

# Annual Report 2017



Northwest Regional  
Drug & Alcohol Task Force

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*North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force*

*July 2018*

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## 1. An overview of the drugs problem in your area to include:

### ➤ A detailed profile of drug usage in your area and emerging trends in drug use:

The Information below was collated by the **National Drug Treatment Reporting System 2016 (NDTRS)**. The data was reported by the HSE Addiction Services and Task Force Funded Treatment & Rehabilitation Projects.

**Note:** The data represents all clients who have indicated an address in the North West but may have accessed drug and/or alcohol treatment services nationally.

**Note:** Alcohol remains the primary drug of choice; the secondary drug of choice is Cannabis.

#### Reason for Referral

Alcohol	860
Drug	258
Concerned Person	70
Other	14
<b>Total</b>	<b>1202</b>

#### Reason for Referral - Detail

Opiates	63
Ecstasy	~
Cocaine	20
Other stimulants	~
Benzodiazepines	15
Volatile inhalants	~
Cannabis	144
Alcohol	860
Others Problems	14
<b>Novel psychoactive substances</b>	~
Concerned Others	70
<b>Total</b>	<b>1186</b>

#### Service Provider Type

Outpatient	917
Inpatient	219
Low Threshold	36
General Practitioner	6
Prisons	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>1202</b>

#### Gender

Male	749
Female	439
Not recorded	14
<b>Total</b>	

**1202**

### County of Residence

Donegal	765
Leitrim & Sligo	437
<b>Total</b>	<b>1202</b>

### Nationality

Great Britain and Northern Ireland (UK)	17
Ireland, Republic of	632
Poland	16
Other	527
<b>Total</b>	<b>1202</b>

### Methadone Treatment Data Analysis per for 2017 (January to December '17)

Table 1 - Number of Clients in Treatment per NWRDATF area

HSE Region	Task Force Area	Number of Clients in Treatment (During Period)		National % of clients in Treatment	Number of Clients in Treatment (At end of Period)		National % of clients in Treatment
		Jan. to Dec. 17 (During Period)			Dec. 17 (At end of Period)		
HSE West	North West RDATEF						
<b>RDATEF Regional Total:</b>		32		0.3	26		0.3

Table 2 – Gender and Treatment location of Clients per NWRDATF Area

HSE Region	Task Force Area	Gender & Treatment Location (During Period Jan to Dec '17)					
		Gender	Clinic	NDTC	GP	Prison	Total
HSE West	North West RDATEF	Male	<10	<10	21	<10	26
		Female	0	0	<10	<10	10

Table 3 - Age of Clients in Treatment

HSE Region	Task Force Area	Age of Clients in Treatment (During Period Jan to Dec. '17)								
		0-15	16-19	20-24	25-29	30-34	35-39	40-44	45+	Total
HSE West	North West RDATEF	0	0	<10	<10	10	<10	<10	<10	32

- **The main issues which your DTF addressed in 2017 arising from this pattern of drug use:** | Arising from the patterns of drug usage and emerging trends outlined above, the main problems identified are alcohol and cannabis misuse. In this regard, the Task Force continue to support the projects to deliver on **education, prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation** for the client group in the North West: In 2017, The Task Force identified a need for a targeted approach tackling alcohol & drug issues in the region.

**1). Small Grants Schemes/Training & Development** for the development of education/prevention remit alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations ( March 17) & the development of programmes/training/equipment/research ( May 17):

NWRDATF Small Grants Scheme in 2017		
Organisation	Amount	Purpose of grant (brief summary)
Donegal Youth Service	1,200	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations.
Sligo Intercultural Forum	675	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations
Tieragh Community Support Ltd	1600	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations
Club Oige Christ Ri	480	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations
Mohill Family Support Centre	1000	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations
NCYS, The Base Youth Café	675	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations
Foroige, Donegal	1900	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations
Foroige Leitrim	1,600	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations
Foroige Sligo	1,700	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations
Rossinver CE Rehab Project, Leitrim	1300	Education/Prevention activities for delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations
NCYS Youth Action Project, Sligo	1051	Education & Prevention diversionary activities to promote social engagement through high octane activities
Donegal Youth Service	1051	Peer Led group to promote non alcohol related fun through music and art.
Assertive Outreach Project, Sligo	1051	Support the Lifering Programme with the provision of materials, booklets, and office equipment for new worker.
LGBT SMILY Project, NCYS Sligo	1051	Working with young LGBT people in providing diversionary activities from substance misuse.
Inver Community Centre, Donegal	1051	Support the delivery of Streetwise Programme
Sligo Social Services CE Scheme, Sligo	1051	Purchase of materials for CE participants on the scheme
Rossinver CE Scheme, Leitrim	1051	To support access to recreational outlets during the winter months to beat the winter blues through music, art and stress management activities
The Alcohol Forum	1051	To support the delivery of an M-PACT programme in Donegal
The Base Café, Leitrim	1051	To make an educational video around the dangers/ harm caused by alcohol related violence.
Foroige Leitrim	1051	To provide summer programmes to divert young people from anti-social alcohol related activities.
Resource House Project, Sligo	1051	Finance research by Safeguarding Working Group on behalf of CYPSC
Letterkenny CDP CE Scheme	1051	Purchase of 2 Pc's to be used by the CE participants

**2).The Task Force Team ensure appropriate administrative support are in place to enable the efficient operation of the RDATAF by:**

- Providing ongoing financial and administrative support in relation to operation of the task force;
- Preparing and submitting timely financial reports to the task force including Co-ordinators reports and ensure quarterly reporting is completed and submitted to the channel of funding;
- Providing practical, technical, and advisory support in relation to the operation of the task force and its sub groups.

**3).We ensure projects are supported in relation to their work funded through the RDATAF:**

- Development Workers to continue to support all projects;
- Staff work closely with the task force co-ordinator and the RDATAF to assist in the delivery of the three-year strategic plan;
- We assist projects to establish and report on targets, outcomes and other relevant mechanisms which comply with procedures set out by the NSMS and the DPU;

**4).We maintain Sub Groups in relation to the NSMS and identify emerging needs within the North West:**

- We continue to identify relevant potential participants for sub groups meetings and monitor emerging needs;
- We continue to support all RDATAF sub groups and convene the operation of groups when required;
- We report back to the RDATAF and ensure all structures operate in conjunction with their terms of reference and the task force's operational handbook

**5).The Task Force have allocated the 2017 global allocation to 11 Treatment & Rehabilitation Projects and 5 Education & Prevention projects.** All these projects are based within Community & Voluntary sector organisations.

**6).The task force have always highlighted VFM as an important factor in delivering cost effective service provision.** The task force have capped the Administration & Management charges on all 16 projects at 10% for 2017 this is to maximise front line service provision

## 7).Logic Model Project Planning & Reporting 2017

The NWRDATF in 2017 continue to adhere to the national planning and reporting logic model. All task force funded projects have undertaken training and all 2017 planning forms were submitted to relevant channels of funding for approval in December 2016.

## 8).2017 Drug and Alcohol Task Force (DATF) Global Allocation

### Global Allocation for HSE projects:

The global allocation for HSE projects through the North West Regional DATF for 2017 remains unchanged from 2016 and is **€461,730**.

### 2017 Global Allocation for ETB projects:

The global allocation for HSE projects through the North West Regional DATF for 2017 remains unchanged from 2016 and is **€258,633**

Total 2017 allocation = **€720,363**

## 9).National Drugs Strategy

The last National Drugs Strategy came to an end in 2016 and has been replaced by Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017 – 2025.

## 10). Performance Measurement System

The Department of Health are to develop an implementation plan to operationalise a Performance Measurement System by 2020 which will support the National Drugs Strategy, improve accountability across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors, and strengthen the Drug and Alcohol Task Force model. This will address, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and sectors, the following areas:

- The phased introduction of a resource allocation model (RAM) to achieve a more equitable distribution of resources across Task Force areas. This will involve monitoring and assessing the evidence from the operation of the RAM on an annual basis.
- Identifying where significant changes in problem drug or alcohol use are found from one year to the next, or differences are observed between areas, and analysing why such differences have emerged with a view to successfully implementing the strategy and assisting DATFs improve their actions and interventions over time.
- Improving the alignment of Task Force boundaries.

- Ensuring that Task Forces have appropriate arrangements in place for the selection and renewal of the chair and members of the Task Force and have proper procedures in place for addressing conflict of interest.
- Co-ordinating a cross-Departmental approach at national and local level to allow for the gathering of the appropriate information and data streams to feed into the ongoing organic further development of the Performance Measurement Framework.

### 11.) Sligo City Alcohol Strategy

The *Sligo Healthy Ireland project*, in conjunction with the *Task Force*, by way of media press release and an online survey monkey offered everyone the opportunity to have their say through a brief online survey located on [www.nwdrugstaskforce.ie](http://www.nwdrugstaskforce.ie) the Facebook page which was widely circulated via email and press (The Sligo Champion). The information from the survey helped to develop a five year strategy to reduce alcohol related harm in Sligo City. The feedback was collated and presented to a meeting of the stakeholders of the strategy.

#### (Survey attached)

The second stakeholder meeting took place on the 15th of June 2017. Three presentations were given on the day **attached** for your information.

- Department of Public Health Medicine – Sligo Alcohol Related Harm Profile 2017
- An Garda Síochána – The Impact Alcohol Has on Policing in Sligo
- NWRDATF Coordinator - Findings from the consultation process

Following this meeting the next steps were to collate all the information received on the day into an action plan for sign off at the next Sligo Healthy Ireland Meeting in early November 17.

Draft documents were presented to The *Sligo Healthy Ireland project*, in addition to the Task Force meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November '17. Significant work by the Task Force team took place with good engagement from all parties. The Task Force approved both the Strategy and Action plan and actioned the Task Force team to move ahead with launching the Strategy in Q1 2018. ***Sligo City Alcohol Strategy and Action plans are attached.***

The targets of the strategy are to improve health, well-being and quality of life of people living in Sligo City and reduce harmful use of alcohol & related harm.

The anticipated effect of implementing the five-year strategy is the following:-

- Improved health, wellbeing and quality of life of people living in Sligo City
- Reduced harmful use of alcohol
- Reduced alcohol-related harm
- Reduced incidents of alcohol related crime and anti-social behaviour
- Increased access to support services for those affected by another's alcohol consumption
- Increased access to alcohol treatment services
- Reduced prevalence of alcohol at community events/activities; and

- Reduced alcohol marketing in local areas.

### 12). National Community Action on Alcohol Project

In 2015, the North West Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force was one of five Task Forces which participated in the ***Pilot National Community Action on Alcohol Programme***. Since then, the North West RDATAF has initiated a community mobilization approach in Sligo with the development of a Sligo City Alcohol Strategy.

In 2017, we planned to expand the work in the North West, through supporting the development of a Community Action on Alcohol plan for Letterkenny. The meeting took place on ***Wednesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 2017***.

The key points of the meeting were:

- **Opening & Welcome:** Sean O'Connor, Chair, RDATAF Background & Overview/Key statistics on alcohol harm in Donegal from County Alcohol Harm Profile
- **Alcohol harm in Letterkenny: An ED Perspective:** Dr Gerry Lane
- **Discussion session** - harm as experienced in Letterkenny to families and individuals, Small group discussion and feedback to larger group
- **Community Action on Alcohol** - Paula Leonard, National Lead, Community Action on Alcohol
- **Next steps**
  - SAOR training
  - CAAP training
  - Formation of a working group for Community Action on Alcohol in Letterkenny (8-15 people)

The Task Force have been working closely with Paula Leonard - the National Lead for CAAP on progressing this new development and I am pleased to report that the meeting was well attended with great engagement from all participants.

The next step is the formation of a working CAAP group which will be part of a three day training programme which will facilitate the development of a strategy for Letterkenny town and its environs.

### 13). Local Economic & Community Plan Sligo

Background:

*'Healthy Ireland, A Framework for improved Health & Wellbeing 2013-2015'* is the national framework for action to improve the health and wellbeing of Ireland over the coming generation. The Government has approved the creation of a **Healthy Ireland Fund** with an initial allocation of €5 million to support the implementation of its objectives in a practical way such as through alignment with specific objectives contained in Local Economic & Community Plans LECP's. Up to €100,000 is available to each LCDC for *'funding to commence, progress, and/or strengthen relevant actions in their Local Economic & Community Plans, LECP's'*.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 17 with support of the Task Force, an application was submitted in support of DATF actions in the Sligo Local Economic & Community Plan:

### **3.4 Objective – Reduce risk factors for chronic diseases through community based initiatives:**

#### **Actions**

**3.4.4** Deliver community based programmes to raise awareness about the impact of substance related harm to the people of Sligo and raise public awareness of the benefits of effective action to prevent and reduce substance related harm.

**Targeted Outcomes:** Reduction in chronic disease rates

**Description/ Proposal:** Rolling out of prevention programmes for youth at risk as identified by research in action

### **3.6 Objective – Develop integrated measures to improve community safety**

#### **Action**

**3.6.3** Address substance misuse issues in Sligo through the development of a strategic plan for Sligo City including:-

- Conducting research into the effectiveness of models to address substance misuse and use results to inform strategy;
- Provide grants to support local initiatives to address substance misuse;
- Support safe, family friendly initiatives and healthy festivals and learn from best practice;

**Targeted Outcomes:** Improved health, creating a safer community and learning from best practice - **summary of the submission attached.**

### **14).Crowe & Horwath Research & Review**

With the Research and Review Evaluation of the NWRADTF completed by Crowe Horwath, it was agreed at the Executive Committee Meeting in April that it should be matched with the new NDS strategy. It was also recommended that a review of all currently funded projects (to be submitted to the Project Evaluation Subcommittee PESC) would be undertaken by the Task Force Team.

The PESC meeting took place on the 28<sup>th</sup> of August '17 and a submission was then made to the Executive Committee on the 31<sup>st</sup> of August. Due to conflicts of interest two members of the committee were asked to abstain from this meeting as outlined in the Task Force handbook on page 30. The document was reviewed at the meeting and was circulated at the TF meeting in September to those that didn't have any conflicts of interest and members that did were asked to abstain themselves from the meeting. It is envisaged that this start a process in supporting the Task Force to help them make an informed decision on what service provision

is necessary to deliver the new Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery Plan 2017-2025 on a regional basis

#### **15).Public Participation Network**

The Task force continue to support community representative through the PPN networks in the North West.

#### **16).Community Employment Drug Rehabilitation Schemes**

The CE Drugs Projects in the North West Division were rolled out on a staged basis with Letterkenny CDP starting the 1<sup>st</sup> scheme of its kind in the North West in February 2016, thereafter, Sligo Social Services in April 2016 and Rossinver Youth and Community project in June 2016. The ETB and HSE reps on the Task Force are assisting me on the steering committees for each project and all projects have proven to be a successful support for identified participants.

#### **17).Regional Drug & Alcohol task force Chairpersons and Co-ordinators network**

The Network provides the DPU with a representative group to consult with, and undertake specific areas of work that are relevant to all Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Forces (i.e. handbook, financial procedures, project monitoring system etc.). The Network offers peer support to the Regional Coordinators in addition to assisting the Coordinators with training and information needs. It represents the views of RDATEF Coordinators as a collective group at national forums and with the DPU in the Dept. of Health. The Network liaises closely with the RDATEF Chairpersons Network to ensure cohesion in relation to strategic priorities. In addition the RDATEF Coordinators network links closely with the LDATF coordinators network to share information and collaborate on common areas of work. (E.g. Project Monitoring). As a collective, the RDATEF Network develops and implements an overarching work plan in line with the current national substance misuse strategies & policies in Ireland. RDATEF's Co-ordinators work plan for 2017 which is below.

- Continued collective focus on the role of DATFs in the coordination of the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy and the National Substance Misuse Strategy across the regions
- Continued liaison with the key stakeholders and strategic leads, including meetings with all national policy representatives & clinical leads
- Continued active participation in the national strategic oversight processes for both alcohol & over drugs, as well as appropriate national campaigns
- Continued coordination with the RDATEF Chairpersons' network - with regular joint meetings every six months at least

- Continued coordination with colleagues in the Local Task Forces on issues of shared concern
- Continue to ensure the voice of the communities in our regions is heard and understood at the national table, and that this helps inform the discussions around the resourcing of the new National Drug Strategy
- Have regular meetings with the Minister of State for the National Drug Strategy, as well as other meetings with the appropriate Ministerial leads for all areas of our work (i.e. alcohol, mental health, homelessness etc.)
- Scoping, planning & coordination for a 2017 national conference – on the theme of service use involvement

### 18).NWRDATF Handbook

**Please find attached amended 2017 RDATF Operational Handbook.**

The revised version has been updated in the following sections:

- Community Representation
- Travel & Subsistence

### 19).Verification Visits

The Task Force team engaged in the yearly project verification visits. These visits concentrated on the following areas.

- Finance
- Policy & Procedures
- Staffing
- Governance

### 20).Connecting 4 Life

The Task Force has actions in the Connecting 4 Life strategies in the North West. In July funding was allocated (€3200) from the Community Alcohol on Action Plan / Dormant Accounts to fund the implementation of actions to raise awareness around the links between alcohol, suicide and self-harm. We are liaising with the HSE suicide officers on a time frame of supporting these actions.

### 21).NDTRS

The **Health Research Board** delivered training on the new web based National Drug Treatment Reporting System to a number of HSE and Task Force treatment and rehabilitation staff. The day was well attended – the new IT system is easy to navigate and understand and it

is hoped that this system will facilitate an increase in the completion of data and cut down on any duplication and inputting of errors.

### **22).Task Force Staff**

In February 2017, Task Force office staff comprising of one Administrator and Two part Development Workers wrote to the HSE Area Manager CHO1 looking to secure permanent HSE contracts. The HSE representative on the Task Force has met with the staff and members of the NWRDATF PLC to discuss the proposal - the Directors have sought reassurances from the HSE that the Task Force going forward would continue to be supported by the relevant personnel when this occurred. At present the job descriptions/specifications are currently being reviewed by the HSE.

### **23).Children and Young People’s Services Committee**

We continue to support CYPSC meetings in the region engaging in the following committee

- Health & Well-being Sligo & Leitrim
- Safe & Secure Donegal

### **24).Tender for new service provision**

At the Task Force meeting in September 17 it was agree to tender for an Assertive Outreach Community based Alcohol & Drug treatment service for individuals over 18 years for North Leitrim & South Donegal. The tender was placed on Active link and circulated via email. The closing date for applications was the 8.12.17 - the Task Force authorised the Executive Committee to assess and score the tender applications which took place on the 12.12.17. The tender was awarded to Rossinver Community Development Project.

### **25).CHO 1**

I met with the Social Inclusion Manager for the CHO 1 area along with a number of HSE Staff and the Alcohol forum to start the process of collating an action plan for Healthy Ireland in relation to the Alcohol actions within the plan. This plan (2018 – 2022) will feature a number of actions highlighted in the Sligo City Alcohol Strategy and actions currently being delivered by funded projects.

### **26).Alcohol Awareness Week**

A press release was circulated through the HSE communications to department to all media outlets in relation to the European Alcohol Awareness week.

- Around 900 people are diagnosed with an alcohol-associated cancer each year in Ireland.
- Drinking alcohol increases your risk of developing cancer. Drink less to reduce your risk.

As a Task Force we were able to support this week by facilitating a targeted small grants scheme for projects in Sligo due to a project underspend in 2016.

## 2. Progress made in 2017 implementing your local drugs strategy under each of the five headings below (i.e the five pillars of the NDS):

- 1) **Treatment & Rehabilitation & Prevention & Education** Task Force funded projects listed below continue to address these issues and emerging trends, i.e.

**NW 4:** The White Oaks After-care worker continues to prevent relapse amongst clients through the provision of aftercare services and the provision of additional support for the service users & their families and acts as a conduit to other treatment services as required.

**NW 14 & NW 15, NW 18:** The Holistic Therapy programmes in Sligo, Leitrim & Donegal continue to directly address the increasing levels of substance misuse by working in partnership with existing services and opening up alternative avenues for treatment and rehabilitation in the North West region.

**NW 19 & NW 25:** The Assertive Outreach workers continue to work closely with the statutory services and act as a conduit to existing services and continue to initiate community based harm reduction programmes to address the issues of drug/alcohol related harms in the North West region including SMART recovery programmes.

**NW 20:** Young Men's Programme: This project engages with prisoners and ex-prisoners in the prison programme in relation to treatment and rehabilitation. After release, it continues to support families and parents of young men in recovery in addition to the provision of counselling and supports to drug users.

**NW 23:** Substance Misuse Programme: This project continues to improve the health and wellbeing of homeless drug users, adult drugs users and recovering/stabilised drug users by supporting them in accessing and engaging with specialist rehabilitation services.

**NW 27:** Strengthening Families Programme: The programme continues to coordinate family support programmes, which minimise the impact of alcohol and drug misuse children, young people at risk and their families.

**NW 21:** the Homework Club: continues to promote the value of education in the Traveller Community in Sligo in addition to modifying the problems of alcohol and drug misuse by providing a positive, supportive and educational environment for young children at risk and their families. In addition, the STSG group have also identified and highlighted the growing problem of benzodiazepine misuse in the Traveller community - an information leaflet is in the final stages of being completed.

**NW 5, NW 12, and NW 13:** The Youth Drug & Alcohol Workers in Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal continue to deliver high quality drug education programmes. They continue to address the issues of alcohol and cannabis misuse with young people and parents in out of school settings, which has consequently increased knowledge about the dangers of drugs and alcohol and changing attitudes to it.

**NW 24:** The project continues to support parents who need a support system for their parenting within a 'chaotic' family life. For example those who state that they are currently misusing drugs including cannabis, alcohol and prescription medication. In all cases, these

parents will receive one-to-one support and advice from Parent Stop and will be guided to seek parent support through their social worker, care order, legal advice and counsellor advice. These service users are at a very early stage of approaching care access and on the pathway to treatment.

**NW10:** The Training & Education Coordinator continues to up skill and train front line staff in early intervention skills around the treatment of drug and alcohol related harms, in addition to creating pathways of education and skills and supporting those in recovery to rehabilitate.

**NW 28:** Training & Development project (Small Grants): The North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force invited applications twice during 2017 for Small Grants for once-off funding to Community and Not-for-profit Voluntary groups / agencies who work to tackle drug and alcohol misuse in counties Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal. Two campaigns facilitated the roll out of programmes for St Patrick's Day parade which were granted to projects with an Education/Prevention remit whose purpose was the delivery of alternative, alcohol free events/activities for St Patrick's Day celebrations and the delivery of Summer-Autumn programmes by projects whose remit coincided with the pillars of the National Drug Strategy.

**Supply Reduction:** Garda and Customs & Excise Representatives are regular attendees at Task Force meetings and keep members informed of emerging issues in the region.

*Ongoing Actions:*

- NWRDATF continues to advocate for changes to alcohol advertising and availability –
- NWRDATF continues to call for the enforcement of under-age drinking legislation;
- NWRDATF continues to support development of community based diversionary activities for youth at risk of substance misuse;
- NWRDATF Management and staff continue to identify opportunities for working with communities in areas most affected by drug and alcohol misuse;

**Emerging Needs:** Emerging issues/needs are discussed at each Task Force meeting and each sub group meeting i.e. *Prevention & Education and Treatment & Rehabilitation.*

**Awareness:** The Task Force regularly updates its website, and its Facebook page which provides up to date information on drug and alcohol awareness issues and news and events. By linking with 3<sup>rd</sup> level colleges, it regularly hosts a drug & alcohol awareness events/roadshows.

**Research:** Crowe Howarth Research & Review Report 17 November 2016

### 3.Profile of NWRDATF funded projects to include the following:

- An analysis of the impact of NWRDATF projects, as a group, in addressing the drugs problem in your area and their continued relevance to your local drugs strategy:

Project	Pillar/Subgroup	Strategic Plan Action	Output
NW3	Prevention & Education/ Treatment & Rehabilitation	Governance procedures	All projects received verification visits in order to carry out governance in accordance with the Project Evaluation Sub Committee Group.
NW3	Prevention & Education	Optimise the use of ICT in drug & alcohol awareness initiatives	Staff team continued to optimise the use of the DATF website through social networking, on line access to information and publications and links to other stake holders.
NW3		Drug & Alcohol Awareness Week	Staff team and project ran an annual drug & alcohol awareness week in Letterkenny IT & Sligo IT.
NW3	Prevention & Education	Knowledge Sharing	Staff team regularly distributes current developments in relation to drug policy and issues to all projects and stakeholders in the Region.
NW10	Prevention & Education	To build on existing knowledge and skills through a structured delivery of accredited programmes	Over 30 programmes were delivered across the region in 2017. The target for the programmes varied, some for the community & voluntary sector and others for health professional. The range of programmes included <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Motivational Interviewing</li> <li>• SAOR : Screening &amp; Brief Interventions</li> <li>• Cannabis: Recreational, Medicinal, and Synthetic.</li> <li>• Women &amp; Substance Use</li> <li>• Emerging Drugs: New Psychoactive Substances</li> <li>• Alcohol Drugs &amp; Young People</li> <li>• Essential Group Facilitation Skills</li> <li>• QQI LEVEL 5 Community Addiction Studies</li> </ul>
NW 5,12,13	Prevention & Education	Develop and support the delivery of high quality drugs education programmes aimed at young people in the region	These projects continue to target at risk of drug & alcohol issues in young people aged 10-17. They continue to use putting the pieces together in a range of settings throughout the region.
NW 21	Prevention & Education	To provide a positive, supportive and educational environment for children / young people and their families at risk	This project continues to deliver a supportive environment for children to engage in educational supports.
NW 14,15,18	Treatment & Rehabilitation	To make provision for and co-ordinated programme of holistic therapies by working in partnership with existing services and initiating new avenues to the treatment and rehabilitation of	These projects delivered a range of Holistic Therapies across the region. These therapies are an additional support to people in recovery.

		those suffering substance misuse and their families.	
NW 20	Treatment & Rehabilitation	To engage Young Traveller Men in developing a programme which aims to address their needs in relation to Treatment, and Rehabilitation programmes	The programme continues to address Substance Misuse among Traveller Men by providing learning options for the men. Engagement in these options provides opportunities to build trust with the men regarding the process of addressing their substance misuse issues. Support and advocacy is provided by STSG Mens Development Worker with the community based programmes.
NW 4	Treatment & Rehabilitation	Provide aftercare service provision	<p>The project continues to support Service User Engagement to Prevent relapse amongst service users through the provision of aftercare services.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide weekly aftercare groups in four locations: White Oaks, Letterkenny, Donegal Town &amp; Sligo. To provide relapse groups in White Oaks, Letterkenny, Donegal Town &amp; Sligo</li> <li>• Provide post residential treatment through the provision of 6 therapeutic days (Fridays) which include meditation, education and peer group for all service users who complete residential treatment.</li> <li>• Encourage service users to participate in additional 12 Step groups, such as AA, NA &amp; GA.</li> </ul>
NW 24	Treatment & Rehabilitation	Support & Advice	<p>The project continues to offer a free and confidential parent support service in Co Donegal and to collaborate in the care and support pathways under development for families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To offer one to one support to over 800 families (involving over 1200 individuals).</li> <li>• To offer a first point of support for parents facing parenting challenges</li> <li>• To develop targeted information for parents and families as needed</li> <li>• To take a preventive approach in the promotion of health and wellbeing in families</li> <li>• To consult with parents on support needs and challenges faced</li> <li>• To advocate for parent support needs at local and regional levels</li> <li>• To collaborate on and be involved in local developments in the areas of care and support pathways for parents and families</li> </ul>
NW 27	Treatment & Rehabilitation	Working with and supporting families affected by alcohol misuse.	<p>The Strengthening Family Programme continues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The delivery of 4 x14 weeks Strengthening Families Programme across Donegal involving up to 40 children and 30 adults.</li> <li>• Train 30 frontline Voluntary and statutory workers as Group leaders / Referrers</li> <li>• Build family skills, resilience and protective factors to enable families to thrive in a nurturing and supportive environment.</li> </ul> <p>Evaluations of the programme to date have identified , improved outcomes in the area of Parent change, Child change and Family change in the areas of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive Mental Health</li> <li>• Increasing positive peer relationships.</li> <li>• Reducing aggressive and violent outbursts.</li> <li>• Reduced alcohol consumption.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved coping and communications strategies.</li> <li>• Building family resilience.</li> </ul>
NW 19 & NW 25	Treatment & Rehabilitation	Support individuals, families and communities in reducing the harms caused by alcohol and drug misuse.	<p>Continue to provide a service to individuals, families affected by alcohol &amp; drugs misuse.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• One to one support sessions using evidence based treatment approaches.</li> <li>• Care plans for substance misusers.</li> <li>• Care plans for concerned significant others.</li> <li>• One to one relapse prevention strategies.</li> <li>• Peer/facilitated family and aftercare groups.</li> </ul>
NW 23	Treatment & Rehabilitation	To provide an assessment, support and outreach service in relation to substance misuse to those experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness in County Sligo. The role is to increase service users' motivation to address their substance misuse, and engage with drug and alcohol services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide outreach services to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness and experiencing alcohol or other substance issues, in order to develop relationships with them.</li> <li>• Provide these service users with the skills, information, and options they need to be empowered and make informed choices about their behaviour.</li> <li>• Connect service users to drug and alcohol, housing, health, mental health and other mainstream services, through supported referrals or other appropriate means.</li> <li>• Develop networks and work collaboratively with other voluntary support services, statutory agencies and other appropriate service providers in order to identify potential service users and to provide the service users with seamless and 'joined up' services.</li> </ul>

#### 4. Progress under each Pillar (Prevention & Education and Treatment & Rehabilitation).

It is intended to enable the Department to identify how the Task Force projects relate to the National Drugs Strategy pillars and contribute to progress under each pillar below:-

##### Form A

<b>DRUG &amp; ALCOHOL TASK FORCE: North West</b>	
<b>Pillar *:</b>	<b>Prevention &amp; Education</b>
<p><b>DTF objective:</b> <b>(Related to NDS 2009-2016)</b></p>	<p><b>Action 19:</b> Develop a framework for the future design of prevention and education measures in relation to drugs and alcohol, using a tiered or graduated approach.</p> <p><b>Action 23:</b> Implement SPHE in Youthreach Centres of Education and in Youth Encounter Projects and ensure that substance misuse policies are in place in these recognised Centres for Education. Implement age appropriate substance prevention/awareness programmes in training settings, including VTOS and Community Training facilities. Introduce monitoring and follow-up procedures in relation to substance prevention activity in the above settings.</p> <p><b>Action 26:</b> Implement a uniform set of drugs and alcohol education standards, using the DEWF framework being implemented by Drugs Task Forces at present.</p> <p><b>Action 28:</b> Develop a sustained range of awareness campaigns that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complement national campaigns</li> <li>• Optimise use of ICT</li> <li>• Consider co-ordinated approach</li> </ul> <p>Target:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3rd level institutions, workplaces and recreational venues</li> <li>• At risk groups</li> <li>• Drug users.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 29:</b> Develop a series of prevention measures that focus on the family under the following programme headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Supports for families experiencing difficulties due to drug/alcohol use</li> <li>• Parenting skills</li> <li>• Targeted measures focusing on the children of problem drug and/or alcohol users, to break the cycle and safeguard next generation.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 30:</b> Develop selective prevention measures aimed at reducing underage and drinking.</p>

	<p><b>Research</b>  <b>Action 56:</b> Develop a research management framework concerning problem substance use in Ireland. Disseminate research findings and models of best practice.</p>
<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p>	<p><b>NW5 Youth Drug &amp; Alcohol Education &amp; Prevention Project, Leitrim</b>  <b>Action 26</b>  All programmes were delivered in the context of Foróige’s Tobacco, Alcohol &amp; Drugs Policy and Guidelines which adhere to the DEWF Quality Standards in Substance Education. Programmes were evaluated using Foróige’s Evaluation Framework (Review, Assess, Plan, Implement and Evaluate) to identify increases in knowledge and changes in behaviour on the part of young people involved in the programmes.</p> <p>As part of the project’s Service User Involvement implementation 5 young people participated in a focus group as part of the Youth Participation Consultation by the Children and Young People’s Services Committee Sub-Group on Youth Participation. Through this research the project demonstrated a model of good practice. A further Youth Participation Consultation was carried out in December 2017 by the project worker in conjunction with their line manager. Approximately 20 young people engaged in consultation about the project and provided feedback on potential future changes.</p> <p><b>Action 28</b>  A Facebook &amp; Instagram competition raised the online social media of the project. More young people are now aware of the work carried out by the project.</p> <p>Professionally designed posters and fliers supported agencies working with families &amp; young people at risk of misusing drugs to contact the project and identify sources of support for their young person and family. Presentations to professionals &amp; community groups disseminating the posters and fliers resulted in 3 new referrals after the summer time. Parents/families of young people at risk also contacted the project through the use of the fliers.</p> <p><b>Action 29</b>  3 individual families benefitted from family support through the project. The project engaged in and supported inter-agency planning for young people/families on an individual and group basis and appropriate interventions for families dealing with substance use/misuse were provided in a coordinated approach. 70 parents of young people attended a presentation on the project in Mohill School. This was undertaken as part of the Introduction to 1st Year evening.</p>

A presentation was made to an international group to target Syrian refugee families and encourage engagement in services in Carrick & surrounding areas. As a result of this and liaison with School Completion Officer 4 Syrian refugees engaged in programmes during Oct – Dec 2017.

### **Action 30**

All programmes were run in the context of ownership over the programme by the young people involved to promote collaboration and participation. There was an increase in expected numbers of young people engaged in the project in 2017.

69 young people completed primary (focus on preventing the onset of drug use/experimentation) prevention programmes. As a result of the programme young people increased their knowledge, and dispelled common myths about drug and alcohol use and its impacts. They learned new life skills which they were able to apply to cope with drug related situations and to identify and engage in healthy behaviours in their own community. Young people gained an understanding of the long-term consequences of substance use, “we got to learn about drugs and alcohol & how they affect us”; “Yes it was because I learnt about cigarettes and what’s in them is really awful so it really puts me off taking them” and demonstrated an ability to make informed decisions in their lives e.g. in relation to substance use and dealing with stress.

101 young people completed secondary (focus on preventing the escalation of drug use and/or reducing the harm associated with drug misuse) prevention programmes. They were provided with a safe space to discuss openly any misconceptions re: drugs and alcohol and were given the skills to deal with drug related incidences. As a result of the programme young people were able to identify why some young people choose to take drugs/alcohol and ways to say no effectively. They were able to recognise and change negative behaviours and identify changes that needed to be made in relation to their substance misuse, mental health/positive well-being, “Learning about drugs and alcohol was fun because Grainne made it easy to understand & learn”; “I would love to come to this group all year long”; “I feel I am always listened to and never judged”; “This programme will help me to make the right decisions”.

10 young people engaged in individual work programmes. There was full and positive engagement in the programme by young people with a reduction in alcohol/cannabis use. Young people expressed the benefit to themselves “I am so happy that I have some to talk to for just me. It’s nice”. Parents and schools identified a reduction in challenging behaviours at home/school. Parents & school Chaplin noted that young people were happier in themselves, with a noticeable uplift in their mood and looking forward to their future.

16 young people from the primary prevention group engaged positively in St Patrick's Day drug and alcohol free event. These young people are now able to identify other ways to have fun that does not involve alcohol or drugs. 14 young people from secondary prevention groups whom are in high risk category were engaged on a long term basis in activities promoting participation in St Patricks Day Alcohol and Drug Free event. Ongoing activities and a drop in facility enabled high risk young people to attend programme every week, seek support from staff on weekly basis, hang out with their peers in a safe environment and learn new skills which they otherwise would not get an opportunity to do.

79 young people identified as being most at risk of substance misuse took part in an 8 week summer programme which enabled them to identify and demonstrate an ability to participate in positive and drug free activities that they may otherwise have been excluded from. Participants were able to build upon professional relationships with staff. Young people identified the programme as extremely positive in enabling them to undertake activities that they otherwise would be unable to access.

Motivational and Brief Intervention training undertaken by staff has increased the options for working with young people in 2018.

#### **NW10 Education Plan**

##### **Action 56**

This project in 2017 continues to evolve an Education Plan for the North West Region, which can directly train staff in care, planning, key working and case management.

The Education Plan has trained 32 individuals in 2017 in QQI LEVEL 5 Community Addiction Studies training. This training is aimed at delivering a range of Education and Training opportunities for professionals and non-professionals in the field of drug and alcohol related issues.

In 2017 it provided a suite of evidence based education programmes based on quality education and training programmes for the North West Region. Provided a 2 day CPD programme of training that introduced the practitioner to the evidenced based psychosocial method of intervention.

In 2017 the Education Plan also ran National Addiction Training Programme SOAR Screening and Brief Interventions, with 57 actual attending and was only targeted to run for 32 participants. The programme underpins and supports the SAOR model of Screening and Brief Interventions based on practice scenarios. Applying SOAR models to practice issues and accessing useful links and reference materials for further research.

In 2017 Education Plan ran training around the emerging trend of New Psychoactive Substances. Total of 65 participants looked at the overview of NPS and the trends for them. Looked at new emerging drugs and variants of NPS and the access to online availability as well as the legislation surrounding them.

In 2017 with a delivery of an Introduction to Hidden Harm Training sessions. A full list of training can be resourced from the NWRDATF website.

**NW12 Youth Drug & Alcohol Education & Prevention Project Sligo  
Action 23**

Project Staff linked in with the coordinators of Youth Reach and the Community Training Centre to organise and facilitate Group Work Programmes at suitable/appropriate times for young people attending in LCA 1, LCA 2 and Junior Certificate to address substance use issues.

**Action 26**

All programmes were delivered in the context of Foróige's Tobacco, Alcohol & Drugs Policy and Guidelines which adhere to the DEWF Quality Standards in Substance Education. Programmes were evaluated using Foróige's Evaluation Framework (Review, Assess, Plan, Implement and Evaluate) to identify increases in knowledge and changes in behaviour on the part of young people involved in the programmes.

**Action 29**

Individual families benefitted from family support through the project with the project being involved in the Meitheal process for specific families. Parents of young people in one to one or groups were provided with up to date and accurate information re: substance use and kept informed on their young person's progress. Appropriate interventions for families dealing with substance use/misuse were provided in a coordinated approach with interagency planning and programme implementation.

**Action 30**

All programmes were run in the context of ownership over the programme by young people involved to promote collaboration and participation. There was a small increase in expected numbers of young people engaged in the project in 2017.

100 young people completed primary (focus on preventing the onset of drug use/experimentation) prevention programmes. As a result of the programme young people increased their knowledge 'I learned how smoking effects your body', 'how many units of alcohol a man and a woman can have in a day and a week', and dispelled common myths about drug and alcohol use and its impacts. They learned new life skills which they were able to apply to cope with drug related situations and to identify and engage in healthy behaviours in their own community.

Young people gained an understanding of the long-term consequences of substance use and identified and practised methods of resisting peer pressure and effectively saying no to drugs and alcohol 'I learned ways to handle difficult situations', 'that you should never to judge someone by their appearance or by one little piece of information, you have to get to know them'. Young people's attitude to the programme was that 'it helps you for the years ahead'; 'because it's really helpful'; 'because it's encouraging and gives you lots of information'; 'because it tells you how to live responsibly'; 'it was a really fun'. Role play was used effectively with these young people.

144 young people completed secondary (focus on preventing the escalation of drug use and/or reducing the harm associated with drug misuse) prevention programmes. As a result of the programme young people were able to assess the risks and consequences of their decisions in relation to substance use and related issues, enhance their communication and decision making skills to prevent or reduce harm for themselves and others around them and make informed choices about their substance use, 'That ecstasy doesn't often contain any MD, it contains that PMMA stuff', 'street speed only contains 15% amphetamine the rest is made up of rubbish'; 'cannabis is linked to mental illnesses especially if people start smoking young'. They were able to apply practical strategies to manage substance related situations and access information, supports and services available to them. One group of young people stated 'only going out with our gang of friends because when the group starts getting bigger that's when all the trouble starts'. 'Not downing drinks really quickly to get drunk', 'getting bottles instead of pints'. Visual scenario activities were used effectively with these young people.

8 young people engaged in individual work programmes. Young people were able to recognise that their peer group can often influence the decisions they make and from this identified strategies to minimize the influence of their peers e.g. 'I've just learned to say no and my friends are sound about it'. Young people were able to identify that their decisions can have positive & negative outcomes in particular on their capacity to access educational options and took steps to change this. Young people also gained greater understanding of the impact of their actions on family and friends. Those engaging in these programmes demonstrated a reduction in the amount of cannabis/alcohol used; better attendance at school/ Youth Reach; less erratic and more positive relationship with parents and siblings; hanging around with a more positive peer group which further reduces alcohol/cannabis misuse and an increase in participation in more positive health promoting behaviours i.e. joining GAA team/boxing and the gym. Young people also developed their own safe plans for going out socially. Role plays and risk scenarios were used effectively with these young people.

54 additional young people attended a youth friendly event on St Patricks Day in Tubbercurry which included an inflatable laser tag arena, arcade games, music, prizes and giveaways. This resulted in high risk young people taking part in activities that diverted them from substance misuse on St Patricks Day & building a positive relationship with project staff. 32 young people from Foróige & the No Name Club worked together over the Easter holidays to participate in a Graffiti Mural Project on the Tubbercurry Library wall, which promoted positive engagement with Project Staff and provided young people with the opportunity to participate in positive alternative activities. Engagement with Cranmore Community Safety Task Force and Cranmore's Inside & Out Project facilitated the delivery of a programme with young people attending Resource House afterschool.

41 young people took part in a 6 week summer programme which enabled them to apply themselves in positive, age appropriate activities in and outside of the project. They discovered the positives of alternative activities and developed constructive relationships with project staff. Young people were able to build on their own strengths and competencies by taking part in health promoting activities and behaviours. By working with Keith Lyons Project (community coordinator with Sligo Co Council) and Enniscrone FRC project staff were able to identify, target & recruit hard to reach young people from both urban and rural areas. The summer programme facilitated those who had previously attended programmes to re-engage with the project.

Project staff continued to promote best practice and quality standards for substance use in the area, facilitate referrals, provide appropriate interventions in a coordinated way and raise the profile of the service by initiating and maintaining good ongoing relationships with the HSE Addiction Counsellor for Young People, local schools, Mercy College (LCA Coordinator), Family Resource Centres and other Youth clubs.

#### **NW13 Youth Drug & Alcohol Education & Prevention Project Donegal Action: 19**

This project in 2017 designed and implemented a high volume of quality drug education programmes as appropriate for under 18s. Promoting healthier lifestyle choices amongst young people in particular those using or at risk of using drugs/alcohol, by equipping them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes to enable them to make positive informed decisions around their own behaviour.

In 2017 this programme ran 5 x 10-week Primary Prevention Programmes with 60 young people aged between 10-17 years old. This programme is about preventing the onset of drug use and experimentation and focuses on providing information and increasing knowledge exploring attitudes and opinions and developing self-esteem and social skills.

Young people were then able to list the effects of different substances and understand the consequences of drug use. Therefore, examining attitudes and beliefs to substance related issues. Developing life skills such as communication and relationships.

Project ran 6 x 20 week programmes with individuals at risk focusing on staying safe, cutting down alcohol and reducing cannabis use. Project also ran 5-day summer programmes for 10-17 year olds 30 attended. Strong links made this year with the Donegal GAA Health and Wellbeing Committee. Ran 3-day summer programme 20 attended.

### **Action 23**

Implemented age appropriate substance prevention / awareness programmes in training settings, including Community Training facilities e.g. Youth Reach. In 2017 young people completed distance star activity pre and post programme.

Project worked with the DECK in Donegal Town increasing young people's knowledge in relation to drugs and alcohol. Also worked with a group at high risk in Letterkenny who followed the brief intervention programme. Young people completed an intake interview and evaluation 4 out of 7 young people who said that now the programme was over they had stopped drinking completely. This group have now moved into a group called the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship NFTE a cutting edge world recognised youth education and development programme.

### **Action 26**

The project in 2017 worked with Killybegs GAA one person stated that "when I go to school I can listen better". After the group lessons more young people were aware of the dangers of drugs and smoking featured high on the list.

The project also worked with Lifford youth reach who were using Cannabis instead of alcohol. On finishing the programme, they had a clearer understanding of the effects on the body.

Project ran also in St Johnson who showed very clear signs of behavioural problems associated with alcohol and drug use. This group are now engaging well and will need more work in 2018 as they are focusing on a Citizen Project.

### **Action 29**

There has been a steady increase in the work completed with families having trouble with children at risk. In particular, there is a problem with some parents in the group mentioned above in St Johnson.

### **Action 30**

The Sonic Foroige Club Letterkenny entered the Foroige Citizens Awards in April 2017. This entailed young people organising and holding a sensory sensitive disco for young people with Autism. Two of this group

went onto receive an award in Dublin and were interviewed by judges on the day and they felt confident enough to do this after attending the self-esteem part of the drug programme.

The project has been involved in a number of programmes throughout the county, which targets youth at risk and tailors courses to suit individual needs of the youth groups. In 2017 the project ran 8 x 10-week Secondary Prevention programmes with 90 people attending. The project also involved Buncrana youth reach the programme was tailored to the needs of this group in relation to drinking and mixing drugs. This programme was highly praised young people felt more at ease talking about their drug use at the end of the programme and learned to have a safe plan and to follow it.

The project is responding to different needs having young people at the centre, they value their input through planning, design and evaluation of the content. All programmes are run on a needs basis therefore any emerging needs are addressed.

#### **NW21 Afterschool Project (Traveller Community)**

##### **Action 29**

The Afterschool Project operates under the structure of Sligo Traveller Support Group. It provided a safe and secure environment for young people whose home life was impacted on by drug and alcohol misuse. This added to a sense of routine becoming more embedded into their way of life. Through the project young people became more capable of participating in school activities. Both the young people and their siblings/parents engaged more consistently with the education system. Teacher and school reports identified improvements in children's abilities, positive changes in behaviour, attendance and improvements ongoing. Young peoples' skills and competencies have developed due to better attendance and improved confidence. Additional supports for certain individuals were identified and addressed.

A new Afterschool was started in Tubbercurry in addition to the Sligo Town based service with 55 young people attending daily between both venues, 5 days a week. This was to address the increased participation and support seeking from families in rural areas.

60 additional young people took part in the Easter and Summer camps and Christmas events.

#### **NW24 Parentstop**

##### **Action 29**

In 2017 the Parent Stop project continued supporting families and sign posting them to much needed services.

The project continues to offer free and confidential parenting support in Donegal from Inishowen to South Central West and North West to South

Donegal. Those referred by court, social work social care, school are all advised to come to Parent Stop

In 2017 Parentstop 621 families were supported and 219 supported by brief interventions. 402 families were supported intensively through one to one and Group interventions and 125 parents had attended group sessions. Parents / Guardians, grandparents and children had access to a support service that was timely and responsive and met their needs.

In 2017 186 families were supported with substance misuse and addiction identified as a core concern with is 30 % of the core group of service users. Parentstop provided signposting to support services and access to other services. Families therefore feel supported and underpinned within their community. In 2017 Parentstop continued to advocate for open and accessible parenting support as well as keeping up to date. In June 2017 UN Global Parents Day saw 160 parents and carers attend the service.

The Project is continuing to promoting positive parenting and focuses on key parenting messages for delaying the age of making risky lifestyle choices; coping with substance misuse in the home; and coping with the impact on families.

**NW27 NWAF Family Support Programme (Strengthening Families Programme)**

**Action 29**

The project developed capacity and training in a range of agencies and interventions for drug and alcohol issues to support children, young people and their families again this was restricted to Donegal County in 2017. The project continues to improve Interagency awareness and verbal commitment to support roll out by participants. This year this project only ran three programmes in 2017 all focusing on Letterkenny. Programmes were held in the first two quarters, one further programmes ran in between September and December 2017. 10 families had been referred to each programme. The programme also ran a 2-day train the leader programme in 2017.

Category **	Project Code	Project Name
Prevention & Education	NW5	Youth Drug & Alcohol Worker Project, Leitrim
	NW10	Education and Prevention Co-ordinator
	NW12	Youth Drug & Alcohol Worker Project, Sligo
	NW13	Youth Drugs & Alcohol Service, Donegal
	NW21	Afterschool Project (Traveller Children)
	NW24	Parentstop - Tackling Drugs & Alcohol
	NW27	NWAF Family Support Programme (Strengthening Families Programme)
	NW28	Training & Education Budget

**Form A**

<b>DRUG &amp; ALCOHOL TASK FORCE: NORTH WEST</b>	
<b>Pillar *:</b>	<b>Treatment &amp; Rehabilitation</b>
<p><b>DATE objective:</b> <b>(Related to NDS 2009-2016)</b></p>	<p><b>Action 32:</b> Develop a comprehensive integrated national treatment and rehabilitation service for all substance users using a 4-tier model approach. This will incorporate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ the ongoing development of the spread and range of treatment services;</li> <li>▪ the recommendations of the Report of the Working Group on Drugs Rehabilitation;</li> <li>▪ the recommendations of the Report of the HSE Working Group on Residential Treatment &amp; Rehabilitation (Substance Abuse); and the provision of access to substance misuse treatment within one month of assessment.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action 36:</b> Continue to develop and implement across health services the screening/ assessment of people presenting with early indicators of drug and alcohol issues, utilising a uniform brief intervention tool, and including referral where appropriate.</p> <p><b>Action 41:</b> Support families trying to cope with substance - related problems, in line with the recommendations of the Report of the Working Group on Drugs Rehabilitation.</p> <p><b>Action 44:</b> Address the treatment and rehabilitation needs of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Travellers;</li> <li>▪ New Communities;</li> <li>▪ LDBTs;</li> <li>▪ Homeless; and</li> <li>▪ Sex Workers</li> </ul> <p>This should be facilitated by engagement with representatives of those communities and/or services working with those groups as appropriate.</p>
<p><b>Outcomes:</b></p>	<p><b>NW4 Whiteoaks</b></p> <p><b>Action 32</b></p> <p>In 2017 this project continues to runs after care programmes in four different locations in both Sligo, and Donegal. They provide on-going support to all those attending relapse groups and linking in with other NWRDATF projects. They also provide follow up and relapse one to one counselling sessions when relapse groups are not accessible to individuals, and conduct exit interviews from treatment on a weekly basis going into recovery.</p> <p>In 2017 project continues to encourage more support through telephone and one to one follow-ups of individual service users and families on a monthly basis over the two year aftercare period. Service users are continuing to link</p>

in with other NWRDATF projects primarily Assertive Outreach Workers in both Sligo and Donegal.

In 2017 there were 113 Service Users, from January 1<sup>st</sup> until the 31<sup>st</sup> of December that had been referred to step down and aftercare from primary care treatment. Those eligible to participate in the Aftercare Programme were both male and female Service Users over 18 years old who had completed primary care residential treatment from alcohol, drugs and gambling. These Service Users had been discharged with staff approval or referred to another treatment centre.

In 2017 there were 113 Service Users completing the six weeks, which included six meditation relaxation sessions and were practising relaxation/ breathing techniques on their own at home on a daily basis.

Sessions in 2017 presented and discussed six of the following recovery themed lectures: Spirituality Core Beliefs, Character Defects & Cognitive Distortions, Self Esteem, Self-Pity and Poor Me's and Gratitude, Anxiety and Depression, and Assertiveness.

All Service Users were therefore in a better position to help new peers in the Peer Recovery Group. Service Users have completed 7 steps of introduction to CBT "Self Help Course in CBT" in 2017.

#### **NW14 Holistic Therapy – Sligo**

##### **Action 32**

This project functioned as a Tier 2 service within the 4-Tier model. It operated through Ballymote FRC providing a county wide service. A part-time worker was allocated to ensure effective coordination of the service. Management and worker implemented best practice guidelines and ensured that the service adhered to good governance policies and procedures. The service had developed and continued to maintain effective working relationships with HSE Addiction Services, Mental Health Services, NWRDATF Assertive Outreach Workers, local GPs and support groups (AA & AL-ANON) with ongoing referral of service users from HSE Addiction Services and referral to other relevant services by the Holistic Therapy service. A constructive and collaborative approach resulted in a common understanding of the problem facing service users in recovery from addiction and a joint approach agreed with clients to addressing it.

Uptake of new service users reduced in 2017 with 29 people accessing the service. Full attendance was maintained on arranged sessions with participants completing an evaluation to inform service delivery. The service provision continued to result in a reduction in service users needing to re-engage with the programme. Service users developed the ability to change in a positive and meaningful way. They acquired enhanced coping behaviours including dealing with stress in their lives. An increase in their self-esteem and self-worth led to the re-building of relationships within their family and work place. The alternative therapies provided by qualified therapists

presented another option for service users in dealing with their addiction rather than pharmacological interventions.

Through the FRC's structure, service users accessed additional supports for their treatment and rehabilitation. These included education/training, volunteering/ community involvement options, and social networking opportunities. An Assertiveness course was delivered which provided participants with an opportunity to increase their confidence and gain the knowledge to deal with conflict in an appropriate manner. The lack of childcare support in the period due to the loss of a childcare worker does not appear to have had any negative impact on clients' participation in the programme.

**Action 41**

Due to budgetary constraints, the focus of this service is on the individual requiring treatment supports however, families were supported through referral to other FRC services and external agencies. Additional supports and networks can be accessed through the services provided by the FRCs as identified in Action 32.

**NW15 Holistic Therapy – Leitrim**

**Action 32**

This project operated as a Tier 2 service within the 4-Tier model, embedded within Breffni (Carrick-on-Shannon) and Mohill FRCs. The service continued to build on effective working relationships with HSE Addiction Services and local GPs and maintain its informal link to 12 step programmes NA and AA through these groups' use of Centres. This increased referral and treatment options for service users. 24 service users engaged in Brief Therapy sessions. Through these sessions service users were able to identify obstacles to their recovery and prevent relapse, improve relationships with their family members and neighbours, improve their overall health ('self-care') and take an active role in local and regional supports (related to target groups, e.g. Men's Group, IT training for unemployed etc.). The Brief Therapy sessions were complemented by an in-house counselling service. This service facilitated onward referral of service users to specialised addiction counselling.

As an add-on to Brief Therapy 43 service users availed of the Drop-In service. Service users' feedback on this support was 90% positive with clients reporting increased relaxation and confidence. 9 service users per session also accessed the SMART Recovery Peer Support Group with 549 attendances recorded. This Group operated on a voluntary basis but complemented and added value to the Holistic service funded through NWRDATF. The continuity (52 weeks) of this group was identified as a positive element in maintaining recovery for service users. Service users have the opportunity to self-identify their leadership capacity and take a leading role in the support group. The Group provided an alternative option for service users who did not find AA/NA a suitable recovery support for themselves and was particularly targeted at service users newly entering recovery.

Alcohol and Drug Awareness sessions were offered to young people. Uptake on these continued to be poor. This lack of attendance at / interest in these sessions implies two issues: a reluctance to engage with the topic and a need to target people at risk with a different strategy. One to one therapies are much better received, perhaps because of anonymity issue.

Through the FRC structure the project offers additional support services to those in recovery from substance misuse including childcare; education/ training; job club; volunteering/community involvement options; men's and women's support groups; specific support groups (ADHD, bereavement supports); personal development; and social networking opportunities. Links with other community based services and targeted provision of information helped publicise the service and facilitate referrals and self-referrals.

#### **Action 41**

Due to budgetary constraints, the focus of this service continued to be on the individual requiring treatment supports however, families were supported through referral to other FRC services and external agencies. Additional supports and networks can be accessed through the services provided by the FRCs as identified in Action 32.

#### **NW18 Holistic Therapies – Donegal**

##### **Action 32**

The project in 2017 continued to coordinate a programme of holistic therapies by working in partnership with existing services and initiating new avenues to the treatment and rehabilitation of those suffering drug addiction and their families. The project reported a good up-take in those accessing the service and highlights many referrals from NW 25 outreach worker service. The project is operating on Tier 2.

In 2017 the Holistic Therapy Project in Letterkenny offered 6 sessions of therapy to each participant over a period suitable to their needs. The therapies they could choose included: Reflexology, Reiki, Indian Head Massage or Auricular Acupuncture. 80 people used this service in 2017.

##### **Action 36**

Service is being used as a brief intervention tool, which is well received by service users. Participants and Service Users gain an awareness of the benefit of taking time to relax and reduce stress in their lives. Many participants expressed an increase in confidence and self-worth as a result of reducing stress through the programme.

##### **Action 41**

In 2017 Holistic therapies continued to engage with families of service users and volunteers. Holistic therapies that are hosted within LCDP are linked in with CE staff who work in the area of Family Support and group work. Holistic Therapy in Donegal links in with the community and voluntary sector to access suitable premises for carrying out the Holistic Therapy Programme.

The project in 2017 ran the holistic programme from eight community premises throughout Donegal County. Donegal Holistic Therapies had in 2017 a panel of ten therapists.

The Holistic Therapy Project continued to link with the Therapists on their Panel, along with the Community & Voluntary Sector, Addictions Services and G.P.s to ensure a collaborative approach to the Holistic Therapy Programme.

### **NW19 Assertive Outreach Worker – Sligo**

#### **Action 32**

This project operates as a Tier 2 service within the 4-Tier model approach and covers Sligo Town and environs. In 2017 the service was down one worker from the beginning of the year until August which impacted on service provision. To facilitate its reach throughout Sligo Town and environs the service continued to link in with and develop its relationships with other agencies and organisations including: other NWRDATF projects, HSE Addiction Service, Social Services, Cranmore Re-generation, Focus Ireland, Simon Community, HSE Social Work Team, Sligo Borough Council, Gardai, VEC, Whiteoaks Treatment Centre, Probation Service, Probation Resettlement Service (Irish Prison Service), GP's, and Social Work Department, Sligo General Hospital. The service was an active member of the NWRDATF Treatment and Rehabilitation Working Group throughout 2017.

The service provided counselling, referral and accompaniment to other services for those presenting with substance misuse. The service uses a variety of evidence-based approaches to the treatment of substance misuse including Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA), CBT, Motivational Interviewing and Brief Solution Focused Therapy. 44 service users took up one to one counselling with the project in 2017. Outcomes for service users included a greater sense of awareness around the harm their substance misuse is causing them, the triggers and high risk situations that lead them to substance misuse and development of their own relapse prevention plan. Service users identified varied supports in their communities from education and training through to self-help and mutual support organisations and engaged more consistently with their families. Service users had a framework to look at any possible future lapses (relapse functional analysis) to prevent a longer relapse. Positive outcomes for clients included being substance free, decrease in reported lapses and still actively using but engaging with service and reducing use.

The Facilitated Group Therapy – Relapse Prevention Group was put on hold until the staff vacancy was filled and the new worker had taken up the post and completed induction and probation periods.

In 2017 the service continued to run LifeRing – a peer led-support group for those in recovery. An average of 5 service users attended this programme weekly. Through the LifeRing group service users gained a better understanding of other forms of support allowing them a choice in their own recovery plan. By engaging with the group they were able to discuss their

own needs and concerns and use the cross talk methodology to make more informed and sustainable decisions on their own recovery. Group members also had access to a group support worker. As part of their development the LifeRing group were empowered to set their own agendas, lead their own group, practice being self-sufficient and make informed choices.

The service in collaboration with the Substance Misuse Worker for the Homeless project designed and facilitated a non-accredited modular facilitated training programme for 10 service users engaging in the CE Rehabilitation Scheme funded through the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Through this 22 week programme service users accessed targeted counselling, shared their learning and experience from the CE Scheme with other group members, and gained additional skills and supports to maintain their recovery.

#### **Action 36**

Brief Intervention Support provided 6 service users with prompt availability of a service which enabled them to have a clearer understanding of their own needs and concerns regarding their substance use and to access the information and support they needed to address these.

#### **Action 41**

In 2017 support to families of substance misusers through counselling and advice, links and referral to other services was provided in a limited capacity due to staff vacancy as above. The service actively recognises the role of the family in providing support to the recovering drug user. It provided a Counselling Service for 7 Concerned Significant Others (CSO's) which incorporated the Community Reinforcement Approach and Family Training programme (CRAFT). By providing CSO's with evidence based and evidence informed approaches the project enabled them to support their own mental health, increase their self-esteem & reduce stress levels. They were able to engage with their loved one in non-drinking behaviour and assertively disengage for drinking behaviour – allowing natural consequences. CSO's were able to use their knowledge about their loved ones drinking patterns and triggers to create optimal conditions for change. With less conflict in the home, life for both the Concerned Significant Other and the wider family was enhanced regardless of whether the substance misuser engaged in treatment or not.

#### **NW20 Traveller Men's Programme**

##### **Action 32**

This project operates as a Tier 2 project within the 4-Tier model approach. As part of this approach, the project has linked with other agencies and organisations including other NWRDATF projects; Assertive Outreach Sligo, Sligo, Mayo, Donegal, Leitrim, Roscommon, Limerick and Kerry Traveller Projects, HSE Addiction Service – Charter House, Sligo Co Council/Housing services, FRC'S in Sligo Town and County, Gardaí, Probation Service, Mental Health Services and Domestic Violence Advocacy Service (DVAS).

**Action 41**

Sligo Traveller Support Group utilised the connections made with participants on their Traveller Men's Programme to access extended family members both to create awareness of substance misuse and identify those in need of support. As part of their awareness raising on substance misuse both service users and their siblings gained a greater understanding of substance misuse issues with 10 service users actively participating in 2017.

**Action 44**

The project is embedded in the Traveller Community. The sponsoring organisation is managed by a Board, which is comprised of members of both the Traveller and Settled communities. It is dealing with Treatment and Rehabilitation issues for those who have drug and alcohol issues, those who are in recovery and their families. The project is linked in with the wider work of Sligo Traveller Support Group, which aims to improve the quality of life for Travellers in Sligo by addressing accommodation, health, youth, childcare, education, training and employment needs and working to counteract the causes and effects of prejudice and discrimination.

The community model used provided Traveller men with a programme of involvement in sports activities i.e. boxing and football and skills development e.g. a carpentry programme facilitated by a member of the Traveller community. 16 Traveller men and boys took part in carpentry, 22 in football and 18 in boxing. Greater uptake in football and boxing was limited by the restructuring of the football team and the retirement of head boxing coach. Newly developed working protocols with probation officers, and community service clients and awareness raising on the impact of substance misuse continued to be incorporated into the programme. 10 Traveller men engaged with this aspect of the programme with 1 individual engaging proactively with probation and 2 with community service. There has been consistent involvement with programme activities particularly sport which promotes abstinence from substance use and acts as a diversion from involvement with substance use/misuse. Service users are more physically fit and more aware of the impact involvement in the sport and skills based programmes can have on their mental health. Service users have a more varied range of options to support and/or initiate their recovery. Initial work undertaken on the development of an equestrian/equine skills programme did not progress any further in 2017 due to delays in Co. Council negotiations.

**NW23 Substance Misuse Worker for the Homeless****Action 32**

This project operates as a Tier 2 project within the 4-Tier model approach. Services were provided to Homeless Substance Misusers, Substance Misusers at risk of Homelessness and those in Recovery. As part of its approach the project has linked with other agencies and organisations including: Sligo Borough Council; HSE Addiction Services, Mental Health Social Work team, Focus Ireland; Simon; St. Vincent de Paul; Probation Services; Sligo VEC; other NWRDATF projects; Men's Shed community project and Social Services internal staff among others.

The project attempted to deal with both the short and long-term housing needs of problem drug users through an inter-agency approach facilitated by Maryville Hostel staff's participation in the Sligo Homeless Action Team, subsequent referrals to the Substance Misuse Worker project and linkages with Focus Ireland and Simon. Delivery was based on a continuum of care and effective case management within the context of a quality standards framework.

The project participated in Sligo Social Services sub-group to develop a CE Drug Rehabilitation Programme, including recruitment of participants and their assessment and support. This work was undertaken in collaboration with the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, HSE Charter House and the NWRDATF and provides a progression route for those in rehabilitation from substance misuse.

#### **Action 44**

The project addressed the needs of the Homeless and those who were at risk of Homelessness due to drug and alcohol misuse. 41 services users were targeted through contact work-ongoing. As a result their immediate needs were identified through informal engagement and regular access provided to basics e.g. meals/personal hygiene facilities. Service users increased their awareness of harms from their substance misuse and reduced their contact with emergency services (hospital/Gardaí) and their engagement in substance misuse behaviour. Engagement in key working and group working was identified as an outcome to maintain and build upon changes made by these service users where possible.

34 individuals actively engaged in key working. Individuals in this cohort completed referral forms, support plans and were allocated NDTRS codes for future reporting online. Through this longer periods of abstinence/controlled usages were achieved. There were increased links between participants and service providers and more connectedness to the local community. Individuals were supported in recognition of prior skills and learning new skills to facilitate personal or career aspirations. Service users improved their home management skills and their physical health and nutrition. They were able to reduce the impact of substance misuse [harm reduction model] and enjoy a safer life.

50 individuals took part in various group work programmes including: Housing Support, Gardening, Holistic Therapy, Arts and Crafts, and Cookery. Through these programmes service users improved their basic life skills, timekeeping, attendance and ability to complete tasks. They learned how to plan, prioritise and resolve problems in a healthy way. They improved their ability to seek help and address issues independently. Service users' self-esteem increased along with their capacity to adapt to responsibility and stresses, value self-care, improve their interpersonal skills and demonstrate increased motivation. The importance of these group work activities to service users is reflected in the regular and in some cases 100% attendance which was a

feature of this part of the project's work. Some service users have gone on to access these activities through other external services.

The service in collaboration with the Assertive Outreach Worker, Sligo project designed and facilitated a non-accredited training programme for 10 service users engaging in the CE Rehabilitation Scheme funded through the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Through this 22 week programme service users accessed targeted counselling, shared their learning and experience from the CE Scheme with other group members, and gained additional skills and supports to maintain their recovery. Although there was significant work (additional to the previous role of the Substance Misuse Worker for the Homeless) involved in providing this modular facilitated training programme it did lead to recognising that a large portion of participants on the CE scheme had housing concerns, and were at risk of homelessness.

### **NW25 Assertive Outreach Worker Donegal**

#### **Action 32**

In 2017 the assertive outreach worker in Donegal targeted adult drug users over 18 by working with the client group in their own environment. NW25 encourages service users to participate in treatment and rehabilitation. This service provides a drop in service, within the community setting where the target group can gain access in a confidential and friendly environment. Providing sign posting to other supports including voluntary and statutory groups and other NWRDATF projects including Holistic Therapies.

The project continues to offer a 2-tier service offering choice and direct access to service provision feeding into all tiers and accepting referrals from all tiers. One to one service user lead support: including individual assessment, care plan, and care plan review, in line with Soar Model, and NDRIC standards for drug and alcohol services within a multidisciplinary setting, using the Community Reinforcement Approach (CRA) and Community Reinforcement Approach Family Therapy (CRAFT).

#### **Action 36**

The project carries out a comprehensive assessment of needs with service users, which highlights early indicators of misuse / harm. In 2017 the project engaged and reported on 314 actual service users all reported back through completed NDTRS forms. The project offered individual information and advice on drug and alcohol use and misuse. It also provided 4 groups with information and advice on same. In 2017 the project provided one to one service user lead support including care planning and review, in line with SOAR Model and NDRIC standards for drug and alcohol services. This is all within a multidisciplinary setting using the Community Reinforcement Approach and Family Therapy CRAFT.

#### **Action 41**

Family supports are available on a one to one basis using CRAFT skills. The outreach worker and existing CDP staff and volunteers provide education,

	advice, and access to holistic services. In 2017 the project ran individual and group activities to encourage pro social behaviours in line with CRAFT. In 2017 the project saw 161 service users, taking part in Mens Sheds, Arts Crafts, Upcycling and SMART recovery groups. The outcomes of this is that service users have the skills and motivation to address drug and alcohol issues and work towards making a change in behaviour reducing the harmful effects of drugs and alcohol.	
<b>Category **</b>	<b>Project Code</b>	<b>Project Name</b>
<b>Treatment &amp; Rehabilitation</b>	NW4	White Oaks Rehabilitation Centre Donegal
	NW14	Holistic Therapy Service, Sligo
	NW15	Holistic Therapy Service, Leitrim
	NW18	Holistic Therapy Service, Donegal
	NW19	Assertive Outreach Worker, Sligo
	NW20	Traveller Men's Project, Sligo
	NW23	Substance Misuse Worker for the Homeless Sligo
	NW25	Assertive Outreach Worker, Letterkenny
<b>Project changes/ terminations in 2017</b>		
<b>Category **</b>	<b>Project Code</b>	<b>Project Name &amp; Reason</b>
<b>Treatment &amp; Rehabilitation</b>	NW14	Holistic Therapy Service, Sligo – Re-allocation of project budget in 2018 to other identified service priorities.
<b>Treatment &amp; Rehabilitation</b>	NW15	Holistic Therapy Service, Sligo – Re-allocation of project budget in 2018 to other identified service priorities.
<b>Treatment &amp; Rehabilitation</b>	NW18	Holistic Therapy Service, Sligo – Re-allocation of project budget in 2018 to other identified service priorities.

\* A separate form should be completed for each Pillar

\*\* Category should be as per Section 7 of the L/RDTF 1 form

- **Information in relation to governance of the NWRDATF:**
  - a) **An Operational Handbook:** is in place with a strong emphasis on additional governance. Additional sections include Media & Teleconferencing
  - b) **QuADS Policies & Procedures:** The staff team have completed the implementation of QuADS policies and procedures with all projects.

### North West Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force Members

NAME			SECTOR
1. Cllr	Rosaleen	O'Grady	Chairperson
2. Mr	Stephen	McLaughlin	Voluntary Sector – White Oaks, Donegal
3. Ms	Mary	Taylor	Voluntary Sector – Chairperson Leitrim Committee
4. Mr	Patrick	Benson	Community Sector - Sligo
5. Cllr	Justin	Warnock	Public Rep - Leitrim
6. Mr	Damien	Willis	Statutory Sector - Sligo County Council
7. Ms	Christina	McTaggart	Voluntary Sector – Sligo Social Services
8. Supt	Mary	Murray	Statutory Sector - Garda Siochana
9. Ms	Lorraine	Thompson	Voluntary Sector - Donegal Youth Service
10. Ms	Bernadette	Maughan	New Communities- Sligo Travellers Group
11. Dr	Parvez	Butt	Community Sector - Sligo
12. Ms	Susan	McLoughlin	Voluntary Sector - Foroige Donegal
13. Ms	Martha	McNulty	Statutory Sector – Revenue Commissioners
14. Ms	Patricia	Garland	Statutory Sector – HSE West
15. Dr	Martin	Gormley	Statutory Sector – Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
16. Ms	Patricia	Lee	Voluntary Sector- Chairperson Donegal Committee
17. Ms	Mary	McKiernan	Community Sector – Leitrim
18. Mr	Kieran	Doherty	Special Interest Groups –Alcohol Forum
19. Mr	Gary	Glennon	Voluntary Sector – Donegal Youth Information
20. Ms	Anne	Duke	Probation & Welfare
21. Mr	Francie	Gilmartin	Community Rep - Leitrim
22. Mr	Siobhan	McLaughlin	Community - Donegal
23. Mr	Gerry	Hone	TUSLA

### NWRDATF Executive Committee Members

1.	Rosaleen	O'Grady	Independent	Chairperson
2.	Martin	Gormley	Statutory	Mayo, Sligo, Leitrim ETB
3.	Kieran	Doherty	Special Interest Group	The Alcohol Forum
4.	Jerry	Lundy	Public Rep	Sligo
5.	Patricia	Garland	Statutory	HSE Representative – Sligo/Leitrim
6.	Christina	McTaggart	Voluntary Sector	Voluntary Representative – Sligo
7.	Francie	Gilmartin	PPN Rep	Community Representative - Leitrim

### NWRDATF Treatment & Rehabilitation Sub group Members

#### NWRDATF Treatment & Rehabilitation Sub-Group Members

1.	Mark	Askey	Community/Voluntary	Assertive Outreach Worker Project, Sligo
2.	Pat	Benson	Community/Voluntary	Public Participation Network, Sligo
3.	Donna	Butler	Voluntary	Families Matter, Alcohol Forum, Donegal
4.	Patricia	Foley	Private	Rushelodge Treatment Centre, Leitrim
5.	Francis	Gilmartin	Community/Voluntary	Public Participation Network, Leitrim
6.	Majella	Green	Community/Voluntary	C.E. Rehabilitation Scheme, Rossinver, Leitrim
7.	Matthew	Halligan	Private	Living Wheel System – Managing Change Donegal
8.	Martin	Jones	Statutory	HSE, Sligo
9.	Angela	Maguire	Private	De Exeter House, Donegal
10.	Bernadette	Maughan	Community/Voluntary	Traveller Men Programme, (Sligo Traveller Support Group), Sligo
11.	Cora	McAlear	Statutory	HSE, Donegal
12.	Dermot	McDonough	Voluntary	White Oaks Rehabilitation Centre
13.	Martin	McFadden	Community/Voluntary	Friends of the Bill W Club, Donegal
14.	Sean	McGrory	Voluntary	Jigsaw, Donegal
15.	Michelle	McShane	Statutory	Probation Service, Donegal
16.	Darren	O'Brien	Community/Voluntary	Assertive Outreach Worker Project, Sligo
17.	Rosaleen	O'Grady	Public Representative/ Interim Chair Taskforce	Sligo/ Sligo, Leitrim, Donegal
18.	Leonard	Taylor	Voluntary	Substance Misuse Worker for the Homeless, Sligo
19.	Margaret	Toner	Community/Voluntary	C.E. Rehabilitation Scheme, Co. Donegal
20.	Mary	Healy Vernon	Community/Voluntary	Assertive Outreach Worker, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal
21.	Catherine	Young	Voluntary	C.E. Rehabilitation Scheme, Sligo

### NWRDATF Education and Prevention Sub Group Members

1.	Christina	McEleney	NW Education Plan	Donegal VEC
2.	Peter	Walker	Statutory	Social Inclusion/HSE
3.	Paddy	Muldoon	Statutory	VEC Donegal
4.	Kathleen	McHugh	Voluntary	Donegal Town FRC
5.	Kieran	Doherty	Voluntary	The Alcohol Forum
6.	Lorraine	Thompson	Voluntary	Donegal Youth Service
7.	Martin	McFadden	Voluntary	Friends of the Bill W Club, Donegal
8.	Eimear	O'Connor	Voluntary	FORIOGE
9.	Mary	McKiernan	Community	Leitrim
10.	Parvaz	Butt	Voluntary	Rape Crisis Sligo Body Wise
11.	Jerry	Lundy	Public Rep	Sligo
12.	Rosaline	O'Grady	Public Rep	Sligo

### NWRDATF Ltd – Directors

1.	Loman	Conway	Independent	Company Secretary
2.	Mary	McKiernan	Community	Leitrim Community Forum
3.	Cllr Rosaleen	O'Grady	Public Rep	Sligo
4.	Bernadette	Maughan	New Communities	Sligo

**No of Task Force Meetings held per annum:** 6

**No of Subgroups Meetings:** 3

**No of meetings held per annum in total:** 9

- *Executive Committee:* 4
- *Treatment & Rehabilitation sub Committee:* 5
- *Education & Prevention sub Committee:* 4
- *NWRDATF Plc* 2
- *Project Evaluation Sub Committee* 1

**A set of audited accounts in relation to public expenditure directly by the NWRDATF in 2017, including a statement of funding from the Department and a statement of any other public funding directly expended by the DATF (attached).**

➤ **A list of the staff of your Task Force, including:-**

- **Job titles**
- **Functions**
- **Pay Rates**
- **Source of funding**
- **Employing authority**

**1. Job Title:** Coordinator – Sean O’Connor

**Function:** The Coordinator, in conjunction with the RDATAF and its Chairperson, plays a pivotal role in assisting the Task Force in developing and implementing its regional drug strategy. This necessitates him taking a pro-active role in driving the work of the Task Force and managing its day-to-day operations.

**Rate of Pay:** The Salary scale for the post is: €47,015- €57,234 (€59,322; €61,417 Long Service Increments)

**Source of Funding:** Health Service Executive

**Employing Authority:** Health Service Executive

**2. Job Title:** Development Worker (2): Lorna Curry, Sligo/Leitrim and West Cavan, Tracey Mitchell - Development Worker, Donegal

**Functions:** To assist the Task Force in developing and implementing its regional drug strategy. The Development Worker has a vital role in developing and supporting community based projects and facilitating interagency work. The core function of these posts is to support and contribute to the work of the RDATAF through project support, support of community/voluntary reps, and policy development.

**Rates of Pay:** Part time HSE Clerical Grade V: €24, 402

**Source of Funding:** Dept of Health

**Employing Authority:** NWRDATAF Plc

**3. Job Title:** Administrator, Maev Gallagher

**Function:** to provide financial and general administration and secretarial support in relation to the operation of the NWRDATAF.

**Rate of Pay:** Full Time HSE Clerical Grade IV: €32,635

**Source of Funding:** Dept of Health

**Employing Authority:** NWRDATAF Plc