

# Borders Alcohol & Drugs Partnership e- Bulletin

## March 2022

This bulletin aims to provide a brief overview of activity within the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP). Please don't hesitate to get in contact with us for more information or to provide us with information to share.

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## Services and Funding Update

### ADP Funding

ADPs receive a ring-fenced budget from Scottish Government to allocate towards a number of Ministerial Priorities and in 2021 £24.5 million additional funding was allocated to ADPs as part of the National Mission to reduce Drugs Deaths.

Borders ADP received an additional £510,280. This funding is awarded across seven priority areas outlined in Table 1 below. Each budget line has specific outcomes attached and is available for five years (2021-2026). The ADP agreed allocation of these additional funds based on existing evidence, feedback from services and people with lived and living experience and funding requirements from Scottish Government. The table below provides a high level overview of the allocation.

	Outcome area	Amount	Funding agreement
1	National Mission	£106,308	Increased capacity in We Are With You (WAWY) and Borders Addiction Service (BAS)
2	Residential Rehabilitation	£106,308	Additional funded places for rehab  Increased capacity in BAS and WAWY
3	Whole family approach	£74,416	Increased capacity in WAWY and Chimes.
4	Buvidal	£85,047	Allocated to BAS prescribing budget.
5	Outreach*	£63,785	Increased capacity in BAS and WAWY Pharmacy. Contribution towards non-staff costs.
6	Near-fatal overdose pathways*	£63,785	
7	Lived and living experience panels/forums	£10,631	We await further information relating to the requirements for this funding prior to agreeing allocation.
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£510,280</b>	

\* These funding streams have been bundled together to reflect current arrangements and existing successful working practices.

## Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards

The National Mission and embedding of the MAT standards is a high priority for Ministers and ADPs across Scotland are working towards embedding the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards (MAT) standards 1-5 by 1 April 2022.

Funding for embedding the Medication Assisted Treatment Standards (MAT) standards for financial year 2021-2022 was received on 1 March 2022. The funding allocation for future years is in the process of being finalised.

More information [here](#)

## New Drug Treatment Target

A national target will be introduced to ensure more people with problematic opiate drug use are accessing life-saving community treatments. There are currently around 29,500 people using Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST). Under the new target, the Scottish Government will aim to increase this to 32,000 by 1 April 2024. Almost 90% of all drug-related deaths in Scotland currently involve opiates.

The target in Borders is as follows: ‘by April 2024, 451 people with problem opiate drug use in community-based OST treatment based on baseline of 415 people in 2020/21 (9% increase).’

From April 2024 the treatment target will be expanded to cover drugs and alcohol. More [here](#).

## Non Fatal Overdose Pathway

A non fatal overdose (NFO) is an event which has required urgent medical intervention to avoid death following the consumption and intoxication of illicit drugs, i.e. not intentional self-poisoning using over the counter or prescribed drugs.

In May 2021, a pilot was set up to test a pathway of referrals from SAS, Police and Emergency Department to the Engagement Support Team (ES Team) following someone experiencing a NFO and being seen by one of the emergency services.

Evaluation of the pilot in August 2021 showed that almost 80% of people were contacted within 48 hours of experiencing a NFO. People who had experienced the pathway provided positive feedback and all had received appropriate harm reduction advice, review of

medication where appropriate and access to increased support where accepted. For information on how to respond to a drug overdose see [here](#).

## **Drug & Alcohol Services in Borders**

There are three drug and alcohol services in the Borders. All services work across the Borders to support people in their communities.

- We Are With You Borders(WAWY)
- Borders Addiction Service (BAS)
- Children & Families Service (CHIMES, Action For Children)
- Injecting Equipment Service

WAWY offer a range of groups including weekly joint drop-ins with BAS across the Borders in Eyemouth, Hawick, Galashiels and Kelso. Click [here](#) for more information.

Recovery groups are also available in the Borders:

[Borders Recovery Group](#) and [Serendipity Recovery Community Network](#)

## National Support

<b>Mutual aid supports groups online (National)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">UK SMART Recovery</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">UK Alcoholics Anonymous</a></li> <li>• UK Narcotics Anonymous: 0300 999 1212 (10am – Midnight)</li> </ul>
<b>Know the Score Drugs Helpline</b> For free, confidential drugs information and advice Monday – Friday 9am – 9pm, Saturday – Sunday 10am-4pm	0333 230 9468  <a href="http://www.knowthescore.info">www.knowthescore.info</a>
<b>Scottish Recovery Consortium</b> SRC hosts an online directory of online recovery and support activities.	<a href="http://Scottishrecoveryconsortium.org">Scottishrecoveryconsortium.org</a>
<b>Scottish Families Affected by Drugs &amp; Alcohol</b>	Support for anyone affected by someone else's drug/alcohol use. SFAD will support people through a helpline, bereavement support service or Telehealth (one-to-one support)  <a href="https://www.sfad.org.uk/">https://www.sfad.org.uk/</a> Helpline: 08080 10 10 11
<b>Other Sources of Information</b>	
Resources containing information specific to people who use drugs and COVID-19 can be found at <a href="#">Scottish Drugs Forum/Covid19</a>	
Information for Carers <a href="#">Carers UK</a>	

## Whole Family Approach Audit

ADP Ministerial Priorities provide a set of recommendations for local partners to help meet the holistic needs of all family members affected by alcohol and drug related harms. This includes families where children are impacted by parental substance use and adult family members experiencing the impact of a loved one's use.

A working group has been undertaking an audit to assess what support is currently available in Borders to support children, young people and families impacted by harms from alcohol and drugs on behalf of the Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) and Children and Young People's Leadership Group (CYPLG). Findings from this showed there is a need within the workforce to increase skills and confidence in this area and increase awareness of the Chimes service.

The ADP and CYPLG jointly commission Action for Children's Chimes Service to provide a service that reduces the impact of harms on children and young people from:

- Substance use in the family
- Caring responsibility and emotional impact where there is physical and mental ill-health in the family.

More information on the audit and findings are available [here](#)

The third sector drug and alcohol service (We are with you) provides family support and Craft Groups. Groups are now delivered across the adult and children's service. ADP has recently supported training on children affected by parental substance use across early years settings (O'Lila).

## **Feedback & Evaluation**

### **Drug & Alcohol Services Evaluation**

The ADP commissioned Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) to undertake an evaluation of the three ADP commissioned services (BAS, WAWY, Chimes).

The aims of the evaluation were to:

- Inform alcohol and drugs services provision to best meet the needs of people who use services in the Borders
- Confirm the service experience of people using services in Borders and any barriers to access
- Identify any gaps in service provision and how these may best be met
- Understand the experience of managing the joint ES Team

Findings show:

- The relationships between people using services and staff are positive
- There is effective assertive outreach to people most at risk provided by the ES Team and this engagement is valued by the people who receive it.
- Reports indicate that people consider waiting times for treatment to be short and reasonable.

To access the report click [here](#).

### **Lived Experience Forum**

The Lived Experience Forum will provide input to the ADP on its overall strategy, evaluation of local services and in doing so will help to improve services and the outcomes of people who use them.

The Forum meets monthly and is open to anyone who wishes to attend who has lived or living experience of drugs or alcohol use. This includes family and community members. See [here](#) for more information.

Scottish Drugs Forum will also be working in Borders to create a 'living' experience forum for people currently using drugs and alcohol and ADP awaits more information on this.

## **Learning & Capacity Building**

### **Substance Use Education (SUE) Resource**

A new online package of resources on drugs, alcohol and tobacco education and prevention for primary and secondary staff in Scottish Borders schools was launched in November 2019.

Since the launch an evaluation has taken place and findings concluded that for those who were aware of the programme, they found it easily accessible, met their needs and those of their pupils.

A third of respondents had not heard of the programme and work is underway to re-launch the programme, especially for primary schools. Training on drug trends and orientation to SUE resource for Youth Groups has also recently been provided.

## Workforce Development Training Directory

Borders ADP have a Workforce Development Training Directory published every year with free training. All of our courses will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams for 2022/23. These sessions are proving to be very popular and booking is essential. Please see our website for the latest directory [here](#).

Scottish Drugs Forum has switched to a virtual platform and these courses are viewable on their [training page](#). They are free to access to anyone working or living in Scotland.

## Recent Reports Published

- Scottish Borders Alcohol Profile 2021  
<https://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/media/839202/Alcohol-and-Drugs-report-Final.pdf>
- Evaluating the impact of Minimum Unit Pricing (MUP) of alcohol in Scotland on cross-border purchasing  
[Cross-border purchasing unlikely to affect alcohol consumption - News - Public Health Scotland](#)
- Alcohol sales and harm in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic  
[Alcohol sales and harm in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic - News - Public Health Scotland](#)