

DRUG DEATHS TASKFORCE: MINUTE OF MEETING 9

Wednesday 7 October 2020,
Virtual via Zoom
10:00 – 12:15

Taskforce Members:

Catriona Matheson (Chair)	University of Stirling
Neil Richardson (Vice Chair)	Turning Point Scotland
Allan Houston	Lived/Living Experience Representative
Anthony McGeehan	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service
Cameron Stewart	Scottish Courts and Tribunal Services
Carole Hunter	Royal Pharmaceutical Society (Scotland)
Colin Hutcheon	Families Lived Experience Representative
Fiona Doig	Borders ADP and Health Improvement
Gary Ritchie	Police Scotland
Iona Colvin	Chief Social Work Adviser
Phil Mackie	Scottish Public Health Network
Rebecca Wood	Lived/Living Experience Representative
Rebecca Lawrence	Royal College of Psychiatrists
Richard Watson	Recovery Community Lived Experience Representative
Robert Peat	Dundee Drugs Commission
Simon Ashpool <i>obo</i> Karyn McCluskey	Community Justice Scotland
Tracey Clusker <i>obo</i> Duncan McCormick	NHS Lothian Scotland

Attendees:

Anniek Sluiman	Scottish Government: Research Officer
Gary Rutherford	Scottish Ambulance Service
Michelle Rogers	Scottish Government: Alcohol and Drugs National Support
Henry Acres	Scottish Government: Drug Death and Harm Prevention
Jardine Simpson	Scottish Recovery Consortium
Justina Murray	Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs
Karen McNee	Scottish Government - DD General Health & Social Care
Kirsten Horsburgh	Scottish Drugs Forum
Maggie Page	Scottish Government: Principle Research Officer
Michael Crook	Scottish Government: Drug Death and Harm Prevention
Morris Fraser	Scottish Government: Head of Substance Misuse Unit

Apologies:

Angie Wood	Interim Chief Officer, Aberdeenshire
Carey Lunan	Royal College General Practitioners in Scotland
David Williams	Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership
Duncan McCormick	Consultant in Public Health Medicine, NHS Lothian
Jason Wallace	SDF - Lived Experience Representative
Lesley McDowall	Scottish Prison Service
Susanne Millar	Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership
Tessa Parkes	Drugs Research Network Scotland

Introduction

1. The Chair welcomed members to the ninth meeting of the Taskforce, specifically Rebecca Lawrence who has replaced Ahmed Khan as the RCP rep.
2. Before covering agenda item number 1 the Chair reminded those on the call of the additional concern relating to the onset of winter and the worry of protecting an already vulnerable group during this time on top of COVID-19.

Minutes from Previous Meeting

3. Minutes of the previous meeting (2 September) were approved and are published on the Scottish Government and the Drug Deaths Taskforce websites.

Actions from the minutes to be followed up:

- City centre report from Carole can be shared wider with interested members.

Action – The Chair will follow up with analytical team regarding the research fund and potential shortfall following the end of the bidding process.

Sub-Group Updates

MAT Group:

Tracey Clusker provided an update around the MAT Group work on behalf of Duncan McCormick.

- The sub group continue to have ongoing engagement with ADPs, and a spreadsheet has now been created mapping specific areas.
- The MAT Standards will be published at an event in November, the Minister will be invited to launch these.
- Interaction ongoing with Andy Perkins and involvement with the MCN group
- Scoping good practice around assertive outreach and SDF will be interviewing 100 people with living experience as part of this work.
- MAT group speaking at the Benzo webinar organised jointly between DDTF and SDF.
- SDF have received CORRA funding to support the delivery of these standards.
- Tracey has now started working on this full time, primarily around MAT standards but also with the MCN group.
- They have also linked in with SFAD, and Colin H in particular, in presentations to ADPs and this has been helpful.
- Before the next meeting in November they would hope to: progress the launch of the standards; and meet with the DDTF Comms lead to discuss getting information onto website (how they can showcase some of the work being done).

Richard suggested the need for emergency responses to be in place over the winter months, particularly linked to pharmacy access and recovery meetings. There was a suggestion this could pick up on similar work being done in Dundee and possibly Forth Valley as well.

The Chair, and others, were supportive of this idea and asked if anyone would be willing to work with Richard on this. Tracey confirmed she would be happy with this.

The opportunity for members to provide blog posts for the DDTF website was also flagged, anyone who would like to do this can send entries on to the Secretariat.

Action - Tracey and Richard will meet offline to discuss further.

Criminal Justice and the Law Group:

Neil Richardson, Chair of the sub group, provided an update.

- The sub group has regained momentum since Covid-19 pause.
- Remit and consultation on drug law reform piece is underway and discussions are being held on how to take things forward, a plan is in place in the group.
- A TOC application from the group is being developed and meetings are scheduled with partners to ensure it goes forward.
- Before the next meeting in November they would have expected to have submitted their TOC application and to have a consultation paper ready for discussion.

In discussion the following was raised:

- a) Robert Peat, chair of MCN group mentioned that one of the ToCs from the MCN group around peer navigation ties in with the work being done by CJ&L sub group. MCN have their own meeting next week and after this meeting Robert will touch base with Neil.

Action – Neil and Robert to link up over the work of the two sub-groups.

Public Health Surveillance Group:

Phil Mackie, chair of the sub group provided an update:

- Remobilisation of the group, focusing on PHS and monitoring data development
- New cycle of meetings has been agreed for the sub group and the group will now be meeting monthly going forward and should be close to maintaining milestones set in original TOR.
- The sub group are closely working with Police Scotland and Scottish Ambulance Service.
- Group membership being looked at within sub-group, new individuals are being brought in.
- Progress is being made on monitoring data and they would expect to be able to publish an interim report in November, with a full report in September 2021. This report will be able to set a (pre-Covid) baseline on drugs harms. Once the report is published Phil will invite the authors to present to the taskforce.
- The sub groups next meeting will be held at the end of October.
- Work has been restarted on the expectations of surveillance systems.
- Drug death data review, remobilising currently is underway on this.
- Interim report should be available in November.

- Drug linkage programme (paper shared with members) contains a range of data and will allow for more nuanced description of work being done at an individual level and describe experiences. They would expect to start data extraction prior to the November meeting with completion of the data set in 2021.

In discussion

- a) Carole Hunter asked the chair of the sub group a question around IEP and if data has been collected per transaction? Phil confirmed this will be taken offline with Carole for further discussion.
- b) The Chair welcomed this progress but highlighted that, due to Covid interruptions, that this data will now not be available in time to inform next year's work, which will now be based on old data and so could present difficulties. Phil agreed and noted that this was an issue being faced across all agencies. The competing priorities around Covid, in particular the level of resource that had been dedicated to Covid mapping, has meant that this work has not been seen as a priority by PHS.

Multiple Complex Needs Group:

The chair of the sub group, Robert Peat provided an update on the work of the group:

- The MCN group now has additional support from two sources, Andy Perkins who works with figure 8 will be supporting for 3 months around the work of the ToCs. Lucy Hetherington from the Scottish Governments Health & Inequalities team will also be supporting the group as a whole for a year.
- A meeting was held on 14th September around assessing the ToCs and the next steps. So far, around 16 have been received from ADPs all in different formats, as a result a template has been created and sent out to be completed around the notes of interest.
- There has been two further sub-group meetings scheduled in October and early November, both full day meetings dedicated to reviewing each proposal that has been submitted.
- They would propose to have all of their TOC applications in to CORRA by the end of the year with funding hopefully made available in January.

Update on drug death data

4. Phil Mackie provided an update on drug death data, a drug linkage report had been sent to members prior to the meeting for members to read. It was agreed that this section was not for minuting.
5. There was discussion after the update where the following was mentioned: Iona asked if information is being looked at around Young people who have been looked after and the link with substance use.

Action - Phil will pick this up with Iona offline.

Adult Social Care Review

Neil Richardson provided an update.

- a) The FM announced review in September with a deadline of a report to be completed by January 2021. The ToCs of this group are on the main SG website. A lot of work is being done by the review team but there is an opportunity for the Taskforce to link in with this.
- b) Neil asked members how might the Taskforce best input to the review.
- c) During discussion, Iona confirmed she is liaising with Derek Feeley (Head of the Review team) already. Drug and alcohol services are part of the review. Expectations of future drug and alcohol services and delivery being discussed.
- d) Neil suggested perhaps he and Iona should develop some questions for circulation amongst the group, the results of this could then be compiled and returned to Derek.

Action – Phil and Iona to develop questions for circulation amongst DDTF members and sub-group members. Secretariat will then collate responses and share.

Ambulance Data Sharing

6. Gary Rutherford provided an update from the Scottish Ambulance.
 - a) Gary explained there is currently recruitment going on for 3 new posts to be filled for the naloxone programme work which is being funded by the DDTF. In addition, the SAS Take home Naloxone programme has now been extended into other areas such as, Dundee, Forth Valley, Aberdeen and Edinburgh.
 - b) In relation to Data sharing, Gary mentioned guidance has been sought from their legal team as to what they can do. A letter has now been drafted regarding information sharing about people who may be experiencing a non-fatal overdose of illicit drugs and will be sent to each Health Board area, signed by the SAS Medical Director, in the next few weeks.
 - c) In discussion, Mr Fitzpatrick thanked Gary for all the work and that has been done on this by SAS colleagues, it is particularly helpful and demonstrates some of the positive work being done.
 - d) Phil Mackie questioned if ADPs have a sufficient mechanism in place for sharing information. It was agreed that Fiona Doig would link with Nick (Smith) to assess this.
 - e) Colin Hutcheon questioned whether the sharing of data with family members of those who had had a non-fatal overdose had been considered. Fiona agreed to include this in her discussions with Nick.

Action – Fiona and Nick to discuss what action might be required for ADPs, or SAS, with regards data sharing. Potential for sharing of data with family members will be included in the discussion.

Stigma Charter

7. Michael provided an update on information on the Stigma charter:
 - a) There were actions for the Scottish Government to consider on the back of the recently launched Stigma Strategy.
 - b) A draft Stigma Charter was created on the back of this.
 - c) A paper was circulated amongst reference groups on a draft charter for feedback. Feedback was received from the Families reference group, SDF and from the North East Lived/living Experience reference group. No

response was received from SRC. Overall feedback suggested that these groups were supportive of a charter in principal however there were some reservations on the language used in draft as well as the process for developing, what the implications of not adhering to the charter might be, and also the need for it to be fully developed using people with lived experience. The Chair commented that there was an opportunity to make use of the wider lived experience engagement group to further develop this and that the Secretariat would follow this up with Phil Eaglesham and Elinor Dickie.

- d) In discussion, Colin confirmed Scottish Families welcomed this. He asked will there be clear visibility of this charter to ensure there was awareness of it across the sector and wider e.g. media channels etc? He also stated that he felt that the charter should outline the rights of family members.
- e) There was also a question raised of what happens if individuals are not happy with the service they have received from an organisation who has signed up to the charter. It was agreed that these points would be considered in the development of the charter and if it is not consistent with the charter?
- f) Becky Wood offered to be involved in forward development of charter and welcomes this. She was also supportive of Colin's comments.
- g) Mr Fitzpatrick agreed this is important work and good for raising awareness. He believes the charter needs to be publicised and have cross party sign up. Richard added that encouraging wider public conversation was important and that publicising the charter would be vital (through television, newspapers, social media etc.).

Action – Secretariat to contact Phil Eaglesham and Elinor Dickie to request the engagement group to further develop the charter, taking into account the comments/issues raised. Becky Wood confirmed she would like to be involved with this so should be copied in to any correspondence.

Project ADDER

- 8. The Chair updated on a recent UK Ministerial meeting where Home Office Ministers outlined the work they will be doing around Project ADDER, slides from this meeting were sent out to members ahead of the Taskforce meeting.
 - a) Project ADDER has been developed by the UK Government and is a national funded initiative. It looks at issues around drugs from a Criminal Justice angle.
 - b) There is no interference with work around the Taskforce from a health approach
 - c) In discussion after the update Mr Fitzpatrick commented that he felt it was important for Scotland to take a collegiate role in working with the UK Government on this but that the criminal justice lead made this difficult.
 - d) There was some discussion around the evidence base behind this approach and that it would be useful to see the evidence base from the pilot sites in England.
 - e) Michael noted that during an official discussion he had requested that Home Office colleagues share the worked up delivery plans from the English pilot areas to provide some detail on the approach being taken in

those areas to provide a better idea of what the Home Office might seek to do in Scotland.

- f) Neil commented that he was nervous about the Project ADDER approach, that there had been agreement at the recent summits (February) that we couldn't arrest our way out of this situation. He also highlighted that Scotland had significantly moved away from this kind of approach and that we could lose a lot of ground if it were to be perceived that we were moving away from the evidence based, health led approach currently being taken here.
- g) It was agreed that the CJL sub-group could take a view on this and provide feedback and that Neil, or another representative from the CJL group, would take part in any further discussions with Home Office colleagues.

Action – CJL sub-group to be involved in any further discussions on Project ADDER.

Funding

- 9. Michael provided an update on the CORRA funding.
 - a) There have been 3 funding panels held so far by CORRA, Michael passed on thanks to all who have been involved and assisted with being panel members.
 - b) The last meeting was held on 1st October, 2 applications were received and discussed by the panel in this round. No final decision on those applications has been made yet, further information had been requested on both.
 - c) At the previous panel meeting 6 applications had been received with 4 supported by the panel. Communication is ongoing currently with these organisations.
 - d) Money will be distributed from CORRA to those successful projects shortly.
 - e) There was some discussion about the process through which applications come to CORRA and agreement that this would be picked up again with the sub-group leads to ensure all applications had been reviewed at that level before being sent to CORRA.
 - f) Information about all the projects supported to date will be circulated amongst taskforce members and added to the DDTF website.
 - g) Michael also updated on the SAS and Police naloxone projects, commenting that payments to both organisations would happen soon to allow both to progress.
 - h) Michael also updated on the £3 million which had been allocated to ADPS to deliver on the 6 strategies identified by the DDTF. This money has now all been distributed and information on the projects funded is now on the DDTF website.

Action – Secretariat to circulate information on projects funded amongst DDTF members and update website with this information.

Action – To ensure all sub group leads see the proposals recommended by CORRA and funding panel to be supported before a final decision is made so they can input.

Drug Death Taskforce Website Update

10. Chris Wallace provided an update on the DDTF website.
 - a) Since the website launched in July it has had 2.5 thousand visitors. The video that was published on international overdose awareness day has had over 300 views.
 - b) He noted that a high number of visitors were particularly interested in the member blogs and that people who tend to visit the website go deep in and look at a number of pages.
 - c) He also highlighted the need for the website to be updated with the recent funding information, but that this had to be done in a way which is understandable for the public.
 - d) Stigma Charter can also be highlighted on the website.

Any Other Business

11. Carole asked where are Police at with the overdose consumption van in Glasgow?
12. Gary Ritchie confirmed they have taken a sensitive approach with the individual involved whenever it has been around the Glasgow area. Legal position on this has not changed.
13. The Chair passed on her thanks to SDF for their work in organising the recent webinars on benzodiazepines which had been delivered jointly by them and the DDTF. There had been over 500 people involved in the first of these.

Action – anyone interested in providing a blog post should contact the Secretariat who can arrange for this to be uploaded.

Prof Matheson brought the meeting to a close and confirmed the next meeting of the Taskforce, scheduled for 16 November, will be increased to 2.5 Hours.

Date of the next meeting is 16th November 2020.

Scottish Government
Drug Deaths and Harm Prevention
October 2020