

# Drug Related Deaths

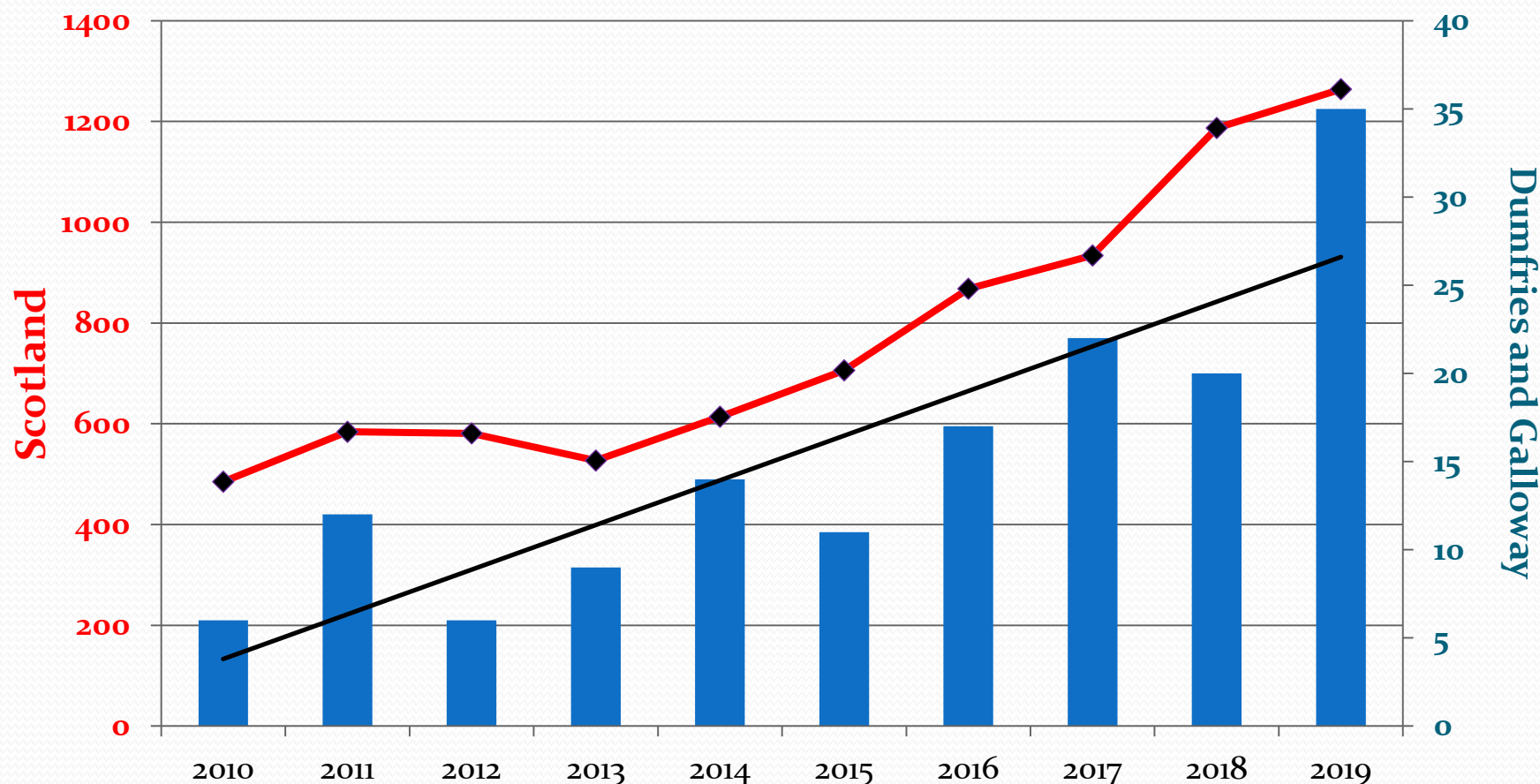
Grahame Clarke – ADP Independent  
Chair

# Scottish Drug Death Task Force

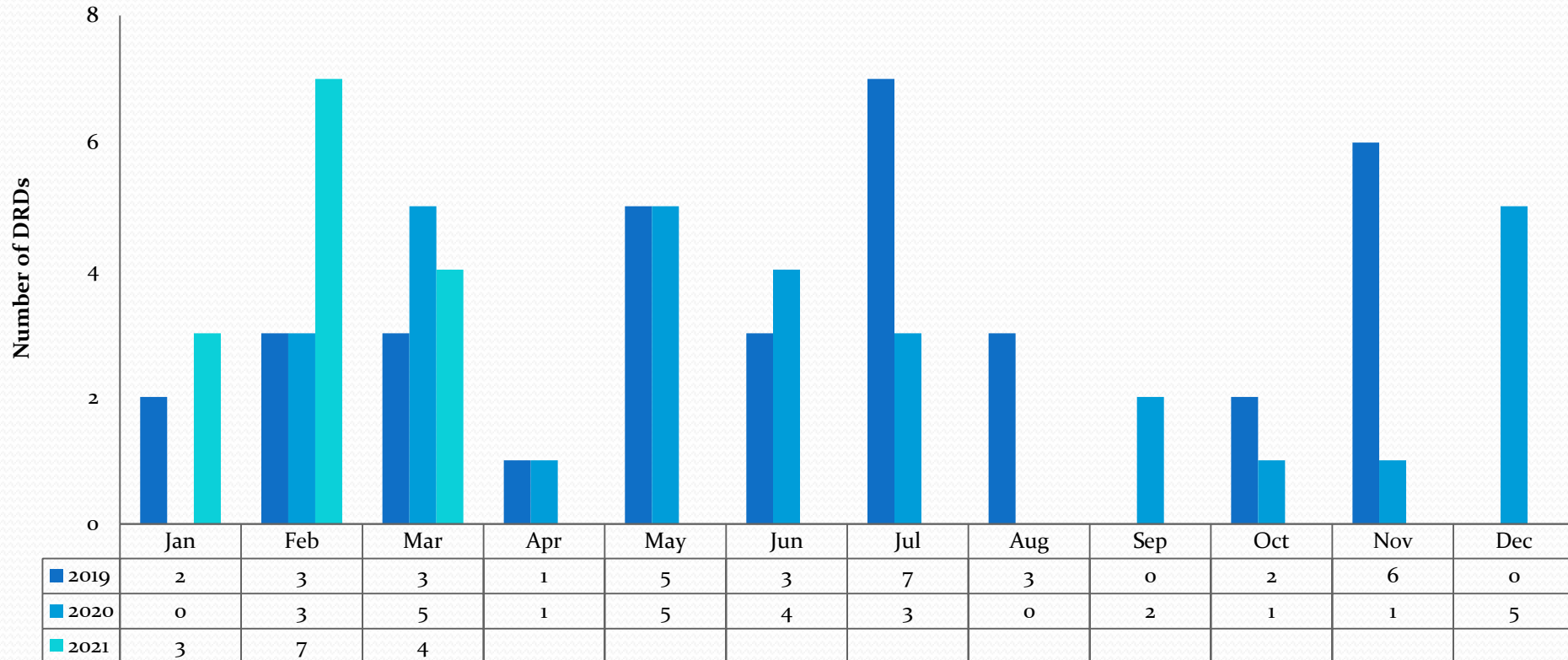
The Drug Deaths Taskforce has recommended six evidence-based strategies that must be central to responding to the drug death crisis as follows:

- Targeted Distribution of Naloxone
- Implement Immediate Response Pathway for Non-fatal Overdose
- Optimise the use of Medication-Assisted Treatment
- Target the People Most at Risk
- Optimise Public Health Surveillance
- Ensure Equivalence of Support for People in the Criminal Justice System

# Drug Related Deaths 2010 -2019



# Drug Related Deaths 2019 -2021\*



\* 2020 & 2021 are suspected drug related deaths and have yet to be confirmed

# Suspected Drug Related Deaths 2021

11 male, 3 female

DOB range 1964-1992

Nithsdale 7, Stewartry  
2, Wigton 2,  
Annandale 3

4 in service, 7  
previously in service,  
3 not known

7 individuals had  
episodes of Non Fatal  
Overdose (NFO)  
ranging from 1-8  
episodes, averaging 3

4 engaged with  
Assertive Outreach  
Service/core service

Examination by Drug  
Related Death Review  
group

# Demographics

- Over 35 – older drug user
- Lives alone
- Predominantly male
- Poverty/Unemployed
- Non fatal overdose – average=3 in linen

# Current Position

- Contact with PHS and SG
  - Noticing similar rises in suspected DRD in Police divisions between December – March
  - Ambulance calls for NFO down in Jan – March
  - NFO hospital admissions down Jan – March
  - Some best practice suggestion but content on right track
- Some other areas reporting rises during Jan- March
- Fife and Aberdeen have issued alerts

# Warning after sharp monthly rise in Aberdeen drug deaths

🕒 4 days ago





# COVID - 19

- Has impacted as would be expected
- Initial drop in referrals but has now recovered
- Appointments mainly on line/phone but returning to F2F
- Risks around potential increased drug & alcohol use, mental health, non fatal overdose, drug death, relaxed prescribing, shielding etc.
- Services continue to adapt – Lockdown service user survey findings and ongoing engagement

# Information Sharing – Non-Fatal Overdose

- Opioid Non Fata Overdose (NFO) episodes increases risk of drug related death – treatment is a protective factor
- Improved information sharing with A&E with daily reporting of all NFO in D&G - 2020
- Information Sharing Protocol signed with Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) for historical NFO cases and also daily reporting of NFO cases in D&G.
- Historical Data received. Daily reporting now included in revision of NHS Concordat and potential start date of June 2021
- Discussions ongoing with Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub for 2 way sharing of information around appropriate Adult Support & Protection (ASP) and Child Protection cases – ISP required and changes to SOP
- Police agreement to share ASP referrals to MASH directly with Assertive Outreach meantime

# Assertive Outreach Service

- Launched July 2020 in response to increase in Non Fatal Overdose (NFO) cases
- Provides increased levels of support and engagement for vulnerable adults affected by significant drug use and who may be at risk of Drug Related Death
- Staff from 3<sup>rd</sup> sector commissioned service We Are With You and NHS Specialist Drug and Alcohol Service
- Daily referrals from A&E within Dumfries and Galloway (SAS 2021) – without consent!
- Same day contact/appointment/treatment/prescribing
- Treatment/Service is ultimate aim but minimum is advice, support, Naloxone etc

## Referrals to the Assertive Outreach between July 2020 – March 2021

	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total
In Service at Time of Referral	7	9	5	10	8	9	8	6	8	70
Previously Known to Services	6	7	4	1	4	7	5	4	3	41
Not Known to Services	2	4	2	4	14	8	2	5	7	48
<b>Total</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>159</b>



	July	August	September	October	November	December	January	February	March	Total
Discharged, Received Required Support	7	12	9	4	9	6	4	3	2	56
Already Engaged with D&A Services	2	4	1	4	6	7	5	3	1	33
Discharged, Inappropriate for AO	2	2	0	3	6	5	0	2	6	26
Already Engaged with CMHT/Crisis Team	0	0	0	1	2	1	3	5	2	14
Ongoing Cases	0	0	0	0	2	1	1	2	2	8
Referred into WAWY	2	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	4
Referred into NHS SDAS	0	1	1	0	0	1	1	0	0	4
Disengaged	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	4
In Prison	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	4
Referred Non-D&A Service	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Deceased	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
No Outcome Recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
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# Assertive Outreach Service

- First 6 months very positive in terms of operation and learning
- Additional bids into Scottish Drug Death Task Force for Mental Health post and Hospital Liaison Service
- Looking to include Service into Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) process
- Work ongoing re information sharing around homeless clients – risk factor!
- Service User evaluation after 6 months

# Information Sharing – Non-Fatal Overdose

- 3 years worth of local data about NFO – we know NFO is a risk!
- Worked through by Performance Officer
- 633 Individuals had at least 1 episode of NFO in last 3 years
- Ranges from 1 NFO episode to 22
  - 33 individuals had 5 or more NFO episodes
  - 16 individuals had 4 NFO episodes
  - 32 individuals had 3 NFO episodes
  - 118 individuals had 2 NFO episodes
  - 434 individuals 1 had NFO episodes

# Information Sharing – Non-Fatal Overdose

- 3-5 episodes of NFO are being passed to services
  - Assurance about risk planning and treatment
  - Amended where necessary
  - Appropriate referrals
  - Reengagement with services where previously discharged
  - AOS for those not know
- 1-2 episodes will be discussed at Strategic Drug Death Group – possible LES agreement with GPs where not in service or in shared care?
- Cant ignore – 2 recent death had 1 NFO form 2019
- PHS very interested in project as we are the only areas they are aware of doing this work

# GP Engagement

- Work ongoing with Dr Grecy Bell and NHS Specialist Drug & Alcohol Service - GP Engagement event in August 2020
- The recently revised Shared Care Guidelines and efforts to continue to sign more GP practices up to the shared care model.
- Current prescribing trends, particularly those featuring in the examination of DRDs such as gabapentin and possible removal of consent for referrals
- The recently revised Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) Guidelines, including the move towards buprenorphine and the move back to supervised dispensing of methadone post lockdown.
- Recent meetings to address concerns around illicit supply of OST after relaxation of prescribing. Constantly monitoring and reminder to GPs regarding prescribing guidance



# Prescribing

- Move towards use of Buprenorphine as first line Opioid Substitution Treatment from Methadone but only where appropriate
- Buprenorphine safer from overdose perspective
- Additional NHS funded pilot for depot injection of Buprenorphine (Buvidal)
- Test of Change for 30 patients originally but increased to 50
- Part funded by Scottish Drug Death Task Force

# Naloxone Distribution

- Local Programme Since 2011
- Opiate users
- Staff
- Families
- 1,504 kits supplied
- 37 kits used in 2019/20

# Other Developments

- Assurance about services as COVID relaxes
- Review of referral pathways (including CMHT) and discharge – 3 strikes and out!! Assurance
- Pathways to residential recovery – SG priority!
- MASH ongoing discussion – 2 way discussions about complex need cases - same clients!
- 2 SW posts to manage caseloads, create links with MASH and other SW services in key areas such as harm reduction, HWB, recovery and reoffending
- Mobile outreach –WAND healthcare model with primary healthcare support and food voucher incentive

# Other Developments

- Recovery Communities Workers/Lived Experience
- Family Support Service - Commissioned 3<sup>rd</sup> sector service Alcohol and Drug Support South West Scotland
- Needs Assessment for Children & Young People affected by substance use
- Housing First
- Internal and external communications

# Scottish Drug Death Task Force

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