



SOUTH EAST REGIONAL DRUG AND ALCOHOL TASK FORCE



Challenge and Change: Tackling Substance Misuse in the South East Region

Reducing Substance Misuse Strategy 2020-2023



OUR VISION

Our Vision is to reduce the impact of substance misuse on individuals, their families and our communities through a range of integrated effective interventions that help people make a difference for the better in their lives.

We believe that SERDATF should contribute to creating:

- ✓ **A safe and healthy community**
- ✓ **Support services that treat people with dignity and respect**
- ✓ **An effective partnership approach to tackling substance misuse**

Our Vision is a CHALLENGE to CHANGE the way we develop, manage and support the most effective interventions around substance misuse in the South East Region.

Introduction from the Chairperson

As Chairperson of the South East Drug & Alcohol Task Force, I welcome our first three-year strategy which has been agreed with partners. I am confident that through collaborative work we can implement the priorities set out here for the wellbeing and safety of our communities, people affected by substance misuse and their partners and families.

There is no easy solution to the complex problem of substance misuse: to expect that this strategy and the best intentions of all those who support it will solve the ever-changing challenge of substance misuse would be naïve. However, together we can make a difference and reduce the impact of this major issue across our social fabric.

The development of the Strategy has taken time: SERDATF agreed there was a need to have an overall 'Direction of Travel' that all partners could work to for the region. We gathered evidence to find what the needs were and emerging trends. Amongst these, for example, we found that older people were significantly over represented with alcohol problems in comparison to the national average; just under half of treatment cases for problem drug use reside with a parent or family member, highlighting the need for improved family support and over half of drug treatment cases were using more than one substance.

The Strategy builds on a Situational Analysis of Substance Misuse in the South East conducted by Waterford Institute of Technology in 2019 which undertook consultations with service providers, users of services, their families and friends and public consultation with the wider community. It is an organic working document and as such will be open to ongoing learning and development over the three-year period. We acknowledge the challenges in its development such as gaps in the data; the short consultation period and the constraints of extending discussions to a wider audience for a longer period. But it is a good beginning and I hope that people will work with us in empowering others to make a difference in their own lives and the communities in which they reside.

That requires us all to think and work in more joined-up ways, to share experience, learning, resources and time. I would like to see communities come together to take on the challenge of substance misuse in every town and village across the South East, to increase awareness and address the fear and stigma attached to drug and alcohol use/misuse. I hope that this strategy provides ideas for positive action and you join with SERDATF in helping people to change their lives for the better. We can't do it without your support.

Finally, I wish to record my thanks to all the members of SERDATF, to the public for their responses and to all who contributed to this document. In particular, I wish to thank Dr. Michelle Foley at WIT and her team for her patience and generous giving of her time and commitment way over what was asked for when we started out last year.

On behalf of SERDATF,

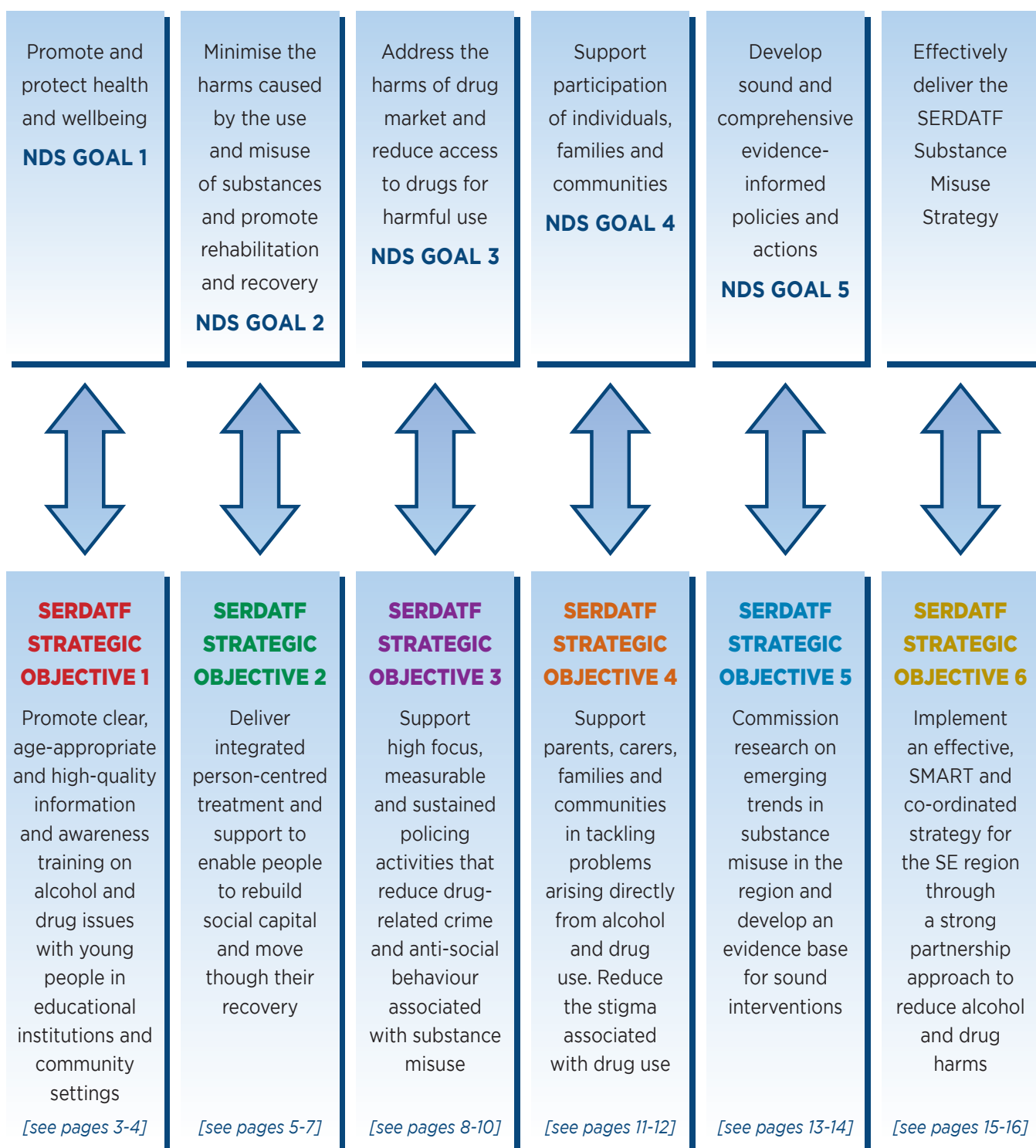
Laurence Wrenne

Chairperson



Overview of Strategy Aims

Our strategy aims to implement the goals of the **National Drug Strategy (NDS)*** “Reducing harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025” by specific, measurable objectives over the three- year period 2020-2023. The strategy will also target the specific actions of the Drug and Alcohol Task Force as outlined in the NDS.



*Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery - a health-led response to drug and alcohol use in Ireland 2017-2025 (published 17th July 2017), available at: <https://assets.gov.ie/14571/c22d1dd1756440f8946717a80ad2ffc3.pdf#page=1>

SERDATF Strategic Objective 1

“Deliver clear, age-appropriate and high-quality information and awareness training on alcohol and drug issues with young people in educational institutions and community settings.”

Commitments to achieve outcome

Promote online and educational resources on substance use for teachers, youth leaders and young people in educational institutions and community settings. [P1]


Develop a co-ordinated early intervention, education and awareness pathway for at risk groups. [P2]

Context setting from the SERDATF Situational Analysis (2019)

- Young people and children under the age of 19 make up 28% of the population of the South East Region (SER). [Source: CSO figures, Statbank 2018]
- Young people under 25 years represent 11% of unemployed people in the region. [Source: CSO figures, Statbank live register 2018]
- Participants described a shift in alcohol culture, particularly amongst young people, and the high level of acceptable binge drinking. The Irish Health study (2015) found that 16% of those who drink alcohol reported that they have binge drunk at least once a week in the previous twelve months. There is a difference between sexes, with 24% of males and 8% of females reporting binge drinking at least once a week. [<https://www.cso.ie/en/releasesandpublications/ep/p-ihis/irishhealthsurvey2015/>]
- In 2016, 37% of all treatment cases for drugs in the SERDATF region were adults under the age of 25 years and compared to a national average of 29.1%. Young people under the age of 35 years make up 82% of all treatment cases for drugs in the SER. [Source: Calculated figures from National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS) data]
- Findings from the SERDAFT Situational Analysis (2019) described several emerging issues across the region and participants perceived changing patterns in drug use towards use of crystal meth, MDMA, ketamine, crack cocaine, synthetic drugs and prescribed medications such as benzodiazepines and anti-anxiety drugs. The view expressed was that increased availability of drugs on the streets of the South East originated through social media contact and online sales.
- 37.5% of all treatment cases in 2016 in the SER were for cannabis use. [Source: Calculated figures from NDTRS data]
- There appears to be a lack of educational and parental awareness on issues of alcohol and drugs amongst parents, educational institutions and communities.

PRIORITY:

Provide effective educational and intervention programmes that reduce risk associated with substance use.

PRIORITY	ACTION	START
<p>[P1]</p> <p>Identify, review and promote online and educational resources on substance use for teachers, youth leaders and young people in educational institutions and community settings.</p>	<p>1. Progress towards the engagement of education and other community lead institutions in delivery of educational materials around drug and alcohol use.</p>	<p>2021</p>
	<p>2. Promote and support educational facilities in developing effective management policies for substances misuse.</p>	<p>2021</p>
	<p>3. Develop effective age/gender appropriate alcohol and drug information that is evidence based, informative and easily accessible.</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>[P2]</p> <p>Develop a co-ordinated early intervention, education and awareness pathway for at risk groups.</p> 	<p>1. Review, update and further develop the SERDATF website and social media platforms to promote awareness, information, advice and support in the region.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Provide educational information in relevant languages and for diverse reading abilities.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Promote and improve accessibility of 'train the trainer' modules for community and voluntary groups in raising awareness and highlighting available support and help for substance use.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>4. Identify agencies that are best placed to work with vulnerable young people and adults to reduce the impact of substance misuse.</p>	<p>2020</p>

SERDATF Strategic Objective 2

“Deliver integrated person-centred treatment and support to enable people to rebuild social capital and move through their recovery.”

Commitments to achieve outcome

Preview models of care for treatment of alcohol and drugs and their overall effectiveness in preventing relapse and aiding recovery. [P3]

Progress county-based Tier 2 community drug and alcohol services. [P4]

Improve partnerships with other agencies to enhance Recovery support through housing, social care, employment and training buy-in. [P5]

Support developments in targeted trauma informed care, dual diagnosis support and treatment across services working with mental health, mental health issues and substance use. [P6]

Provide workforce training to relevant partner agencies to identify and support people with problematic alcohol and drug use for onward referral into treatment/support services. [P7]


Context setting from the SERDATF Situational Analysis (2019)


- The South East Region represented 18% of all alcohol treatment cases and 21.6% of drug treatment cases nationally in the period from 2011-2016. [Source: Calculated figures from NDTRS data]
- Participants described a significant increase in the recreational use of cocaine in the region. Cocaine treatment cases rose from 5.6% in 2011 to 11.1% in 2016. [Source: Calculated figures from NDTRS data]
- Ireland has one of the highest drug overdose rates in Europe. In the period of 2004-2016, 199 deaths were reported from opioid overdose in the South East Region alone. Naloxone is working well in the region and should be extended to the wider community to reduce harm from opioid overdose. [Source: Calculated figures from NDTRS data]
- The links between problematic alcohol and drug use and poor mental health are well documented in the literature and can lead to individuals facing barriers to treatment. The lived experience of participants revealed the difficulty in accessing treatment when presenting with problematic substance use and an enduring mental health problem.
- One of the findings from the Situational Analysis (2019) highlighted the perceived lack of support for access to detoxification and perceived time lapses between detoxification and treatment.
- Settled housing plays an important role in the prevention and recovery from problematic alcohol and drug use. Almost 12% of cases entering drug treatment in the SER in 2016 identified as homeless. Nine Percent of those being treated for alcohol also indicated they did not have stable accommodation. Significant barriers were described in the situational analysis (2019). Participants described difficulties in accessing information and supports to gain suitable accommodation following discharge from residential alcohol and drug treatment. Some participants' perceived stigma and discrimination from housing support agencies in their past experiences.

- There is a growing number of older people presenting with alcohol and drug issues including the use of prescription drugs. The number of adults over the age of 65 entering treatment in the South East is almost double the national average. In 2016, 8.3% of treatment cases for alcohol were in adults over the age of 65 years and compared to a national average of 4.8%. [Source: Calculated figures from NDTRS data]
- There are gaps in the information on recovery models used by a variety of support services in the region and their overall effectiveness in preventing relapse which needs to be addressed.
- Feedback from service users in the SERDATF area would welcome additional participation and ongoing involvement in decisions about their own recovery.
- Participants described several shortfalls in aftercare services, cost of aftercare support and opportunities to rebuild social capital including gaining employment.
- Findings from the Situational Analysis suggests that many women experience anxiety and concern and defer treatment for fear of losing their children to care services.

PRIORITY:

Support service users in their recovery and participation in local decision-making about services and related needs and develop an integrated, clearly signposted care pathway for drug and alcohol treatment from the point of access to recovery.

PRIORITY	ACTION	START
<p>[P3]</p> <p>Review models of care for treatment of alcohol and drugs and their overall effectiveness in preventing relapse and aiding recovery.</p> 	<p>1. Review and map care pathways Tiers 1-4 and models of care for detoxification and treatment in community and residential treatment facilities located in the SER.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Review and document models of care for vulnerable people particularly women, those experiencing homelessness or at risk of losing their home and members of the travelling community, LGBTQ+ and people under 18 years of age.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Examine reporting systems and metrics for measuring relapse rates and recovery outcomes.</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>[P4]</p> <p>Progress county-based Tier 2 community drug and alcohol services.</p>	<p>1. Work in partnership with Tier 2 services with the objective to continuously improve care and client outcomes.</p>	<p>2021</p>
	<p>2. Continue to advocate for the expansion of Naloxone to the wider community to reduce harm from opioid overdose as part of Interventions to reduce Overdose and Drug-Related deaths (DRD).</p>	<p>2021</p>

PRIORITY	ACTION	START
<p>[P5]</p> <p>Improve partnerships with other agencies to enhance Recovery Support through housing, social care, employment and training buy-in.</p>	<p>1. Map Tier 1 supports in the SER, level of service provision and identify a main contact for sharing information with service users.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Support employers in developing policies for substance use and for service users in employment in recovery.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Promote workforce training to relevant partner agencies to identify and support people with problematic alcohol and drug use for onward referral into treatment/support services using SAOR and online training.</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>[P6]</p> <p>Support developments in targeted trauma informed care, dual diagnosis support and treatment across services working with mental health, mental health issues and substance use.</p>	<p>1. Provide support in the development of access to diagnostics and follow-up with regards to dual diagnosis in the SERDATF area.</p>	<p>2021</p>
	<p>2. Review care provision for those presenting with a dual diagnosis.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Improve accessibility and care provision for those presenting with mental health issues, including suicidal ideation and substance use.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>4. Improve the resilience of all services in identifying and managing trauma in presenting clients through Trauma Informed Care training.</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>[P7]</p> <p>Support the development of Service User recovery and effective shaping of SERDATF and service policies and programmes to enhance recovery.</p> 	<p>1. Develop standards for Community Engagement and Service User Involvement in the SERDATF, its subgroups and funded projects. The Standards will provide clear principles that describe the main elements of effective community and service user engagement. The standards will act as a central benchmark and reference point for best practice.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Develop a Participation Policy for the SERDATF based on the Community Engagement Standards to ensure communities and service users have clear guidelines in relation to the level of participation required, the role of communities and service users in decision making, methods of engagement, collaborative working and evaluation of engagement processes.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Develop Recovery Communities in each county to increase social and recovery capital and to provide independent Service User Representation on the SERDATF. Each service to develop a clear action plan for increased Service User Engagement in their service.</p>	<p>2020</p>

SERDATF Strategic Objective 3

“Support high- focus, measurable and sustained policing activities that reduce drug-related crime and anti-social behaviour associated with substance misuse.”

Commitments to achieve outcome

Ensure that people coming into contact with the Justice System with drug and alcohol misuse problems are signposted through up-to-date information and appropriate interventions to services and support. [P8]

Support the work of Gardaí, Probation and the Courts in reducing drug-related crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) through SERDATF projects. [P9]

Expand engagement with communities to reduce drug and alcohol related crime. [P10]

High focus and measurable interventions to reduce drug and alcohol related crime in adolescents and young people. [P11]

Clear and effective drug community employment schemes within communities where appropriate. [P12]


Reduce club and pub drug misuse and related supply. [P13]


Context setting from the SERDATF Situational Analysis (2019)

- In 2018, there were 2,130 incidents involving a controlled substance, 1109 cases of driving under the influence of alcohol and 40 cases of drug driving in the SER. [Source: CSO]
- Between 2011 and 2018, there have been 8,362 incidents of driving a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol and 314 case of driving under the influence of drugs. [Source: CSO]
- 14,741 controlled drugs offences were reported in the region from 2011-2018 inclusive. [Source: CSO]
- To date there have been no criminal convictions for drug related intimidation under the National Drug-Related Intimidation Reporting Programme in the SERDATF area.
- The Situational Analysis (2019) information collected from public participation events describe the adult and juvenile caution schemes (when a person comes in contact with the law enforcement for small crimes involving substance misuse) as a positive contribution to tackling substance misuse in some regions.
- Garda vetting was cited as a significant barrier to obtaining education, training and employment. Participants described barriers to accessing employment because of crime associated with their past substance. In 2016, 68% of people in drug treatment and 55.6% in alcohol treatment were unemployed in the SER. [Source: Calculated figures from NDTRS data]
- There are approximately 1,921 licenced premises in the SERDATF area.

PRIORITY:

To support and rebuild communities affected by crime and anti-social behaviour due to substance misuse.

PRIORITY	ACTION	START
<p>[P8]</p> <p>Ensure that people coming into contact with the Justice System with drug and alcohol misuse problems are signposted through up-to-date information and appropriate interventions to services and support.</p> 	<p>1. Promote and improve accessibility to training for professionals working in the Justice System to help them identify problematic substance use in clients and enable onward referral to assessment and support.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Support the use of care pathways/signpost process to ensure those identified with problem substance use coming into contact with the Criminal Justice system use are directed to the appropriate service.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Support the development of enhanced Drug/Alcohol intervention with young/first-time arrestees in Custody Suites.</p>	<p>2021</p>
	<p>4. Advocate for the appointment of a court-based substance misuse adviser to enable defendant assessment and advice to the Court to effectively reduce reoffending.</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>[P9]</p> <p>Support the work of Gardaí, Probation and the Courts in reducing drug-related crime and Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) through SERDATF projects.</p>	<p>1. Review and support specific projects with Probation/ Gardaí to divert problem substance using offenders into supported recovery and reduced criminal behaviour.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Review and evaluate the current intimidation framework.</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>[P10]</p> <p>Expand engagement with communities to reduce drug and alcohol related crime.</p>	<p>1. Develop community forums with community Gardaí involvement to tackle drugs in their own communities.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Advise on community- based initiatives to respond to local issues of drugs and alcohol misuse.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Map antisocial behaviour hotspots and incidents of drug-related litter to facilitate a multiagency response.</p>	<p>2020</p>

PRIORITY	ACTION	START
<p>[P11]</p> <p>High focus and measurable interventions to reduce drug and alcohol related crime in adolescents and young people.</p> 	<p>1. Provide support to improve rates of referrals of young people into appropriate treatment following drug and alcohol offences.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Implement and link-up Trauma Informed Care training with Families and Youth Outreach and Criminal Justice services.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Develop metrics to evaluate the impact of the juvenile and adult caution scheme in the reduction of drug and alcohol related crime.</p>	<p>2021</p>
	<p>4. Consideration of treatment alternatives to reduce or replace a custodial sentence.</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>[P12]</p> <p>Clear and effective drug community employment schemes within communities where appropriate.</p>	<p>1. Develop a Garda vetting and substance misuse recovery guide document for employers, educational institutions to positively influence recruitment of people in recovery.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Increase referral and improve accessibility to special community employment schemes (CE) across the region.</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>[P13]</p> <p>Reduce club and pub drug misuse and related supply.</p>	<p>1. Work with publicans and licenced owners on how to reduce the availability of drugs on their premises and promote existing resources to reduce drug and alcohol related harm.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Targeted campaign to increase personal safety and awareness and reduce harms on alcohol consumption, drug use and drinks tampering.</p>	<p>2020</p>

SERDATF Strategic Objective 4

“Support for communities, parents, carers, families and friends in tackling problems arising directly from alcohol and drug use. Reduce the stigma associated with drug use.”

Commitments to achieve outcome

Ensure family members and close friends will have access to support in their own right and, where appropriate, will be included in their loved one's treatment and support. [P14]

Develop educational material to ensure families have up to date information and advice around alcohol and drug use and its impact on their close networks. [P15]


Reduce barriers to accessing help and supports generated by stigma associated with substance use. [P16]

Context setting from the SERDATF Situational Analysis (2019)

- 'Family' means anyone who is affected by a loved one's alcohol or drug use, including family members, partners, carers, friends, neighbours work colleagues or significant concerned others. The National Strategy advocates a wider family approach to ensure that supports are tailored for all those affected.
- In 2016, 47.5% of people entering treatment for problem DRUG use in the SERDATF area were living with a parent or family member, 7.5% alone with a partner, 10.7% with a partner and children and 4.1% were living alone with children. [Source: Calculated from NDTRS data]
- In 2016, 27.2% of people entering treatment for problem ALCOHOL use in the SERDATF area were living with a parent or family member, 11.7% alone with a partner, 15% with a partner and children and 7.1% were living alone with their children. [Source: Calculated from NDTRS data]
- Family member participants described the importance of family support in helping them to deal with the issues that present with substance use in their home. The support required included information on addiction, bereavement support, and advice on how to deal with conflict, building their own resilience and recovery and advice on what to do after a family member returned home following treatment.
- Family member participants described the lack of supports for families, sibling and wider family networks and believed that services needed to be expanded beyond the urban centre in the SER to small towns, villages and rural locations.
- Family member participants highlighted their contribution to peer-led supports for other family members affected by substance use issues.
- Residential treatment is often required for a family member to recover; participants described the difficulties in communicating with their family member when they had entered the residential care setting. They also described the anguish and anxiety they felt at not being informed if a loved one had left treatment early or was returning home.
- Stigma and shame remains a significant barrier to family members accessing supports for themselves. This creates specific challenges as it can lead to families becoming isolated from their communities and wider support networks.
- Participants described a lack of funding for family supports in the region.

PRIORITY:

To ensure that families have access to supports in their own right and where appropriate are included in their family members' treatment and recovery.

PRIORITY	ACTION	START
<p>[P14]</p> <p>Ensure family members and close friends will have access to support in their own right and, where appropriate, will be included in their loved one's treatment and support.</p> 	<p>1. Map formal and informal service provision for families in SER.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Conduct a review of the available support including gender specific support, bereavement support, conflict resolution support and sibling support.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Identify opportunities for improving information sharing between families and family members in residential settings.</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>[P15]</p> <p>Develop educational material to ensure families have up-to-date information and advice around alcohol and drug use and its impact on their close networks.</p>	<p>1. Provide support in the development of educational materials and training for families affected by substance misuse with/for agencies in contact with families.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Provide Families/Partners and significant others with clear information on accessing Drug & Alcohol support services in SER for themselves and the individual affected by substance misuse.</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>[P16]</p> <p>Reduce the barriers to accessing help and supports generated by stigma associated with substance use.</p>	<p>1. Facilitate an information campaign to dispel myths around substance use and highlight the impact on families and their loved one. Improve awareness of family supports through a targeted campaign including online, print and information sessions.</p>	<p>2020</p>

SERDATF Strategic Objective 5

“Commission research on emerging trends in substance misuse in the region and develop an evidence base for sound interventions.”

Commitments to achieve outcome

Work with key experts, medical professionals, members of the public, families and individuals to identify trends in substance use as it emerges across the region. [P17]

Develop a prioritised programme of drug and alcohol research for the South East on an annual basis. [P18]

Develop an evidence -based approach to commissioning services and projects to ensure value for money and effective impact. [P19]


Accurate reporting and dissemination of reports, research and data related to substance misuse in the region. [P20]

Context setting from the SERDATF Situational Analysis (2019)

- The Situational Analysis suggests gaps in information to inform the trends in alcohol and drug use and misuse. Participants felt that opportunities for early identification of emerging issues in the region offered a proactive way to respond to a problem before it escalated.
- Participants suggested the use of an online reporting system to inform SERDATF of drug trends in the region and highlighted the need for ongoing research activities.
- Participants described information sharing as limited especially if there was no mandatory requirement to report to SERDATF. Creating a framework for information sharing was considered essential to ensure that all agencies were working to improve outcomes for service users.
- Governance and transparency of impact of public money on issues increasingly part of the allocation of all public funding.

PRIORITY:

Develop evidence-based approach to addressing substance misuse issues in SER through research, strong governance, transparency and value for money requirements across SERDATF projects.

PRIORITY	ACTION	START
<p>[P17]</p> <p>Work with key experts, medical professionals, members of the public, families and individuals to identify trends in substance use as it emerges across the region.</p>	<p>1. Review and identify opportunities for information gathering to inform emerging trends in substance use.</p>	<p>2022</p>
	<p>2. Progress an anonymised reporting system/network to help identify issues as they emerge.</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>[P18]</p> <p>Develop a prioritised programme of drug and alcohol research for the South East on an annual basis.</p> 	<p>1. Create links with South East Third Level Educational Institutions to identify funding opportunities for drug and alcohol research in the region.</p>	<p>2021</p>
	<p>2. Prioritise areas for research in line with gaps in the evidence base.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Improve information sharing on research led activities and publications and provide a lay person summary to inform the public.</p>	<p>2021</p>
<p>[P19]</p> <p>Develop an evidence-based approach to commissioning services and projects to ensure value for money and effective impact.</p>	<p>1. Review the role out of eCASS (software system) and other effective recording and measurement tools to enable more accurate reporting for evidence of Best Practice and Value for Money across all funded services and projects in SERDATF.</p>	<p>2020</p>
<p>[P20]</p> <p>Accurate reporting and dissemination of reports, research and data related to substance misuse in the region.</p>	<p>1. Annual published reports to detail the progress of SERDATF.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>2. Disseminate information and research to a wide audience at an annual conference.</p>	<p>2020</p>
	<p>3. Annual newsletter and media updates of progress.</p>	<p>2020</p>

SERDATF Strategic Objective 6

“Implement an effective, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Resourced and Time-limited (SMART) and co-ordinated strategy for the SE region through a strong partnership approach to reduce alcohol and drug harms.”

Commitments to achieve outcome

Build commitment across all key partners and stakeholders to making a difference on the impact of substance misuse in SER. [P21]

Evaluation and review of objectives through an evaluation framework. [P22]

Deliver in partnership with the commitment of Government support and investment. [P23]

Context setting from the SERDATF Situational Analysis (2019)

- SERDATF has a responsibility to co-ordinate drug and alcohol initiatives to reduce harm in the region and is answerable to Department of Health Drugs Prevention Unit (DPU). The Situational Analysis and review of SERDAT showed deficiencies in the operational function of the organisation and a need to restructure the Task Force.
- Participants described the funding to address issues of substance misuse as inadequate across the SERDATF area and this limited the work of organisations.
- There is a history of poor attendance at SERDATF regional meetings by some Council Departments, the Department of Education and Department of Social Protection which must be addressed.
- A regional strategy was considered by participants during public consultations to be a positive contribution to tackling issue of substance misuse and provide direction for improvement.
- Noted that this is the first three-year Regional Drug Strategy in the SERDATF area that provides a robust foundation and framework to continuously improve outcomes for service providers and partners, users of the services and their families and the wider community in line with the National Drugs Strategy.

PRIORITY:

Effective Drug and Alcohol Task Force that co-ordinates and implements the Regional Drug Strategy in line with the National Drug Strategy.

PRIORITY	ACTION	START
<p>[P21]</p> <p>Build commitment across all key partners and stakeholders to making a difference on the impact of substance misuse in SER.</p>	1. Support the development of partnership working between all voluntary and statutory agencies in the delivery of the SERDATF Strategy.	2020
	2. All Partners signed up to the Regional Strategy.	2020
	3. Create three new sub-committees below with responsibility for a specific Strategic Objective, reporting regionally to SERDATF.	2020
	4. Develop Service-user and Family Network contribution and consultation into SERDATF and commissioned services and projects.	2020
	5. Review current governance structures and develop agreed terms of reference for SERDATF partnership in line with national requirements to improve efficiency and effectiveness.	2020
	6. Generate a framework for greater information sharing on key metrics and deliverables to best inform services, policy and planning.	2020
	7. Further develop SERDATF membership area to share information and key working documents.	2020
	8. Annual Conference to promote achievement and partnership working.	2020
<p>[P22]</p> <p>Evaluation and review of objectives through an evaluation framework.</p>	1. Review of objectives through agreed framework at Annual Conference.	2020
	2. Prioritise actions that are not progressing for escalation.	2020
	3. Public/stakeholder consultations to inform future strategies.	2020
<p>[P23]</p> <p>Deliver in partnership with the commitment of Government support and investment.</p>	1. Secure significant investment from Government and other partners for this Strategy.	2020
	2. Ensure that funding is targeted at underlying need identified in the region.	2020

Sub-committee Responsibilities

SUB-COMMITTEE (SERDATF)	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023
Financial and Technical	[P2, objective 1, 2] [P3, objective 1, 2] [P7, objective 1] [P20, objective, 1, 2, 3] [P21, objective, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8] [P22, objective 1]	[P17, objective 1, 2] [P18, objective 2] [P19, objective 1] [P22, objective 2, 3] [P23, objective 2]	[P18, objective 3] [P23, objective 1]
Education and Prevention	[P2, objective 4] [P18, objective 1]	[P1, objective 1, 2, 3] [P2, objective 3] [P8, objective 1] [P13, objective 1, 2] [P16, objective 1]	[P7, objective 2]
Care and Recovery	[P4, objective 2] [P6, objective 2] [P7, objectives 2,3] [P8, objective 2] [P12, objective 2] [P14, objective 3]	[P3, objective 3] [P6, objective 1] [P11, objective 1, 2]	[P4, objective 1]
Frontline, Community and Police	[P5, objective 1] [P12, objective 2] [P14, objective 1, 2] [P15, objective 1, 2]	[P9, objective 1, 2] [P10, objective 2, 3] [P12, objective 1]	[P5, objective 2] [P8, objective 3, 4] [P10, objective 1] [P11, objective 3]

SERDATF Members

Aiséirí Progression Project
Fr McGrath Family Resource Centre
The Cornmarket Project, Wexford
Waterford & South Tipperary
Community Youth Service
Wexford Local Development
Tipperary Public Participation Network
Wexford Public Participation Network
Carlow Public Participation Network
Waterford Public Participation Network
South East Regional Family Support Network
An Garda Síochána

Health Service Executive
Carlow County Council
Waterford City & County Council
Kilkenny County Council
Tipperary County Council
Wexford County Council
Merchants Quay Ireland
Probation Service
Waterford Frontline Workers Forum
Kilkenny Frontline Workers Forum
South Tipperary Frontline Workers Forum
Carlow Frontline Workers Forum

