

Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol and  
Drug Partnership

# A One Year Strategy

2020 -2021

September 2020

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

Dumfries and Galloway Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) is a multi-agency partnership which aims to reduce the risk and harm of drug and alcohol use. The ADP is responsible for commissioning evidence-based person-centred treatment and recovery focussed services to meet the needs of drug and alcohol users across Dumfries and Galloway, as well as coordinating prevention and education initiatives to the wider population.

This one-year strategy will be underpinned by a one-year work plan which will be continuously reviewed to meet the local and national outcomes and targets.

### 1.2 National Context

The ADP is directed by the outcomes provided in the Scottish Government's Drug Strategy – Rights, Respect and Recovery<sup>1</sup> and the Alcohol Framework<sup>2</sup>.

These outcomes seek to support the delivery of the national public health priority '*A Scotland where we reduce the use of and harm from alcohol, tobacco and other drugs*' as identified in the Public Health Reform Programme<sup>3</sup>.

Similarly, the Partnership Delivery Framework<sup>4</sup> requires the ADP to identify where there are shared outcomes and priorities with other local strategic partnerships namely:

- Community Justice Partnership
- Children's Partnership
- Integration Authority

### 1.3 ADP Strategy and Workplan

Dumfries and Galloway ADP has chosen to develop this one year strategy to allow for wider engagement with service users, staff and the wider ROSC to develop a strategy based on their needs and vision for the delivery of future services and recovery communities. The outcome of this engagement will provide the content of a new 3 year strategy from 2021-2024.

As with the previous strategy, this one will be underpinned by a workplan which will detail the main strategic areas to be delivered over the course of this year. Ongoing monitoring of the action plan will ensure that the ADP delivers on its commitments and will identify any challenges and/or gaps.

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<sup>1</sup> Rights, Respect and Recovery, 2018, Scottish Government.

<sup>2</sup> Alcohol Framework 2018: Preventing Harm, 2018, Scottish Government

<sup>3</sup> , Public Health Reform, Scotland's Public Health Priorities, 2018, Scottish Government and COSLA

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.gov.scot/publications/partnership-delivery-framework-reduce-use-harm-alcohol-drugs/>

## 2. Strategic Priorities

### 2.1 Governance and Links

ADP is accountable to Dumfries and Galloway Integrated Joint Board by way of the Health and Social Care Senior Management Team and the Chief Officers Group. ADP also links with Public Protection (which includes Child Protection, Adult Support and Protection and Violence Against Women and Girls), Community Justice, Youth Justice and Children and Families Social Work.

### 2.2 National Priorities

As part of Scottish Government funding, ADP is required to deliver on the Scottish Governments national and ministerial priorities which include the Local Delivery Plan Standards (LDP) for Waiting Times and Alcohol Brief Interventions (ABIs).

**Waiting Times for drug and alcohol services** – 90% of people referred for help with their drug or alcohol problem will wait no longer than three weeks for treatment that supports their recovery.

**Alcohol Brief Interventions** – Dumfries and Galloway 1,743 ABIs delivered annually

### 2.3 Rights, Respect and Recovery

The Scottish Government's Strategy, sets out five priority areas which ADPs are required to include as part of local delivery planning

- A recovery orientated approach which reduces harms and prevents deaths
- A whole family approach
- A public health approach to justice
- Prevention, education and early intervention
- A reduction in the affordability, availability and attractiveness of alcohol

### 2.4 Drug Deaths

In July 2019, a Ministerial Drugs Deaths Taskforce was established to tackle the rising number of drug deaths in Scotland. The primary role of the taskforce is to co-ordinate and drive action to improve the health outcomes for people who use drugs, reducing the risk of harm and death

The Taskforce cited six evidence-based strategies to help reduce drug-related deaths. These include:

1. Targeted distribution of Naloxone;
2. Having an immediate-response pathway for non-fatal overdose;
3. Optimising medication-assisted treatment (MAT);
4. Targeting people most at risk;
5. Optimising public health surveillance; and
6. Ensuring equivalence of support for people in the criminal justice system.

### 3. Local Priorities 2020-21

This year will be used to continue with the developments started in 2019 and to instigate the commitments of the new funding plans for 2019- 2022 as follows

1. Reducing drug related deaths: The ADP Strategic Group established in August 19 will continue to oversee new developments around Assertive Outreach and Community Integration to engage with high risk clients who have had frequent overdoses or released from prison. Funding has been committed to develop current service provision which will include staff from NHSSDAS and Third Sector.
2. Non fatal overdoses: Plans are in early development to ensure that non fatal overdose information from A&E is accessible by the NHSSDAS, which is used to identify overdose patients and frequent attendees who overdose, risk assess them and put in place actions to engage with the patient via NHS service and/or partner agencies. An Information Sharing Protocol will be developed to underpin this work.
3. Recovery Communities: Establish Recovery Communities across Dumfries and Galloway. Funding has been used to employ a Recovery Coordinator and two Recovery Workers who will develop and support recovery communities to enable them to grow and sustain recovery groups.
4. Family Support: A new service has been commissioned to provide support to families on both a 1-1 basis and in group settings. ADP will also work collaboratively with Aberlour, and Children and Families Social Work to look at a whole systems approach for families who are affected by drugs and alcohol.
5. Children and Young People: A C&YP Needs Assessment was commissioned in 2019 and will be completed by summer 2020. Actions from this will determine the way forward to deliver services that support Children and Young People with or affected by alcohol and drugs.
6. Prevention: The prevention agenda will be overseen by the ADPs prevention sub group, which will continue to identify areas where ADP can engage with local communities and the population of Dumfries and Galloway to reduce the harms of both alcohol and drugs.

These six priority areas will be the focus of the work of the ADP during 2020-21, whilst also ensuring delivery of the LDP standards, which will be monitored on a quarterly basis.

#### 4. Strategy Engagement Process

Over the past year there have been a number of challenges and initiatives that have impacted on the development of a new ADP Strategy for 2020- 2023. Some of these need further consideration and feedback from ADP, stakeholders and service users in order to ensure that ADP develops local initiatives and services based on local needs. Therefore this strategy will be for one year, to allow this engagement exercise to take place.

As part of the engagement process, ADP is required to conduct an Impact Assessment, which ensures that all the protected characteristics have been considered and engaged with across all ADP strategy areas. This will be an integral part of the engagement process lead by the ADP Community Engagement Officer

The proposed timetable is

##### **April to June**

Prep work to identify relevant stakeholders

*Lead - ADP Support Team*

##### **July to December**

Virtual meetings, service user engagement, social media, telephone interviews

*Lead - ADP Community Engagement Officer*

##### **Jan to March 2021**

Information gathering and analysis completed

Strategy developed

*Lead – ADP Performance Officer/ ADP Performance Officer*

Information gathering will be ongoing during the engagement period.

The engagement process will encompass the following areas that have been identified from national and local priorities

1. Recovery Orientated Systems of Care:
  - identify gaps in current system,
  - how will we ensure that the wider stakeholders are included in future developments and initiatives
2. Children and Young People:
  - Results from the commissioned needs assessment
  - Implementing the action plan
3. Service Delivery and Accessibility
  - Are alcohol and drug services accessible for all protected characteristics
  - What needs to change
4. Drug Deaths

- Implementing Staying Alive actions
- Engaging families and communities

#### 5. Recovery Communities

- Establishing recovery communities
- Engaging people with lived experience

It is recognised that tackling stigma and rural issues are threads that run through all of the above areas and will be an integral part of the engagement process.

### 5. Challenges

The COVID 19 pandemic has had an impact on how ADP engages with all its stakeholders. Social distancing measures have impacted on a range of areas including treatment, face to face appointments, focus groups, practitioner forums and travel.

The ADP will reflect on the learning from COVID-19 response, and how partners have and can continue to deliver drug and alcohol services in a different and more responsive way. We will also look to capture the learning and assess the impact it has had on service users, recognising the additional challenges for people with alcohol and drugs problems and the importance of understanding fully the impact of the changes made to services.

This learning will be shared and used to inform our response to the impact of COVID and the learning for services in future. Any actions from the findings will also be communicated to service users via partner services.

This learning will also be used to explore key areas of ADP work such as:

- Strengthening collaboration
- Prevention and early intervention
- Collecting data to understand the impact of COVID-19 in the short, medium, and long term
- Public information and communications