

Borders Co-Production Group

Terms of Reference

Introduction

The Borders Co-production Group aims to give a voice to people with lived experience of alcohol and drugs to improve and evaluate service and system design in order that we improve services and the outcomes of people who use them.

The work and findings from this group are reported to the ADP and this group is considered a sub-group of the ADP.

Meetings and papers for the group are maintained by We Are With You, Serendipity and the ADP Support Team. It is hoped that there will be a way of storing papers so members can access them electronically.

Scope of the group

The group provides a mechanism to:

- Contribute to the evaluation of the local ADP Strategy and Delivery Plan
- Influence the development of future service planning
- Influence the understanding of the needs of people with lived experience from alcohol and drugs and wider services
- Contribute to national and local consultations and engagement processes
- Exchange relevant information

Membership

The majority of the members are people who have lived or living experience of alcohol and drugs harms. This includes carers and family members.

Officers also are members of the group:

- Serendipity Recovery Community Network rep – SRCN Strategic Lead/CDO (other members will also be in attendance)
- We Are With You Community Engagement Worker
- ADP Support Team representation – Health of Health Improvement/Strategic Lead ADP; ADP Co-ordinator

How the group works

The group meets online on the second Tuesday of each month from 5.30 – 7.30. This may change when social distancing requirements are lifted.

The group is able to convene longer meetings in response to particular pieces of work (e.g. development sessions, strategy consultation).

An 'secretariat' sub-group prepares agendas, other papers and notes on behalf of the group. At the moment this 'secretariat' comprises of 'officers while the group is agreeing terms of reference. It is hoped that one or more group members will also join this group. The secretariat meets approximately one week before group meeting.

Principles of how we work together.

The following principles of how we work together reflect the local Co-production Charter for involving people with lived experience in developing mental health policies and services in Scottish Borders¹.

- The knowledge and skills of people with lived experience, including that which arises from contact with services, should be validated and utilised
- The interests of people with lived experience will be prioritised
- A recognition that people with lived experience and their carers/family members are not necessarily used to working in the same way as staff
- The right to hold to account the people and organisations responsible for protecting people's rights to provide feedback without fear of reprisals, and to have access to justice when their rights are affected
- People with lived experience and their carers/family members will fulfil what is required of them to the best of their ability and expect this in return
- All parties will be treated with dignity and respect at all times
- People with lived experience will be free from discrimination
- The different ways in which people think and experience issues will be valued
- A recognition that involving people with lived experience can only improve services
- Co-production takes time, and this will be recognised when setting guidelines
- People with lived experience will have the same access to personal development opportunities as other partners

¹ <https://www.borderscarevoice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/BCV-Co-Production-Charter.pdf>