



taskforce
DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN
DRUG AND ALCOHOL TASK FORCE



STRATEGIC PLAN (Interim) 2020-21



DUN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN DRUG AND ALCOHOL TASK FORCE

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FOREWORD

The DLR-Drug and Alcohol Task Force was established in 1997, to coordinate a community response to drug problems (alcohol problems were added in 2013). It is made up of representatives from community, voluntary and statutory bodies, public representatives and independent members. Until October 2019 the DATF was hosted by Southside Partnership, and is now legally incorporated as a CLG. This period of transition has been further complicated as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. In order to function, the DATF relies on the active participation of individual members and their respective organisations/agencies. It is deeply indebted to members, as they are relied upon for their shared role in decision-making and a shared commitment to interagency working. It is also indebted to members' parent bodies, across community, voluntary and statutory agencies who provide ongoing support and funding. In addition, national level inter-departmental structures provide focus and direction to our coordination and other work. The DLR-DATF acknowledges funding supports from the Department of Health, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, the Health Service Executive, and the Dublin and Dun Laoghaire Education & Training Board.



1. INTRODUCTION

The National Drug Strategy, Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery, 2017-25 (RHSR) provides an overall framework for the work of twenty-five local and regional drug and alcohol task forces (DATFs) including the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown (DLR) DATF. Each DATF draws up its own periodic plan, setting out its aims and priorities over a 3-5 year period based on its own local needs.

The DLR-DATF drew up an outline plan for the period 2017-25 with a view to ongoing revision and adjustment. While in the process of refreshing this plan in early 2020 the COVID-19 emergency arose and the task force has adjusted its review process accordingly. We now have a Strategic Plan (interim) to cover the years 2020-21, which we have set out in the pages below.

Meanwhile, we are engaging in a review process commencing 2020, with a view to finalising a new Strategic Plan 2022-25. It is hoped to sign-off on this plan by September 2021.

Members of the public, and relevant organisations and community groups in DLR will be invited to contribute to this review process and to the plan's development.

Meanwhile, key services – funded both by ourselves and by the HSE – will continue, with appropriate adjustments arising from COVID-19 and in accordance with government advice. This advice will change from time to time and updates will be provided on our website.

The task force, alongside drug and alcohol services in DLR, and the people who attend our services, face challenging times ahead, as indeed does the population as a whole. Since the COVID-19 crisis emerged the various organisations have adjusted their services and their premises in order to provide a blended in-person and online service programme. A key aim in the current interim strategy is to strengthen existing services in the field, to improve their capacities and functioning through training, research and other supports and to ensure people in DLR can access a drug/alcohol service when they need to.

2. VISION

The DLR Drug and Alcohol Task Force supports the vision and values of the National Drug Strategy as summarized below:

RHSR aims to create:

“A healthier and safer Ireland, where public health and safety is protected and the harms caused to individuals, families and communities by substance misuse are reduced and every person affected by substance use is empowered to improve their health and wellbeing and quality of life.”

This Vision is seen as underpinned by the following six values:

- Compassion** A humane, compassionate approach focused on harm reduction which recognises that substance misuse is a health care issue.
- Respect** Respect for the right of each individual to receive person-centred care based on his or her specific needs and to be involved in the development of their care plan.
- Equity** A commitment to ensuring people have access to high quality services and support regardless of where they live or who they are.
- Inclusion** Diversity is valued, the needs of particular groups are accommodated and wide-ranging participation is promoted.
- Partnership** Support for maintaining a partnership approach between statutory, community and voluntary bodies and wider society to address drug and alcohol issues.
- Evidence-informed** Support for the use of high quality evidence to inform effective policies and actions to address drug and alcohol problems.





3. ROLE

RHSR has 50 actions (5 goals), and a section (Ch 8) on “strengthening performance”

Drug and Alcohol Task Forces have specified roles in three goals, as per the following:

- prevention, early intervention, particularly among young people (Goal 1),
- harm reduction and recovery (Goal 2),
- community and service user participation (Goal 4).

Drug and Alcohol Task Forces also have a capacity building role in:

- providing leadership to the local response to alcohol and drugs,
- coordinating inter-agency activities,
- ensuring the implementation of an evidence-based approach at local and regional levels.

4. AIMS

The aims of the DLR-DATF are summarized as follows:

- PARTNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP:** Building on the successful partnership between statutory, community and voluntary sectors, it coordinates the implementation of RHSR in the context of the needs of DLR.
- INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION:** It coordinates inter-agency actions around substance misuse in DLR and exchanges best practice, as appropriate.
- EVIDENCE:** It promotes the local implementation of an evidence-based approach to substance misuse, including alcohol and illegal drugs.
- ACTIONS:** It implements the actions in the strategy where it has been assigned a specific role and resources.
- REPORTING:** It reports to the Minister (National Drugs Strategy), in accordance with reporting arrangements as determined at a national level.

ACTIONS

RHSR GOALS

CAPACITY BUILDING

Partnership and leadership

Inter-agency cooperation

Evidence informed policies and practice

GOAL 1

SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION

Supporting local actions to prevent substance misuse

GOAL 2

HARM REDUCTION, TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION

Community-based treatment services and supports for individuals and families

GOAL 4

PARTICIPATION

Community and service-user participation

REPORTING



5. ACTIONS

In the Plan below we have outlined fifteen actions, which are undertaken in conjunction with key local services and projects.

CAPACITY BUILDING

PARTNERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP

To support community, voluntary & statutory agencies to share leadership in implementing a local strategy

NUMBER	ACTION
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">We coordinate the implementation of the National Drug Strategy, 2017-2025 (RHSR) in accordance with local needs, and with specific focus on an integrated, public health approach to drugs and alcohol.We aim to involve all relevant agencies and community bodies in the ongoing work of the DATF and in its structures.
2	We continue to develop and update our structures and procedures. During 2020 we will operate as an independent, incorporated entity for the first time and through 2021-2022 we will apply for charitable status.

CAPACITY-BUILDING

INTER-AGENCY COOPERATION

To develop mechanisms for inter-agency collaboration and integration between sectors across all relevant activities

NUMBER	ACTION
3	<p>We provide continued support to inter-agency, Treatment & Rehabilitation (T&R) sub-committee in addressing ongoing issues in harm reduction and treatment services, with particular focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Assisting the T&R sub-committee to identify and report on gaps in local services.Assisting the T&R sub-committee to quantify and assess the number and range of treatment interventions required in the area.Strengthening the capacity of existing services to address complex needs through joint training and other measures.
4	Having researched the needs of older people with long-term substance misuse treatment we work with other agencies towards reducing stigma and improving social integration of persons with substance misuse problems.
5	In conjunction with Southside Partnership, we provide continued support and training to a network of persons working with young people at-risk, in order to ensure better inter-agency cooperation between youth, substance misuse and child and family services.

CAPACITY BUILDING

EVIDENCE INFORMED POLICIES AND PRACTICE

To implement an evidence-based approach to needs assessment and drug and alcohol interventions

NUMBER	ACTION
6	We promote an understanding of evidence in assessing needs, and in developing interventions across prevention, harm reduction and treatment activities and ensure that Health Research Board updates on evidence-based practice and other guidance information are incorporated into relevant actions in the task force area.
7	We disseminate through our website and other means relevant information in relation to drug prevention and treatment to projects and services.
8	In conjunction with Trinity College, we are undertaking local research on the needs of young people who have substance misuse problems.
9	We encourage and support drug and alcohol services in DLR to complete data returns on their services into a national database (NDTRS) operated by the Health Research Board, and also encourage them to use their data to identify emerging issues and problems and to research rehabilitation outcomes.

RHSR GOAL 1
SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION

To develop and support local actions to prevent substance misuse, particularly among young people, and to mobilise community action on alcohol.

NUMBER	ACTION
10	We continue, where possible, to engage communities and relevant local organisations in developing a local substance misuse prevention strategy.
11	We will continue a collaboration with Barnardos, MY Project, DLR Community Addiction Team, SICAP and UBU projects and other community projects and services in coordinating supports for homework clubs, extra tuition, counselling and youth work inputs to young people.

RHSR GOAL 2
HARM REDUCTION, TREATMENT & REHABILITATION

To develop and operate community drug and alcohol services for individuals and families who are directly affected by substance misuse.

NUMBER	ACTION
12	In conjunction with DLR Community Addiction Team, HSE personnel, HSE funded services, and East Coast Family Support Network, we will strengthen and expand assessment, keyworker and care management services for persons with substance misuse problems and develop measures to facilitate recovery.
13	In conjunction with Barnardos, MY Project and Tusla personnel and funded services we will strengthen and expand support services for children and families affected by parental substance misuse, and also disseminate information on the impact on children of addiction, within the context of the national Hidden Harms Framework.

RHSR GOAL 4
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

To promote and develop community and service-user participation in all local and other relevant structures.

NUMBER	ACTION
14	We engage with communities to develop community organisations’ capacities in relation to substance misuse.
15	We promote the participation of service users and their families in local decision-making structures, and facilitate their involvement in on-going design, planning and development of local services and projects.

HARM REDUCTION,
TREATMENT &
REHABILITATION

**DLR-CAT
(Community Addiction Team)**
Adult & Youth Treatment
info@dlrcat.ie
www.dlrcat.ie
(01) 217 6140

**HSE 99 Patrick Street Addiction
Centre**
Methadone prescription,
counselling, hepatitis C treatment
(01) 280 8472

**Dun Laoghaire Outreach Project
(DROP)**
Counselling, day-programme
and groupwork
info@drop.ie
www.drop.ie
(01) 280 3187

Narcotics Anonymous
Eastern Area
info@naeasternarea.org
www.naeasternarea.org
(086) 862 9308

LifeRing
Self-help group
lifering.dublin@gmail.com
www.dublinlifering.com
1800 938 768

INTERVENTION AND
SUPPORTS FOR
FAMILIES, YOUTH AND
CHILDREN

Barnardos
Family Intervention and Support
sharon.mccormick@barnardos.ie
www.barnardos.ie
Ballyogan: (01) 905 9443
Dun Laoghaire: 01 2842323
Bray (01) 9058749

MY ProjectMinding Youth
Family and youth
intervention and support
info@myp.ie
01-230 4086

East Coast Family Support Network
Dun Laoghaire Family Support
info@fsn.ie
www.fsn.ie
(087) 2240927

Southside Partnership
Youth Prevention (Holly House)
sandra.king@sspship.ie
www.southsidepartnership.ie
(01) 272 2613

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