Welcome to the March 2018 issue of the Drug and Alcohol Delivery Bulletin

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It has been 10 years since the national drug strategy “The Road to Recovery” was published. That strategy focussed on preventing drug use, promoting recovery, law enforcement and getting it right for children affected by parental substance misuse.

There have been major steps forward in the last 10 years, the development of recovery communities, the fast access to services, integrated approaches to treatment and the national naloxone programme.

There have also been a number of developments that suggest that it is the right time to refresh this strategy: the refresh of the alcohol strategy gives the opportunity include alcohol, the ageing population of drug users and changes in delivery structures including Integrated Joint Boards.

We also need to do more to prevent drug and alcohol deaths and more to address stigma and inequality. The refresh keeps recovery firmly at the core, but has a renewed emphasis on those at most risk of harm.

Key themes will be

- Education and prevention to bring this in line with the emerging evidence base
- Treating and protecting people most at risk
- Making recovery everyone’s business - including working with mental health, housing and other agencies
- The strategy will also be driven by the people who know what needs to be done, people with lived and living experience alongside and within professions and evidence
- Finally it will have a strong focus on children and families, expanding on our work done to date with children affected by substance misuse but also looking at the whole family as well as focussing on children affected.

The strategy will be published in the summer. There have been a number of engagement events and activities across a range of stakeholders and partners and colleagues within the Substance Misuse Unit are working hard developing the strategy, engaging with ADPs, groups and individuals to pull together views, evidence and knowledge.

If you want any further information at this stage please contact Alcohol_and_Drug_Partnerships@gov.scot
Following five years of litigation, on 15 November 2017 the UK Supreme Court issued a unanimous judgment which supported the introduction of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) for alcohol in Scotland. The judgment provided an overwhelming endorsement of the policy and recognised the targeted nature of minimum unit pricing.

In light of the judgment, we ran a public consultation to gather views from people, businesses, public bodies and interested parties on the Scottish Government's preferred price of 50 pence per unit of alcohol. This closed on 26 January and we received 130 consultation responses; the majority of those respondents who commented on the price were in support of the 50 pence per unit level.

In conjunction with the consultation, the 2012 minimum unit pricing Business and Regulatory Impact Assessment was updated, providing further evidence which supports the assertion that MUP will lead to reductions in health, crime and employment harms. These documents are available on our website at: http://www.gov.scot/Topics/Health/Services/Alcohol/minimum-pricing.

Taking this into account along with a number of factors, the Scottish Government has concluded that a minimum price of 50 pence per unit provides a proportionate response to tackling alcohol misuse – striking a balance between public health and social benefits, and intervention in the market.

On 1 March the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport laid the affirmative Order which commences Parliament’s formal consideration of the 50 pence per unit price. The parliamentary process will involve Committee consideration of the legislation as well as a full parliamentary vote in the chamber. MUP is due to be implemented on 1 May 2018 and, subject to Parliament’s agreement, retailers with a licence to sell alcohol will be unable to sell alcoholic drinks below 50 pence per unit from that date forward.

We have undertaken an extensive programme of engagement with the alcohol industry including trade bodies, retailers, wholesalers and producers. We are now taking various strands of work forward to raise awareness of MUP across the alcohol industry. This includes the production and distribution of practical guidance for retailers and wholesalers as well as promotional material through trade press advertisements, leaflets and posters. Closer to implementation, we will provide materials for businesses to display in-store to raise awareness among customers. We have also developed a website for retailers which contains useful information and will store the guidance and promotional materials, www.minimumunitpricing.scot.

It is therefore important that treatment and recovery service providers consider the implications of MUP on local communities, particularly hazardous and harmful drinkers. MUP will initiate structural changes to the Scottish alcohol market. While the precise nature of these changes cannot be predicted, it may be helpful to note that around 51% of off-trade alcohol was sold at below the
Latest news relating to alcohol and drugs policy in Scotland

proposed minimum unit price in 2016. We expect products which are cheap relative to their strength to be impacted significantly; evidence suggests these are the products which all hazardous and harmful drinkers consume to varying degrees.

Support is available to service providers in the run up to 1 May 2018. In the first instance, we would encourage providers to engage in the rescheduled learning event which Alcohol Focus Scotland is running on Wednesday 4th April in Glasgow. For further details about the event, and to register, please contact Sean McCollum: Sean.Mccollum@alcohol-focus-scotland.org.uk.

This event will include input from NHS Health Scotland, which has been commissioned to evaluate the policy over the next five years; this will provide a good opportunity to engage with that work from the outset. In April, the Scottish Government will also produce and distribute to ADPs material for download and print, which can be tailored towards local services and used to raise awareness with drinkers who will potentially be affected. For any further information about the policy and implementation, please feel free to contact Alcohol Policy Team Leader, Louise Feenie: louise.feenie@gov.scot.

Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy)

What is it

The Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy) is a national database which will gather key demographic and outcome data on people who engage in drug/alcohol treatment services. It will enable us to improve our understanding of the impact of drug/alcohol treatment services and consequently to improve the way that we plan and deliver these services.

When will it happen

The DAISy project is complex and involves a range of people and agencies working together. We need to develop the IT system, ensure the security of the system, work out how to share information, deliver training as well as prepare local services to collect and report the appropriate data.

The implementation of DAISy was planned for 2nd of April 2018. Although the development of the IT system is still due by the 31 March 2018, it has been decided that additional time is required to ensure effective implementation across Scotland.

The new go-live date for DAISy has now been set for 1 October 2018. This will enable more training to be organised and further time for local areas to better understand DAISy requirements and put local systems in place.
As a result the requirement to comply with the Waiting Times Database and the Scottish Drug Misuse Database will continue until 30 September 2018. This will enable us to hold a complete dataset on those using drug services as well as report against the waiting times standard.

**Early Adopters**

There are plans for a small number of local areas to become early adopters of DAISy and commence their implementation at an earlier date. Further work is needed on this and the approach will be coordinated through the DAISy Implementation Group.

**Preparing for DAISy**

A great deal of work has taken place to prepare for DAISy. Now that we have a new timeframe we will all be reviewing our implementation plans. ADPs are being asked to check readiness for DAISy, particularly around local systems to enter data and working to reduce the number of anonymous records in the Waiting Times database as this will have implications for DAISy as it will not accept non-identifiable data. Training is being arranged and support offered by the National Support Team and ISD.

**Recovery Outcome Tool**

The Recovery outcome tool is being implemented from April next year. In the interim period we will be working to ensure that this tool works at a service level as well as measuring outcomes across ADP areas and fits with DAISy.

If you require any support in any aspects of this work please do not hesitate to contact Nick Smith (nicholas.smith@gov.scot) or Mark Holroyd (mark.holroyd@gov.scot).

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**Partnership for Action on Drugs in Scotland (PADS)**

PADS was set up to reduce problem drug use, complementing the Road to Recovery strategy. It was launched in January 2016 and is chaired by the Minister for Public Health and Sport, Ms Aileen Campbell MSP.

The group brings together leaders from the fields of addiction, mental health, inequality, social work and health and social care, focusing on three priorities:

- building communities focused on recovery and tackling stigma
- quality and consistency of service planning and delivery
- harm reduction and reducing drug-related deaths

The PADS executive group oversees a programme of work through four themed sub groups to better prevent drug problems, enable sustained recovery and reduce harm to people affected by drugs including children and families.
The PADS Executive group have met twice since the start of the year. The first session had a strong focus on the development of the refreshed strategy which is currently underway, with discussions about what would feature, what the key themes would be and what opportunity the sub-groups would have to feed in.

The second meeting, which took place in February, was Chaired by the Minister and provided each of the sub-group Chairs a useful opportunity to feedback to Ms Campbell what their current priorities were, and how these were being progressed. There was also a contribution from Eric Carlin from Scottish Health Action on Alcohol Problems (SHAAP), summarising the work that they are doing to increase the knowledge base around alcohol related deaths, and another from Brian Morgan from the Scottish Recovery Consortium (SRC) feeding back on the lived experience event which took place in January. The next meeting is scheduled for April.

The Harm Reduction sub group is tasked to identify harms caused by problem drug use, improve practices that reduce these harms, monitor emerging trends and issues and interpret key guidance and evidence.

The group is chaired by Dr Roy Robertson and members include Police Scotland, Scottish Drugs Forum, Health Protection Scotland, Information Services Division and Scottish Government Substance Misuse Unit.

The group is currently developing thinking around ways in which services can be re-aligned to meet the wide ranging health and social needs of those who are most at risk from problematic drug use. This includes considering ways in which engagement and pro-active outreach can be improved, and looking at new and innovative approaches to help achieve this.

The Quality and Consistency Group sub group supports ADP’s in defining what service quality looks like for the service user, staff development and the systems to support this. There are three workstreams

The Workforce workstream aims to develop the workforce to be able to deliver consistent high quality services and recent meetings have focussed on developing guidance in workforce development. The Quality Principles workstream aims to develop consistent approaches to implement Quality Principles locally and has been looking at tools to do this and the impact of the new Health and Social care Standards. The Assessment and Case Management workstream aims to develop a system that ensures effective and consistent approaches to assessment and case management with a view to developing guidance.

The membership has been recently been reviewed to ensure representation across the service system and geographical location with a renewed emphasis on Lived Experience led by Scottish Recovery Consortium.

The Communities sub group aims to build recovery-friendly communities that celebrate recovery and enable current communities to grow, new communities to begin and develop a broader and more inclusive conversation in Scotland about recovery.
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Its membership includes individuals with an interest and involvement in substance use including from charities, ADPs, NHS, Police Scotland and the Scottish Government.

A key aim is to raise awareness and challenge perceptions and attitudes around stigma and recovery. To do this, the Communities Group has set up its own workstreams to take forward the following issues

- Media
- Stigma
- Transport
- Communication Plans
- Housing/Homelessness

In September the group organised a conference called Recovering Connections to gather information on personal experiences and to inform future work. It was attended by representatives from support groups for people and their families affected by drugs and alcohol.

One clear message from the event was the negative attitudes for example in the media and experiences of individuals using services eg pharmacies. A report will soon be available and will include proposals for action.

Future plans for the group include an exhibition at the Scottish Parliament. Promotional materials are being produced that will then be shared with other groups to allow for events and exhibitions around Scotland.

The group recently discussed the Global Drugs Commission Report - Countering Prejudices About People Who Use Drugs. The group agreed this was a mandate and encouragement for people to change and challenge their own beliefs. The Communities Group encourages sharing this report – it encourages less stigmatising attitudes and behaviours, images, headlines and language.

CAPSM

Neil Hunter (Scottish Children’s Reporter Administration) is Chair of the PADS CAPSM sub-group, which was created to feed directly into the PADS Executive Group, looking at children affected by substance use. Part of its remit has been to provide an output which could contribute to the drug and alcohol treatment strategy refresh.

The group have produced a set of draft consensus statements, which outline their overall thinking in this area, ranging from the lived experience voice to workforce development.
Neil Hunter met with Aileen Campbell, Minister for Public Health and Sport to discuss the group’s thoughts in this area and have been invited to bring forward ideas for action which may flow from these statements into the drug and alcohol strategy refresh. This work is currently being considered further by the group’s members for discussion at the next CAPSM sub-group meeting on 23 April.

The PADS Communities group has the goal of reducing barriers to recovery and tackling sigma for those affected by alcohol or drugs. Community members have expressed at various conversation café events that a lack of affordable transport can be an important barrier to recovery and access to concessionary travel can be an enabler. There appears to be significant differences across Scotland in the experience of people in recovery accessing support for travel such as through the national concessionary travel scheme.

The PADS group would like to find out more and would appreciate your help in encouraging community members to complete this short survey looking into the impact of bus passes on recovery and access to them.

https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/H6L3RBR

We’d appreciate your assistance in supporting people who may not have access to the internet to complete this survey. A subsequent survey will be issued to services about their experience of the value of bus passes and their role in helping clients access these. We’ll be back in contact in 2-3 weeks time to seek your help in disseminating this survey too.

We’ve not set a closing date and will leave the survey open as long as possible. In anticipation, thanks for your help in distributing this survey widely in your area.

Wayne Gault, Aberdeenshire ADP

Anne-marie Quigg, Scottish Recovery Consortium

On behalf of the PADS Communities Committee
Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) Annual Reports

We would like to thank all ADPs for sharing their 2016-17 Annual Reports. Scottish Government officials have read all of your reports, which have informed Ministers and Officials on national progress.

The Scottish Government provided draft feedback to ADPs on their reports in February and will shortly issue final feedback.

Scottish Government are currently considering arrangements for ADP Planning and Reporting to reflect the evolving delivery landscape and the refresh to the Road to Recovery and Alcohol Framework.

Please contact Amanda Adams, Scottish Government, Alcohol Team, should you wish to discuss this in more detail: Amanda.adams@gov.scot

Partnership Drugs Initiative Fund Rounds

The Partnership Drugs Initiative (PDI) offers a trusting, flexible and supportive relationship grant-making programme for children and young people aged pre-birth to 26 who are affected by alcohol and drug use. PDI will work alongside applicants, funded projects and other partners to listen and support the needs, views and experiences of children, young people and their families.

PDI is committed to funding support where there is a focus on preventative and early intervention approaches that aim to break the cycle and impact of alcohol and other drug use; and make a positive long-lasting difference to children and young people, supporting them to achieve their full potential.

- PDI is a relational programme in which we work closely with groups at the application stage, and then throughout the funding period.
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- Before applying, we strongly advise that you have a discussion with ourselves and the relevant local partner (likely to be the Local Authority or Health and Social Care Partnership) to explore your ideas, approach and how this will meet need and contribute to local priorities.

- Although awards are made directly to the voluntary organisation, the application must be supported by the local authority or Health and Social Care Integration Partnership to ensure it meets local needs and outcomes.

- PDI will fund up to 50% of the total proposal. Applicants must identify match funding for at least 50% of the costs.

- PDI is only able to fund registered charities.

The next PDI funding rounds for PDI support in 2018/2019, which are:

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<tr>
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<th>10th May 2018</th>
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<tr>
<td>Full Stage</td>
<td>16th August 2018</td>
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<td>Outcome</td>
<td>4th October 2018</td>
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<tr>
<th>Initial Stage</th>
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<td>Full Stage</td>
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<td>Outcome</td>
<td>Early April 2019</td>
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If you are interested in developing your ideas then please get in touch as we are here to help and will support you through the process. A copy of our revised guidance notes is available on request.

For more information please visit our website www.corra.scot or call Kelly McFadden (Grants Adviser) on 0131 444 4032 or email kelly@corra.scot

Family Recovery Initiative Fund

Corra Foundation and Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (Scottish Families) are delighted to announce that the new Family Recovery Initiative Fund (FRIF) is now open to applications. The Family Recovery Initiative Fund (FRIF) is funded by the Scottish Government and will be administered by Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (Scottish Families) and the Corra Foundation.

This new fund offers small grants to groups supporting families affected by alcohol and drugs across Scotland and will offer one-off grants of up to £1500.
The Fund is open to groups (family support groups, carers groups) or people thinking of setting up a group.

**To apply to the fund groups will need:**

- A committee or steering group
- An organisational bank account
- An annual income of less than £50,000
- This fund is specifically aimed at groups offering support for families.
- The fund welcomes applications from all communities and all areas of Scotland.

Un-constituted groups or individuals thinking of starting a group may be able to apply with the help of a partner organisation. Please contact Scottish Families to discuss your situation.

**What sort of thing can the funding support?**

- Set up costs for your newly formed family support group
- Ongoing running costs such as room hire, heating and lighting
- Travel expenses for people to attend family support groups, events and activities
- Training relevant to setting up and running a family support group

**What to do next**

If you are interested in applying for a grant from the Family Recovery Initiative Fund, please contact Susie McClue at Scottish Families to discuss your idea: 0141 465 7524.  Please note: This fund is not intended to support individual family members

**Application Deadlines**

Round 1: 29th March  Round 2: 30th April  Round 3: 31st May  Round 4: 30th June. Decisions on funding will be made within 4 weeks of each funding deadline.

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**Recovery Walk Scotland 2018: Glasgow**

Recovery Walk Scotland 2018 will take place in Glasgow on Saturday September 15th 2018. For the first time in Scotland, the recovery from addiction movement and the mental health recovery movement will hold a joint recovery walk.
Recovery Walk Scotland is the largest recovery event in Scotland and has been held every year since 2013. The event is comprised of three parts: Roses in the River Memorial at Glasgow Green, Recovery Walk Scotland procession through the city centre and a Recovery Festival and Village on the green.

Recovery Walk Scotland is supported by many hundreds of organisations, community groups. Last year 2000 people took part in Recovery Walk Scotland in Dundee. Scotland’s prisons support the walk by hosting recovery walks within Scotland’s jails the day before. Last year 12 out of 15 of Scotland’s prisons held a recovery walk with a total of 550 prisoners and staff in attendance.

Kuladharini, Chief Executive of the Scottish Recovery Consortium said, "What unites the addiction and mental health recovery movements is much greater than any details that may divide us. It has long been evident to us in the addiction recovery movement that we are on the same journey as our brothers and sisters in recovery from mental distress. Our collective distress expressed in mental distress, addiction, obesity, smoking and violence have many of the same roots. It is time we make common cause - Recovery Walk Scotland is a perfect vehicle for us to know and love each other better."

The Scottish Recovery Consortium founded the Scottish event in 2013 after the experience of co-hosting the UK recovery walk in Glasgow in 2010. Recovery walk Scotland is now organised and led by a council of Recovery activists from all over the country and the host city. The SRC provides full time staff support to the Recovery Walk Scotland council.

Follow Recovery Walk Scotland on:

Twitter - @RecWalkScot

Instagram @RecWalkScot


Everyone is welcome; people in recovery, friends, families, treatment providers, supporters and next-door neighbours. The Walk and Recovery Festival is an opportunity for everyone to feel and see the benefits that recovery from addiction brings to Scotland.

To see last years Recovery Walk Scotland in Dundee

http://www.scottishrecoveryconsortium.org/
Why I chose to walk the Kiltwalk for Scottish Families

I have rarely got involved in fundraising activities for a charity but I made an exception last year and am very glad I did. I have been struggling to cope with the impact of my son’s problematic use of substances for over 20 years and it was just over 5 years ago that my partner and I were invited to attend a family support group. The group made a huge difference to our mental health and well-being, we learned a lot about addiction as an illness, we made new friends and we heard about Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs.

As the years passed we became more involved in the wider recovery community, trained as SMART facilitators and set up our own support group in our home town – with great advice and support from Scottish Families. I am convinced of the benefits that a support group brings to families and friends and we have recently started a second group in our area.

When Scottish Families sent us information about the Kiltwalk we shared it with our group and were surprised by their enthusiastic response. Knowing how people can become socially isolated as a result of the stigma associated with addiction I expected that they might be reluctant to participate in such a public event. But I was wrong!

Fundraising proved to be a bit slow to start but our team eventually raised an amazing total of about £2,000. The actual event was a great success. An enjoyable walk through Edinburgh with thousands of other fundraisers, wearing our Scottish Families t-shirts and kilts (some of us!). It was also an excellent team-building exercise and helped us to break down a few barriers.

Family members affected by someone else’s misuse of substances badly need support and we are glad to have raised money that will help Scottish Families to reach more people. But, for me, it was also a memorable and positive experience – evidence that, despite the pain and despair we can recover.

I recommend it!
If you would like to join #TeamSFAD and help support families in Scotland, contact info@sfad.org.uk or 0141 465 7523 – Scottish Families offers free places to anyone who joins.

Photovoice

Photovoice Exhibition Examines Impact of Alcohol Free Events

An innovative Photovoice exhibition from North West Recovery Communities (NWRC) took place in the Buchanan Galleries in January. The exhibition was the culmination of a five month Photovoice project where NWRC, in partnership with Alcohol Focus Scotland, Glasgow City Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) and Edinburgh University, examined the community impact of Alcohol Free Functions in Town (AFFIT).

NWRC are a community led partnership of people and services who are passionate about promoting recovery from alcohol and drugs. They deliver a range of opportunities for people to be exposed to the fact that “Recovery is Possible” through a range of different activities, discussions, groups, drop in sessions and social events in a range of community venues across the north west of the city. These events are organised, led and delivered by local people in recovery, their families, supporters and a range of staff from local services who work in partnership with the recovery communities’ networks.
AFFIT is a “brand”, developed by NWRC and Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership’s North West Locality, promoting and delivering a diverse calendar of alcohol free occasions and events at venues across the North West of Glasgow. AFFIT events are open and accessible to all the people of Glasgow, and are aimed at supporting those who want to improve outcomes for their community in relation to alcohol use.

Photovoice is an activity that anyone can do, either on their own or with family, friends or as part of an organised group. All that is required is a camera and some questions you want to answer by taking photographs. With Photovoice, participants are visual researchers, taking pictures of their life in recovery and using them to generate discussion.

Photovoice was developed as a qualitative research tool that could be employed to carry out community based participatory research, with the focus being on how to demonstrate and record the social reality of its participants. The tool is recognised as being both flexible and empowering to participants by linking together art through photography, and grass roots social action and societal observation.

All the project participants have lived experience of recovery from alcohol and drugs and used this valuable knowledge not only to document their view of the impact of alcohol on our city but also to demonstrate the positive experiences created through recovery and alcohol free socialising for the whole community.

The photographs on display in the store featured some of the most powerful images taken over the months as well as highlighting the local artists who are involved in making the AFFIT events so enjoyable.

Anyone wanting more information on the Photovoice exhibition should contact Brian or Donna at Peer through the lens (brian.mccarthy@nwrc-glasgow.co.uk / info@nwrc-glasgow.co.uk) and you can follow AFFIT on Facebook for information on any upcoming events @AFFITEvents

You can find out more information about the overall work of North West Recovery Communities at www.nwrc-glasgow.co.uk
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You showed nor gave no mercy but
left me pain and fear.
You told me that you'd change your
ways when you whispered in my ear.
You took me to such dark extremes,
said you my soul was sold.
I had to learn just how you work so I
could break the moxie.
From which I'm now succeeding, I've
built high my minds defense.
Today my life and journey keeps on
going from strength to strength.

Addiction Whispers, Recovery Calls
Lee Hoddinshed
The Drugs Research Network Scotland (DRNS) is a new strategic research collaboration for problem drug use and recovery in Scotland. Funded by the Scottish Government for three years, our aim is to optimise the development and impact of drugs research in Scotland to inform policy, develop practice and reduce the harms associated with problem drug use. The DRNS is a collaboration between academics, policy makers, technical experts, service commissioners and providers. We will work across the sector to build research capacity and address gaps in the evidence-base.

The DRNS is currently developing a research strategy, in line with the Scottish National Research Framework for Problem Drug Use and Recovery and the upcoming national drug policy refresh. Examples of the support we can offer include brokering relationships between researchers, practitioners and affected populations to develop research proposals; helping to secure funding for collaborative work; contributing to research project development; dissemination of findings; and translation of evidence into policy and practice. Although our priority is to develop the Scottish research infrastructure and activities, we also support collaboration with national and international partners. We will also work closely with other national research networks into alcohol, criminal justice, and new psychoactive substances.

Our work is organised under four priority themes - Families; Harms; Prevention; Health, Social Care and Wellbeing – as well as a number of cross-cutting issues including the role of stigma, unique Scottish dimensions to problem drug use, and improved data collection and evaluation.

We are keen to establish mutually beneficial relationships with ADPs and their member organisations. Researchers need to develop links with the commissioners and providers of drug services to ensure relevance and maximise the impact of their work. The DRNS can support ADPs by developing the Scottish research agenda in line with identified needs and supporting the translation of evidence into policy and practice.

If you would like to discuss any of the above, contact us at admin@drns.ac.uk To be kept informed of developments, sign up to the monthly DRNS eNewsletter at: http://bit.do/drns-news
SDF National Quality Development has worked with Argyll and Bute ADP to support continued ROSC development - a final report was submitted to the ADP at the end of January.

A User Involvement toolkit based on NQD’s work with Dumfries & Galloway ADP is to be launched at a conference in March. This is a resource that NQD can use with other ADPs in Scotland.

If you want to know more about National Quality Development contact Bruce Thomson bruce@sdf.org.uk or Neil Stewart neil@sdf.org.uk 0141 221 1175

Tayside Injecting Equipment Provision

SDF and Hepatitis Scotland have carried out an evaluation to assess the acceptability and effectiveness of Injecting Equipment Provision in NHS Tayside.

If you would like to know more about peer research contact Emma Hamilton emma@sdf.org.uk 0141 221 1175

Blood borne virus and sexual health funding

After a tendering exercise, Scottish Drugs Forum has secured three year funding from Scottish Government to focus on key projects around viral hepatitis, HIV and sexual health for vulnerable populations. This will extend the range of work currently undertaken by Scottish Drugs Forum under the banners of Hepatitis Scotland and SDF’s Sexual and Reproductive Health project.

The new projects will involve the development and delivery of training, capacity building and supporting local networks and primarily focus on vulnerable groups, including people who inject drugs, young people, men who have sex with men, people involved in prostitution and people who use image and performance enhancing drugs.

The work is due to commence in Spring 2018 and more details will be available soon
Naloxone Briefing and Supply

The national naloxone team have been providing briefings to police officers in Glasgow City centre. Further work continues with Police Scotland to look at wider involvement in the programme.

If you are interested in this work or other Naloxone activity contact Kirsten Horsburgh kirstenh@sdf.org.uk 0141 221 1175

Peers have trained in excess of 550 people and supplied over 650 naloxone kits in the first 6 months of Peer Educator naloxone supply in Glasgow.

If you are interested in this work or in developing similar provision in your area contact Jason Wallace jason@sdf.org.uk 0141 221 1175

Addiction Worker Training Project

The Scottish Drugs Forums’ award-winning Addiction Worker Training Project is hosting its annual Graduation Ceremony at the Scottish Parliament on the 30th May 2018.

The event is sponsored by John Finnie MSP and trainees will be presented their awards and certificates of completion by Minister for Public Health and Sport, Aileen Campbell, MSP.

If you are interested learning more about the Addiction Worker Training Project or how it could be developed in your area, contact Chris Messenger chris@sdf.org.uk 0141 221 1175
Workforce Development

Trauma and Stigma courses are included in the core offer for 2017/18, have been very well received and are continuing to be offered.

There are four new courses – cannabinoids, psychostimulants, benzodiazepines and opioids. These courses are available for commission and have received positive feedback in their early runs.

If you want more information on training at SDF visit https://www.sdfworkforcedevelopment.org.uk/ems/live/ or contact Richard Bloodworth richardb@sdf.org.uk 0141 221 1175

Hepatitis Scotland

Hepatitis Scotland’s looks at how The World Health Organisation’s hepatitis C elimination by 2030 strategy applies to Scotland.


Xanax

SDF has worked with colleagues in UK and Ireland Drugwatch to produce an authoritative briefing on Xanax (Alprazolam)

Xanax has received considerable media coverage recently and has been the subject of alerts from Dumfries and Galloway and Grampian NHS. It was also involved in a recent high profile case in Borders.

The briefing is available at  - http://thedrugswheel.com/alprazolam.php