



Factsheet

Budget 2022 Health Measures for National Drugs Strategy



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Total additional funding of €6m

- €4.2m to expand the provision of drug and alcohol services
- €1.3m to provide health supports for people who are homeless, with chronic health and addiction needs
- €0.5m to improve health services for children & young people in Dublin NEIC

In Budget 2022, Minister Frank Feighan secured an additional €6m for new measures to support the implementation of the national drugs strategy, 'Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery'

This funding will be used to strengthen the health-led approach to drug and alcohol use, as set out in the Programme for Government. It will also support the strategic priorities for 2021-2025 identified in the mid-term review of the national drugs strategy (to be published shortly).

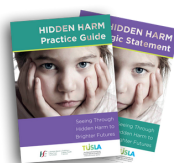
The funding will be used to recruit 50 health care professionals, such as clinical nurse specialists, psychologists, addiction counsellors and project workers, to provide specialist drug and alcohol services. In addition, drug and alcohol taskforces and section 39 organisations will be commissioned to provide community-based services to people who use drugs.



€1.7m for measures to increase the availability of HSE drug and alcohol services on a nationwide basis. This will include services for people with alcohol addiction, people under 18 years, families affected by drugs, as well as rehabilitation and recovery programmes.

Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment

€0.5m to increase access to and provision of community-based drug and alcohol services for women, ethnic minorities and LGBTI+. Measures will address the barriers that women and minority groups can face. The lived experience of people who use drugs will be central to the design and delivery of the new services, as will the network of drug and alcohol task forces.



€0.7m to provide additional services for children and families who are impacted by parental drug and alcohol use. In 2019, dependent children were present in 25% of cases where an individual received drug treatment (2,400 cases). The new services will support the implementation of the HSE-Tusla strategic statement and practice guide on hidden harm.



€0.5m to address high risk drug use, such as crack cocaine and other drugs. The funding will expand harm reduction responses both in local communities and as a response to the use of stimulant drugs in the night time economy. It will also extend the Naloxone demonstration Project to prevent drug overdose deaths.



€0.7m to commence the implementation of the health diversion programme for individuals found in possession of drugs for personal use. The funding will establish a national network of health screening and brief intervention services (known as SAOR) for people referred to the programme.



€1.3m is made available to provide health supports for an additional 260 tenancies under the Housing First programme for people who are long-term homeless. In addition the funding will enhance an integrated care and case management service for up to 4,000 single homeless people with complex health needs in Dublin.

€0.5m to support health services for primary school children and young people in Dublin north east inner city, developed on a pilot basis under the Government initiative to promote the social and economic regeneration of the NEIC. This will benefit 1,800 primary school children with developmental, social or behavioural needs, as well as young people with mental health issues.



Coronavirus
COVID-19
National
Programme

Covid -19 Funding for Homeless Health

Separately, Minister Feighan is providing €10m in Covid funding in 2022 to maintain public health measures and to consolidate improvements in health services for people who are homeless, that occurred during the Covid-19 pandemic. Details of this funding will be provided shortly.

Key outputs from the new measures

- increase in numbers receiving drug and alcohol treatment across all regions
- more supports for children and young people affected by parent drug and alcohol use
- more women, ethnic minorities and LGBTI+ accessing drug & alcohol services
- reduction in drug-related harms, overdoses and drug-related deaths
- deliver health screening and brief interventions for up to 1,000 people who use drugs
- better health care services for 4,000 single homeless people in Dublin
- health supports for 260 long-term homeless tenancies under Housing First programme
- 1,800 primary school children in NEIC receiving education-related health supports

Summary of New Health Measures for National Drugs Strategy Total €6m

Measure	Allocation €M
Enhance child and family services for children and young people affected by parental drug & alcohol use	0.72
Increase access and provision of community drug and alcohol services, with a focus on services for women, ethnic minorities and LGBTI+	0.5
Establish a clinical community response to alcohol service for health service clients in Dublin North City and County (CHO 9)	0.49
Expand availability of drug & alcohol treatment, rehabilitation & recovery programmes and family support services	1.17
Develop harm reduction responses to high-risk drug use associated with crack cocaine and the night-time economy	0.47
Provide health screening and brief intervention (SAOR) under the health diversion programme	0.68
Develop an integrated care and case management service for people experiencing homelessness in Dublin	0.15
Provide health supports for additional tenancies under the Housing First programmes for long-term homeless	1.17
Support health services for primary school children and young people in Dublin NEIC	0.53
Studies and evaluations	0.12

Details of the new measures and the associated outputs will be set out in the HSE national service plan for 2022