

## Minute of the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Strategy Group

DATE: 26.05.2020  
 LOCATION: Microsoft Teams  
 CHAIR:

*Present:*

Elisabeth Smart	Public Health Consultant (Co-Chair)
Debbie Stewart	HADP Coordinator
Eve MacLeod	Health Improvement
James Maybee	Criminal Justice
Suzy Calder	Head of Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service and Prison Healthcare (NHS Highland)
Sharon Holloway	HADP Development Manager
Ross MacKillop	Police Scotland (PS)
Lewis Hannah	Highland Council (Housing)
Frances Matthewson	HADP Research and Intelligence Specialist
Jill Graham	Scottish Fire and Rescues Service
Val Bell	Crossreach
Frances Gordon	NHS Highland
Geoff Main	Scottish Fatalities Investigations Unit
Ian Kyle	Highland Council
Brian McKirdy	Scottish Prison Service (SPS)
Debbie Sutherland	Third Sector Interface
Dr Andrea Broad	NHS Highland

*In attendance: Aileen Trappitt (Minutes)*

*Apologies: Iain MacKenzie, Alex Keith, Cathy Steer*

Item	Discussion	Action
<b>1</b>	<b>WELCOMES / APOLOGIES</b> The Chair welcomed all present to the meeting and round table acknowledgements were made.	
<b>2</b>	<b>MINUTES AND ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING</b>	
<b>2.1.</b>	The minutes were approved as a true and accurate account of the meeting held on the 18 <sup>th</sup> of February 2020. The group was also reminded that the minutes are posted on the Council public website.  The chair asked the members if they would agree to these meetings being recorded to help keep an accurate record of the meeting. This was agreed and the same request will be made at each future meeting.	
<b>2.2</b>	<u>Actions</u> Updates on the previous actions are included under various items on the agenda	
<b>3</b>	Strategy Development	

<p>3.1</p>	<p><b>Continuation of Treatment Services</b></p> <p>A letter was sent to the CE of Health Boards, CO of Health and Social Care Partnerships and ADP Co-ordinators, 16 April 2020 from the Minister of PH and interim CMO seeking assurance that alcohol and drug services, as essential services are being maintained during COVID-19.</p> <p>A letter of assurance on behalf of Paul Hawkins, CE, NHS Highland has been written to the Minister covering both HADP and A&amp;B ADP. A copy of the letter has been circulated to strategy group members</p>	
<p>3.2</p>	<p><b>Drug Related Death Taskforce - COVID-19 Recommendations</b></p> <p>The taskforce has made a number of recommendations aimed at mitigating harm from COVID-19-related service adaptations, in the context of the existing drug-related deaths crisis. Most, if not all of the recommendations have been taken forward at a national and local level. Assurance on their implementation is included in the letter of assurance mentioned previously</p>	
<p>3.3</p>	<p><b>Naloxone Supply Expansion</b></p> <p>The Lord Advocate has issued a letter stating a broader range of services can distribute naloxone for the length of the COVID-19 crisis. The initiative will be overseen by HADASS / Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service in Highland.</p> <p>Services have drafted a local framework on how the initiative will be taken forward and how registration will work. Uptake from partners is expected to be small scale. Services have also implemented a postal Nyxoid resupply service.</p>	
<p>3.4</p>	<p><b>Child Protection Guidance – Supplementary</b></p> <p>Supplementary child protection guidance has been issued with the CPC producing a Highland version. Child protection guidance has been updated twice since the beginning of the crisis and can be found at: <a href="https://hcpc.scot/resources/covid-19-interim-cp-guidance-highland-v4/">https://hcpc.scot/resources/covid-19-interim-cp-guidance-highland-v4/</a> . Members are asked for their respective agencies to be aware of the increased vulnerability of children of parents with problem drug and alcohol use and the supplementary guidance.</p>	

3.5	<p><b>Prisoner Release</b></p> <p>Ministers consider a limited form of prison release to be a necessary and proportionate response to the current situation. The initiative will give the SPS improved capacity. The numbers to be released in Highland or returning from other areas were very small. Collaboration between key partners has resulted in very good continuation of care.</p> <p><b>Buvidal</b></p> <p>Work is underway to support the prescribing of Buvidal in SPS settings. This includes looking at the whole care pathway and having this treatment option added to the Highland Formulary.</p>	
3.6	<p><b>Alcohol and Drug Messaging – NHS Inform</b></p> <p>Public Health Scotland set up a number of subgroups to look at key COVID-19 alcohol and drug messages. The ADP has been involved in a number of the subgroups to develop messages targeted at specific groups. The messaging is targeted at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General population</li> <li>- Harmful and dependent drinkers</li> <li>- Children and young people (parental drinking)</li> <li>- Young Peoples own drinking</li> <li>- Pregnancy</li> </ul> <p>The NHS Inform alcohol / drug and COVID-19 pages went live on 25<sup>th</sup> May.</p> <p>Both the Police and the Third Sector have been in touch to request that HADP provide key messages at this time. Links to the pages / messages will be circulated.</p> <p>It was proposed by Ross Mackillup, for the HADP to have a Facebook page and Twitter. Sharon has been doing a very good job of this informally. Eve advised she could share anything on the health improvement social media sites.</p> <p><i>Action: To set up an official ADP Facebook page and Twitter</i></p>	<b>DSt / SH</b>
3.7	<p><b>Services Directory</b></p> <p>The Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) has established a national Directory of Drug Services for COVID-19. HADP have been feeding into this. Updates on service provision during the crisis are made on a weekly basis. This is a useful resource which all partners are asked to continue to contribute to and promote.</p>	

**3.8**

**Surveillance Update**

The Special Interest Group Public Health Surveillance group that feed in to the Drug Death Taskforce; have highlighted that the identification and follow up of non-fatal overdoses and other serious harms remains a priority throughout the COVID-19 crisis. All ADP's are asked to provide data on NFOD / harms surveillance to collate a picture of key risks at this time.

A template has been drafted and information collated from services pre-COVID and during COVID-19.

**3.9**

**Communications Survey**

HADP recently circulated a short communications survey, on what platforms to use going forward. Thank you to all those who completed it.

HADP will continue to concentrate on providing regular information to partners and networks via the Bulletin. If any members wish to include information in the Bulletin, please do not hesitate to get in touch. The main platform for communication will be Teams.

**4**

**Partner Activity Reports**

**Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service**

Service has continued throughout COVID- 19 albeit in a different way. Assessments and support are being offered and delivered over the phone with good uptake. There has been a reduction in referrals during lockdown as was the case in many service areas and it is anticipated that this will increase as measures are relaxed.

**Criminal Justice**

There have been a number of challenges and complexities at this time. DTTO have been unable to continue with face to face contact unless absolutely essential and the courts have been restricted. The service has been working to maintain relationships using the phone and written materials, this has proved challenging. Once the courts are functioning, capacity will continue to be limited as there will still be the need for social distancing, it will be some time before the DTTO service is back at full capacity.

<p>5</p> <p>5.1</p>	<p>Police Scotland</p> <p>As previously mentioned cuckooing is of concern. Police are working closely with partners to tackle issues and to support vulnerable people. Action for Children and Barnardo's have been working in partnership. County lines is a term that describes activity involving organised crime gangs.</p> <p><i>Action: Services and Police continue to meet on how best to take this forward.</i></p> <p>There is an increase in the volume of drugs being sent through the post.</p> <p>Police Scotland is looking at getting a mobile testing device. This has been discussed with the Recovery Service and the DTTO Team, however lock down has led to delay.</p> <p>It was noted there has been an increase in drug driving.</p> <p>Health Improvement</p> <p>Health improvement have been focusing on social mitigation work based on all the national Public Health Priorities, including a digital solution for priority 4 – as all training requires to be reconsidered for the time being.</p> <p>Third Sector Inverness</p> <p>Third Sector Interface raised discussion on food parcels. It is always helpful to caution against the potential for value judgements towards people with drug and alcohol problems due to stigma.</p> <p><i>Action: TSI and Ian to discuss progressing any food parcel issues that may arise.</i></p> <p>HADP</p> <p>HADP as a member of a national group to develop the public health messages, lobbied for the interim CMO to convey the alcohol and drug messages during a daily briefing with the First Minister. This did in fact happen in April.</p> <p>Business Continuity/ Recovery Plan</p> <p>Additional Monies – Investment plan 2020/21</p>	<p><b>SC / RM</b></p> <p><b>IM / IK</b></p>
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	<p>After two consultations with the strategy group, recommendations were put forward by a smaller group with members asked to respond to whether they agreed or disagreed with the recommendations. The exercise has been completed with majority agreement to follow the recommendations. The acting Chair thanked all members for their contribution whilst acknowledging that where funding is available it can be challenging to reflect all preferences.</p> <p>Given the current situation, there is likely to be additional flex, therefore, we would like to revisit the proposal from the police and work with them to see how we could further support this proposal. The police would like to work with the ADP to achieve a step towards harm reduction to compliment enforcement.</p> <p><i>Action: Debbie and Liz to meet with Ross to discuss this further.</i></p>	
5.2	<p>Projects - Recovery Workers Training Programme</p> <p>The Recovery Workers Training Project is a partnership with SDF. It is an employability model which supports people in recovery into employment in the health and social care sector. A call for applications for initial places will be circulated in the near future. Sharon has negotiated potential 10 placement opportunities for the trainees. They will also complete SVQ qualifications and receive the living wage.</p> <p>Housing First</p> <p>The Housing First project has been suspended due to COVID- 19 with the team redeployed. The project will restart shortly. The Team have been adapting their processes and procedures for the current context and working on protocols for using PPE and social distancing.</p> <p>Drug Treatment and Testing Order 2</p> <p>James mentioned earlier that the service is continuing with some constraints. It has been challenging to do some of the work with social distancing. There has not been a large number of DDTO's but it was increasing prior to COVID-19. The intention is this will continue going forward.</p>	DSt / ES / RM
5.3	<p>Local Improvement Fund (LIF)</p> <p>There were eight successful applicants in the second round of the</p>	

5.4	<p>LIF. They have all been contacted with an offer to extend due to COVID-19. Five of the projects have accepted the offer.</p> <p>2019 /20 Local Improvement Find (LIF) Update</p> <p>There were nine projects during the first round of the LIF (2019/20). The projects all had a focus on progressing Rights, Respect and Recovery at a community level, reducing drug and alcohol deaths, and engaging hard to reach groups. Feedback was provided at quarterly intervals throughout the year. Three of the projects have managed to secure funding from elsewhere to develop their project. Frances is preparing a summary report. HADP are awaiting the final reports from two projects.</p> <p><i>Action: The acting Chair to write to the project leads where final reports are yet to be submitted.</i></p> <p>Letters of Agreement are in place for each project and outlines that monies can be recouped where the agreement has not been adhered to.</p> <p>Education Prevention Activity – MUP Impact – ABI’s</p> <p>Northern Stars unfortunately had to be re-scheduled. However, we have been able to go ahead with the Substance Aware School Awards. There was an increased interest in the awards this year which is positive, but we require the backing of the Education Department to encourage greater numbers to participate.</p> <p>The Toolkit is being updated on an ongoing basis. Eve has been collaborating with a primary school to develop a substance awareness policy which is almost complete and this will be added to the Toolkit.</p> <p>The Icelandic Model has been delayed due to COVID-19. A meeting in Caithness has taken place and all attendees at the seminar on 25<sup>th</sup> Feb have been written to with a request for volunteers to form a steering group. Councillor MacKay has been in contact and would welcome opportunities for Sutherland to be included in future plans. The seminar was very well attended and positive. The speaker from Ireland was very inspiring and has offered the sharing of experience going forward.</p> <p>Minimum Unit Pricing The MESAS report looking at the impact of MUP on reducing risk for vulnerable children has been published. The findings in the report do not evidence a reduced risk to vulnerable children as a result of MUP, at this point in time.</p> <p>ABI’s</p> <p>Health Improvement has been producing resources to support</p>	ES
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	workers to deliver ABI's over the telephone. Nevertheless, because of COVID-19 a dip in numbers is to be expected.	
<b>5.5</b>	<p>Revised Strategy</p> <p>An extension has been given until the 21<sup>st</sup> of September. Work has started on the strategy but this will need to be revised due to the current situation.</p>	
<b>6</b>	Drug Related Deaths	
6.1	With the information currently available, it appears there may have been fewer Near Fatal Overdose's and DRD's. This may change as lockdown is lifted. Partners continue to monitor and respond accordingly.	
6.2	<p>Prevention Fund</p> <p>HADP is awaiting formal notification of available funds and criteria for applying to a national fund.</p> <p>It is likely that HADP partners will be invited to apply for funds to progress local activity aligned to the Taskforce priorities and evidence based strategies. Strategy Group members are therefore asked to consider the Taskforce priorities / evidence-based strategies and how they would benefit Highland to improve prevention. HADP would like to submit an application and would welcome input and collaboration with relevant partners.</p> <p><i>Action: Members to consider needs and how they could contribute to a funding application aligned to the Taskforce priorities / evidence-based strategies.</i></p>	<b>All</b>
<b>7</b>	<p>Budget</p> <p>The statement provided is up until the end of March 31 2020.</p> <p><i>Action: Frances G, Suzy and Debbie to meet to look at the budget report and revise to improve for the future</i></p> <p>For Information and Noting.</p>	<b>FG / SC / DSt</b>
<b>8</b>	HADP News Bulletin	
8.1	<p>Thank you for the production n of the Bulletin. This continues to be a useful way to disseminate information. If anyone has any ideas or items they would like included please send them to Aileen (<a href="mailto:aileen.trappitt@nhs.net">aileen.trappitt@nhs.net</a>)</p>	

	<p>DRD Research Fund</p> <p>8.2 As well as funding for service developments, there is the opportunity to apply for research related funding if there is a particular issue that requires more in depth investigation.</p> <p>8.3 SHAAP advice for Heavy Drinkers.</p> <p>Members were encouraged to look at this information..</p> <p>8.4 Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders</p> <p>There has been an increase in activity around FASD. HADP are looking at how we can bring partners together to work on this. An initial meeting with CAPSM group partners has been arranged.</p> <p>There has also been a change to maternity services because of COVID-19 and they are not seeing women until they are 28 weeks pregnant.</p> <p>8.5 Alcohol Focus Scotland Survey</p> <p>The Alcohol Focus Survey is of interest. Some people are using this as an opportunity to cut down on alcohol and get fit, whilst others may be drinking excessively.</p> <p>9 AOCB</p> <p>Brian thanked the group, he felt that although he was on teleconference it was a good opportunity to hear and see how the strategy group works.</p>	
<p>10</p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b></p> <p>The next meeting will be on the <b>18<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 2pm</b>. Venue to be confirmed but given it is expected to be a Teams meeting</p>	