunteers Group](#) receive additional training that will allow them to directly supply naloxone kits to eligible individuals they have trained.

In 2015, new regulations regarding the supply of naloxone, means that people employed or engaged in the provision of drug treatment services can provide it to anyone who may witness an overdose without the need for a prescription. This important change means that in addition to nurses and pharmacists, other people undertaking roles within drug treatment services can also make supplies of naloxone, such as volunteers.

It is hoped that the volunteers will contribute to increasing the availability of naloxone within the community so that it is more likely to be present when an overdose occurs, and the project will also provide additional skills and opportunities for the volunteers themselves.

The award ceremony congratulated peers for their dedication and support, providing them with a certificate and award, and thanked staff, who have worked tirelessly for over a year to get the programme to this stage.

The newly established group will first target Recovery Communities in Glasgow then move to supported accommodations, residential and community programmes as well as aiming to reach people at risk in the streets of Glasgow who may be homeless or roofless and not currently engaged with services. Through adding the supply element to the current [Peer Naloxone Training](#), the model aims to be more effective in reaching these at-risk populations.

The Peer Supply Model will be evaluated and if deemed a success, the model will be implemented in other Health Boards across Scotland.

Before the event finished, one newly trained volunteer said: *"I just can't wait to get out there and start saving lives."* Scottish Drugs Forum wishes all the volunteers good luck in their new roles and thanks them for their commitment.

[Click here to see pictures from the day.](#)

NHS Recovery Coordinator, Steff Kerr, recently gave an update of the group's activity at a the SDF conference on drug-related deaths 'Preventable, Not Inevitable'

and his presentation slides can be viewed here (<http://www.sdf.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Citywide-Naloxone-Peer-Supply-Model-2017-Stef-Kerr.pdf>)

Seeing Employment as an Opportunity to Flourish in Rotterdam

Seeing employment as an opportunity to flourish in Rotterdam - <http://www.sdf.org.uk/seeing-employment-opportunity-flourish-rotterdam/>

[Chris Messenger](#), who manages Scottish Drug Forum's [Addiction Worker Training Project](#), recently took part in an information sharing and study visit to The Netherlands.

Chris's visit was undertaken as part of Employability Public Social Partnership [Elevate Glasgow](#) in partnership with the [Dutch Foundation of Innovation Welfare 2 Work](#) and was funded by [Erasmus+](#), the European Union programme for education, training, youth and sport.

"Successful in securing a place on this sought-after venture, I travelled with two colleagues from Phoenix Futures and the Scottish Recovery Consortium, to the Netherlands. There I learned how employability for disadvantaged groups is delivered and how employers and service providers engage with people in recovery."

The online blog is an adapted and edited version – the full report is available to [view here](#).

Addiction Worker Training Project

The Addiction Worker Training Project reaches finals of the National Lottery Awards – <http://www.sdf.org.uk/thank-addiction-worker-training-project/>

Scottish Drugs Forum's [Addiction Worker Training Project \(AWTP\)](#) appealed for votes after reaching the final public voting stage of the annual search for the UK's favourite Lottery-funded projects.

The AWTP is a unique initiative which supports, trains and provides paid work experience in the social care and addiction field to individuals with a history of drug and alcohol problems.

Reaching nomination stage was a huge achievement for the project, having already seen off tough competition from more than 1,300 organisations – a record number of entries – to reach the public voting stage in this year's National Lottery Awards.

Unfortunately the AWTP did not gain the most votes, however SDF feel it was an achievement simply just to take part and it was an honour to be shortlisted amongst some of the UK's most innovative and deserving charities.

Our congratulations go to the winner [HeadSmart](#), a charity who works to reduce the diagnosis time of brain tumours in children.

[MarieAnn, a current AWTP trainee, passed on her thanks in a video to everyone who voted and explained what effect the project has had on her.](#)

The AWTP, which has been rolled out in the East and West of Scotland, helps people in recovery to integrate back in to mainstream society through employment. It has significant impact on participants' lives and helps improve services by ensuring a qualified, enthusiastic workforce with their own insights and experiences of using services.

Trainees are employed by Scottish Drugs Forum while carrying out placements in local agencies. The trainees frequently bring a new drive of enthusiasm to the care services they are placed in, and their shared life experiences with service users can help foster trust and a rapport that supports treatment.

Since 2004, over 200 people have started the AWTP project – 90% have completed and achieved SVQ Qualifications in Social Services and Healthcare. Over 85% of Graduates have continued work, the majority securing full time jobs in the health and social care field.

Scottish Drugs Forum and all the trainees on the Addiction Worker Training Project (AWTP) would like to thank everyone who voted for and shared our campaign for the [National Lottery Awards 2017](#).

[Click here for more information on the Addiction Worker Training Project](#)

In addition, a video was produced by Yorkshire and Clydesdale Bank to celebrate the Addiction Worker Training Project's success in winning the Spirit of the Community Award, see link below:

<https://youtube/xM0pGyGzs-M>

Stigma challenged at Hepatitis See patient art workshops and exhibition

For World Hepatitis Day 2017, the HepCScot partnership planned an arts and photography project and competition, through which people affected by hepatitis C were invited to express how they experienced attitudes of others towards them and, importantly, how they viewed themselves. By using art as a medium, the project aimed to visualise identity and stigma, and how these affect people living with viral hepatitis in Scotland. Hepatitis See's genesis included a small scale art project by Forth Valley Recovery Community, a recovery and support group. This was further developed, grew arms and legs, and helped give shape to national workshops that looked to highlight key issues around stigma related to hepatitis C.



Free community art workshops, led by experienced artists, took place in Ayrshire and Arran, Forth Valley, Glasgow, Lanarkshire, Lothian and Tayside, where people affected by hepatitis C were supported to explore key themes and express their ideas through a variety of artistic medium. In many areas NHS boards were key contributors and provided organisational and logistical support. Local support organisations and groups did a mountain of work themselves and special thanks need to be given for the work they put in to support people affected by viral hepatitis. An art and photography exhibition and public engagement event was held at the Gallery of Modern Art (GoMA) in Glasgow on 18 and 19 July, with art and photography workshops, a virus colouring-in station, decoration of big aluminium Cs, and a public/supervised injecting installation taking place.



In addition to photos, two videos have been created about the exhibition.

The first video summarises the exhibition and the activities taking place whilst the second explores public opinions of the exhibition, which also features Hepatitis C Parliamentary Champion Tom Arthur, MSP for Renfrewshire South.

[View the Hepatitis See artwork](#)

[View photos from the exhibition](#)

[Watch the summary video of the exhibition and activities](#)

[Watch the public opinion video](#)

HIV briefings to services in Glasgow still available

Scottish Drugs Forum has made a significant input at strategic and operational levels during the course of the current ongoing HIV outbreak in Glasgow, through active involvement in the Incident Management team.

Scottish Drugs Forum staff, in association with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, have published an in-depth guide, '[HIV: What Staff Need to Know](#)', on our website and distributed it to key services.

As part of SDF's contribution to the response to the Glasgow HIV outbreak, Emma Hamilton, SDF's National Training and Development Officer (Harm Reduction and Emergency Response), is continuing to deliver free briefings to frontline staff.

Over 70 briefings have been facilitated so far – any Glasgow service interested in receiving such a briefing should contact: emma@sdf.org.uk

Two new Episodes of 'Conversations With' Video Series

Two new additions to Scottish Drugs Forum's 'Conversations with' video series.

Scottish Drugs Forum regularly invites leading individuals from the addiction field to share their expertise and knowledge at our nationwide events.

Our 'Conversations with...' video series gives context to topics covered in these events through recording informal discussions that aim to open up issues central to developing Scotland's response to problem drug use.

[In this episode](#), we talk to Alex Stevens, Professor in Criminal Justice at the University of Kent, President of the International Society of Drug Policy, Senior Editor of the 'International Journal of Drug Policy ' and a member of the UK Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs (ACMD) about UK drug policy and its effect on drug-related deaths.

Alex's companion presentation at SDF's conference 'Preventable Not Inevitable' - held for International Overdose Awareness Day on August 2017 - [can be viewed here](#).

[In this episode](#), Katy MacLeod, SDF's National Training and Development Officer and lead researcher on the published 'Understanding the patterns of use, motives and harms of new psychoactive substances (NPS) in Scotland' talks us about the report, which was published in December 2016.

The research, undertaken by Scottish Drugs Forum and The University of Glasgow, was the first of its kind in Scotland and aimed to determine use across a range of people including people who inject drugs, mental health service users, vulnerable young people, people affected by homelessness and men who have sex with men. The report gathered information from people who worked in services and also people who used NPS.