

# Rough Guide to ADP Drug Death Review Group

August 2023

**Who this guide is for**

This guide has been written as an introduction to the role and remit of the Drug Death Review Group (DDRG). It is of specific relevance to members of the Borders Alcohol & Drugs Partnership (ADP) and its subgroups, specialist and generic staff who have an interest in the work of the DDRG, and members of the community.

**What is the Drug Death Review Group (DDRG)?**

The DDRG was set up to improve liaison between agencies in efforts to reduce drug-related deaths at local level.

Membership on the group includes:

- Police Scotland
- Scottish Prison Service
- Crown Office Procurator Fiscal Service (for information only)
- Justice Services, Social Work
- NHS Borders Addictions Service
- NHS Borders Pharmacy
- ADP Support Team
- Scottish Ambulance Service
- We Are With You Borders
- Community Pharmacy Lead, NHS Borders
- Adult Protection Lead Officer
- Director of Social Work and Practice
- Homeless Team Manager

The DDRG is a small, closed group with a chair nominated by Critical Services Oversight Group (CSOG) that meets on a quarterly basis to share and analyse relevant information.

Additional members may be identified and invited to join the group for specific case discussions as the need arises.

## **What is the role and remit of the group?**

The aim of the group is to reduce Drug Related Deaths (DRDs) by:

- Exploring the circumstances of a death once confirmed by pathology as a DRD in the Scottish Borders
- Identify learning from the reviews and promote best practice
- Contributing to the National Drug-related Deaths Database (NDRDD)
- Implementing national and local drug strategies to reduce problem drug use.

This work will involve:

- Consideration of the individuals' circumstances prior to death, including, place of death, employment and accommodation status, family support and the nature of the individuals drug use.
- Analysis of information available from Police, toxicology, drug and alcohol services, health, criminal justice and other services relating to the clinical and social circumstances surrounding the death.
- Identification of patterns in social and clinical circumstances surrounding the deaths, and consideration of associations between them (to include a reflection on the nature of services that had been used or offered).
- Recommendations to ADP partners and key stakeholders for policy and practice changes, impacting on a future reduction in drug related deaths.

## **Accountability**

The Drug Death Review Group is directly accountable to the ADP. The ADP will provide an Annual Report including learning identified by the Drug Death Review Group to both the Critical Services Oversight Group (which represents SBC, NHS Borders and Police Scotland at Chief Officer level) and NHS Borders Clinical Governance Committee.

### **Data collection, reporting and security**

The ADP Project Officer will contact group members directly seeking specific information to be included in the national reporting template and ensure this is submitted once completed to Public Health Scotland. An anonymised outcomes template for each individual will be shared with Clinical Governance Leads in NHS Borders if seen within 12 months of death.

**Any confidential information will only be transferred via secure email addresses, and chronology reports are completed by each service on Sharepoint to comply with information sharing and confidentiality requirements.** When cases are reviewed this will be carried out anonymously..

### **Further information**

For more detailed information please contact the ADP Support Team on 01835 825900 or via [www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/badp](http://www.nhsborders.scot.nhs.uk/badp)