

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

action on  
**drugs+alcohol**  
BORDERS

The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) is a partnership of agencies and services responsible for reducing the harms associated with alcohol and drug use. This is carried out in a variety of ways including:

- implementing early intervention and preventative measures
- ensuring good quality drug and alcohol treatment and support services are available
- promoting harm reduction strategies
- involving people with lived and living experience
- research and data collection to better understand the extent and nature of drug and alcohol use in Borders.

The ADP is chaired by the Director of Public Health, NHS Borders and the work of the ADP is directed by the Scottish Government.

## HIGHLIGHTS



- An updated [Alcohol Profile](#) provided to Licensing Board highlighting alcohol related harm in Borders and to support decision making.
- An Addiction Worker Trainee Post was provided and supported by Scottish Drugs Forum in Borders.
- 330 people attended 25 training courses over 2022-23 and 108 people completed e-learning provided by Scottish Drugs Forum.



- 2699 people who were drinking above the low risk guidelines had a brief intervention with a trained professional.
- 524 people started [treatment](#) for their drug or alcohol use and 99.6% started within three weeks of referral.
- 124 people received a rapid emergency response following a near fatal overdose with 89% contacted by the assertive outreach team within 48 hours.
- 19% (28) of resupplies of [naloxone](#) were used in an emergency.
- An audit of alcohol specific deaths for 2021 has commenced.
- Entry routes into [Residential Rehabilitation](#) reviewed alongside increased funding which has resulted in 5 people were supported to attend.
- Implementation of [medication assisted treatment standards](#) 1 - 5 and work progressing with standards 6-10.
- Annual Drug Related Death Report 2021 completed and presented to senior officers in NHS, Scottish Borders Council and Police Scotland.



- [Borders in Recovery](#) Community has expanded over the previous year securing funding to allow recruitment of two community officers and expansion of recovery cafes across Borders.
- Recovery Coaching Scotland has provided [self coaching courses](#) with referrals open to drug and alcohol services.
- Borders Lived Experience Forum has provided formal feedback on the Residential Rehab Pathway, Injecting Equipment Provision Leaflet, ADP Strategic Plan and Scottish Government Alcohol Marketing Consultation.
- Borders Engagement Group met weekly and provided samples of drugs to WEDINOS Service for testing to generate local drug trend information. The group has also provided feedback for ADP partners on their experiences which have been shared with relevant services.



- 122 referrals to the dedicated Children and Families support service Action for Children Chimes Service.
- We Are With You provided support for 77 adults impacted by a loved one's substance use.
- Information on [support for family members](#) made more accessible highlighting both local and national support.

## CHALLENGES

Stigma and confidentiality concerns can be heightened in a rural area. Services are offered stigma training, support with recommended language, and the promotion of NHS Inform drug and alcohol stigma campaign.

## OUTCOMES

Fewer people develop problem drug and alcohol use.

Risk is reduced for people who take harmful drugs and drink excessively.

People at most risk have access to treatment and recovery.

People receive high quality treatment and recovery services.

Quality of life is improved for people who experience multiple disadvantage.

Children, families and communities affected by substance use are supported.

## MORE INFORMATION