

# ANNUAL UPDATE 2021

**BRAY**  
LOCAL DRUG & ALCOHOL  
TASK FORCE

*Making a difference*





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National Action;

Joint Task Force initiative on Drug Related Intimidation

## 10. Thank You



## Welcome to the Report



*“ Welcome to the 2021 report of the Bray local drug and alcohol task force. The report seeks to set out some of the work that has been carried out in the Bray area and some of the results that are being achieved through hard work and cooperation. The task force was set up as a result of a locally coordinated response to the problems caused by the use of drugs and later alcohol.*

*The Bray Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force are responsible for funds of over one and a half million euros which are introduced to the local economy annually. Because we are local and connected to the needs of our community the Task Force has been able to respond to local needs promptly and effectively. We hope to continue to serve the community. “*

Joe Maguire  
(Chairman)

Bray Local drug and Alcohol Task Force

## FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to contribute to this, the Annual Report of the Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force. Before becoming the Minister for Health, I campaigned as a TD for a permanent coordinator to the Task Force, a campaign that proved successful in 2019.

As Minister, I have increased the budget for Addiction services by €15 million and have strived to bring the areas of addiction and mental health closer together, I am aware that this is the direction that the Task Force are advocating, campaigning as they are on Dual Diagnosis and the mental health of their clients.

The Department of Health through the Task Force invest 1.5 million into the economy of Bray town every year, the Task Force supports the employment of over 60 people. Every year, the Task Force projects interact positively with thousands of people. The unique makeup of the Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force is one of its great strengths. The Task Force takes its membership throughout the community of Bray, from the Bray Chamber of Commerce to the Bray Traveller Community, from the health service to the community addiction team. This structure is unparalleled in the rest of Ireland and a reason for Bray to be immensely proud of its Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force.



Minister Stephen Donnelly  
Minister for Health

## BRAY LOCAL DRUG & ALCOHOL TASK FORCE

Community, Voluntary, Statutory, Elected

Chairperson	Joe Maguire	Independent
Treasurer	Triona Irving	Wicklow County Council
Members	David Tew	Bray Chamber of Commerce
	Jim O'Brien	Bray Travellers CDP
	Dermot O'Brien	Elected Representative
	Anne Ferris	Elected Representative
	Mary Trainor	Probation Service
	Elaine Forsyth	Bray Community Addiction Team
	Fergal Harrington	An Garda Síochána
	John Craven	H.S.E
	Rosemary Yeates	Bray Youth Service
	Helen Kinsella	St Fergal's Community
	Peter Brennan	Bray Area Partnership
	Eric Caffrey	K.W.E.T.B
	Niamh Wogan	Bray Family Resource Development
Coordinator	Colm Walsh	Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force



### Sub-committees

Bray Drugs Awareness Forum

Treatment and Rehabilitation

Finance Committee



**Most recent research from the Bray  
Municipal Area**



# Resent Research in Bray

## National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)

**BRAY**  
LOCAL DRUG & ALCOHOL  
TASK FORCE

*Making a difference*

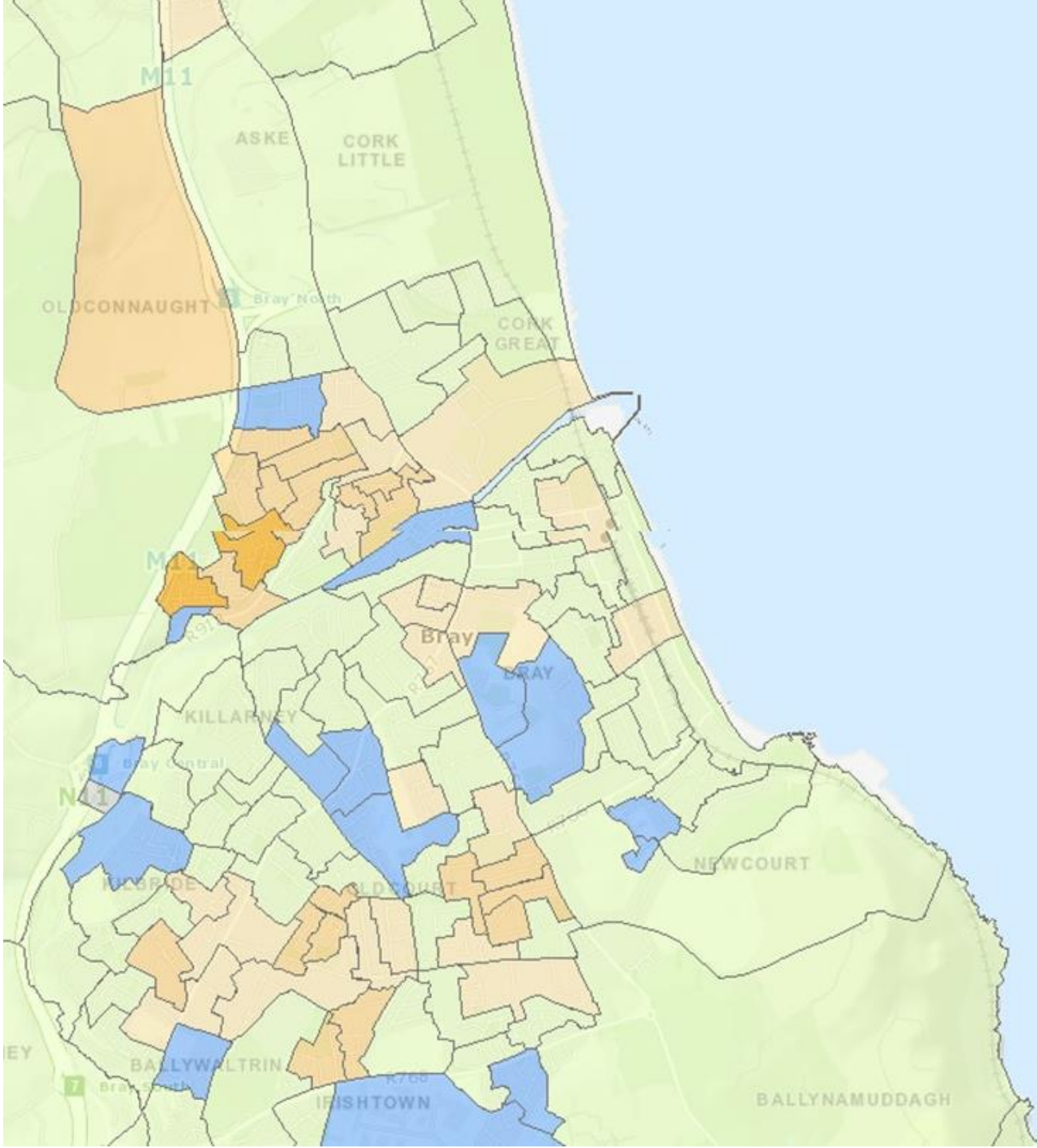
### NOTE

This research refers to the almost 300 people in treatment with an address in the Bray municipal area. Treatment for problem alcohol and drug use in Ireland is provided by statutory and non-statutory services, including residential centres, community-based addiction services, general practices and prison services.

For the purpose of the NDTRS, treatment is broadly defined as *'any activity which aims to ameliorate the psychological, medical or social state of individuals who seek help for their substance misuse problems'*. Clients who attend needle-exchange services **are not** included in this reporting system. From 2004 onwards, clients who report alcohol as their main problem drug have been recorded by the system.

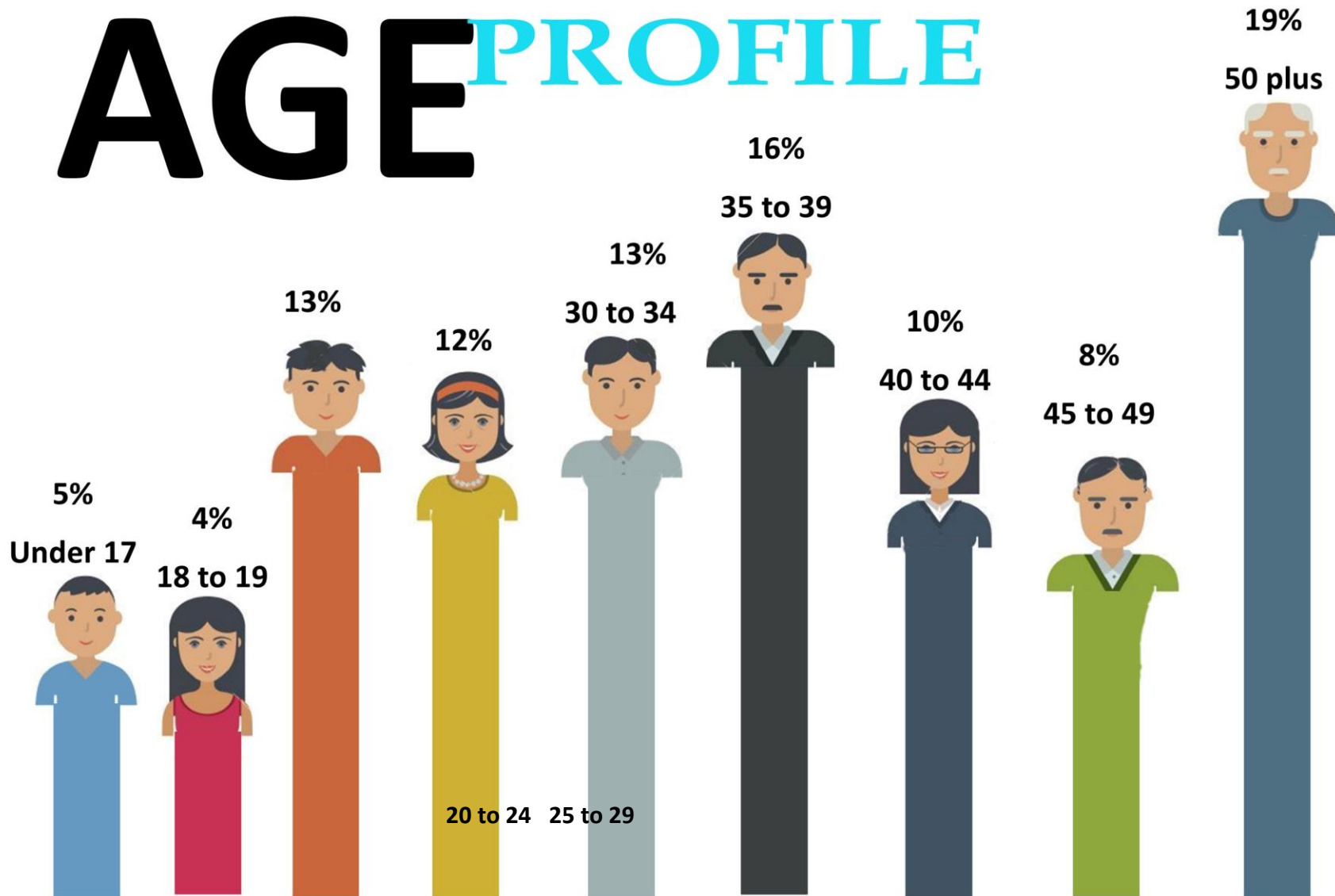
Drug treatment options include one or more of the following: medication (detoxification, methadone reduction, substitution programmes and psychiatric treatment), brief intervention, counselling, group therapy, family therapy, psychotherapy, complementary therapy, and/or life-skills training. In some instances, 'don't knows' or 'unknowns' are distributed with the general data on a pro-rata basis.



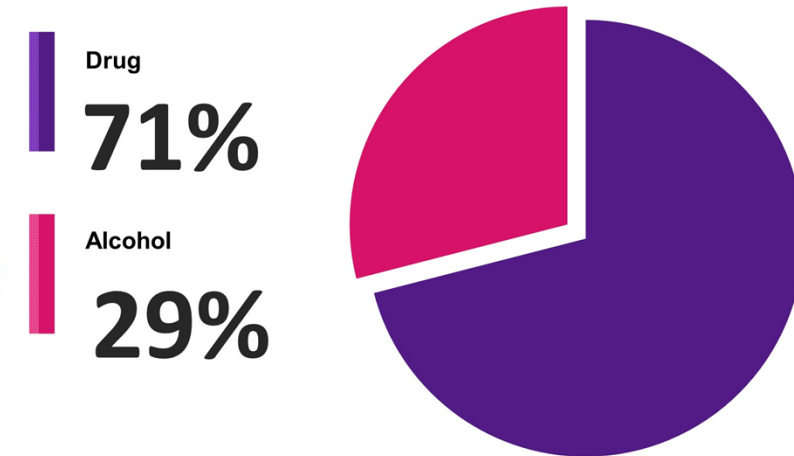


Bray's population uniquely ranges from 'very affluent' to 'extremely disadvantaged'. Rich and poor live side by side in the community of Bray

# AGE PROFILE



## REASON FOR REFERRAL

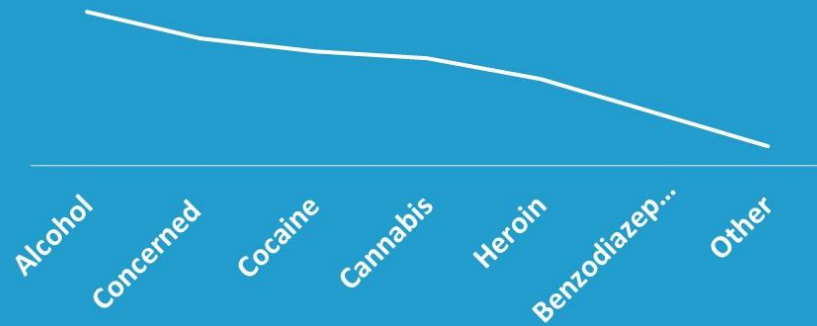


1 in 20 of respondents in treatment were under the age of 17. Almost the same amount were 18 years old. One quarter were in their 20s. The largest single group at 29% are those in their 30s. Almost one in 5 were over the age of 50, this makes them a particularly vulnerable group. Those who were referred for drug treatment was more than twice those referred for alcohol.

# REFERRAL DETAILS

BREAKDOWN IN REFERRAL DETAIL

## DETAIL OF REFERRAL



## ETHNICITY



IRISH 81%  
IRISH TRAVELLER 12%  
OTHER 3%

## COUNTRY OF BIRTH



IRELAND 95%  
NOT IRELAND 3%  
UNKNOWN 2%

## TYPE OF CLIENT

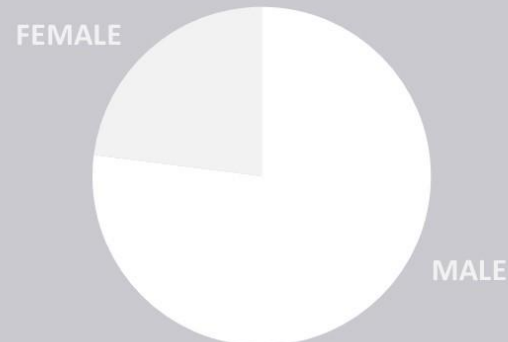


PRISON 3%  
INPATIENT 13^  
OUTPATIENT 84%

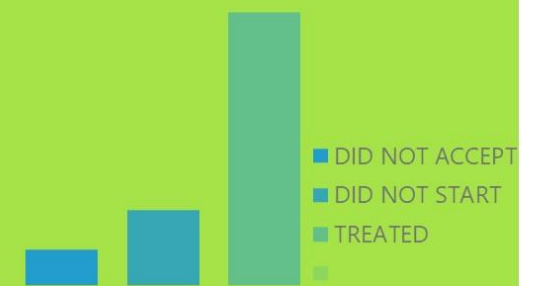
## SOURCE OF REFERRAL



## SEX

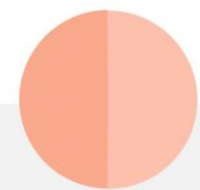


## Assessed or Treated Status





## EMPLOYMENT STATUS



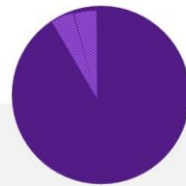
Unemployed

**51%**



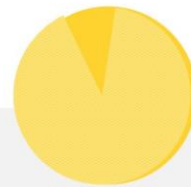
Paid Employment

**22%**



Training

**6%**



Student

**9%**



Retired/ Disability

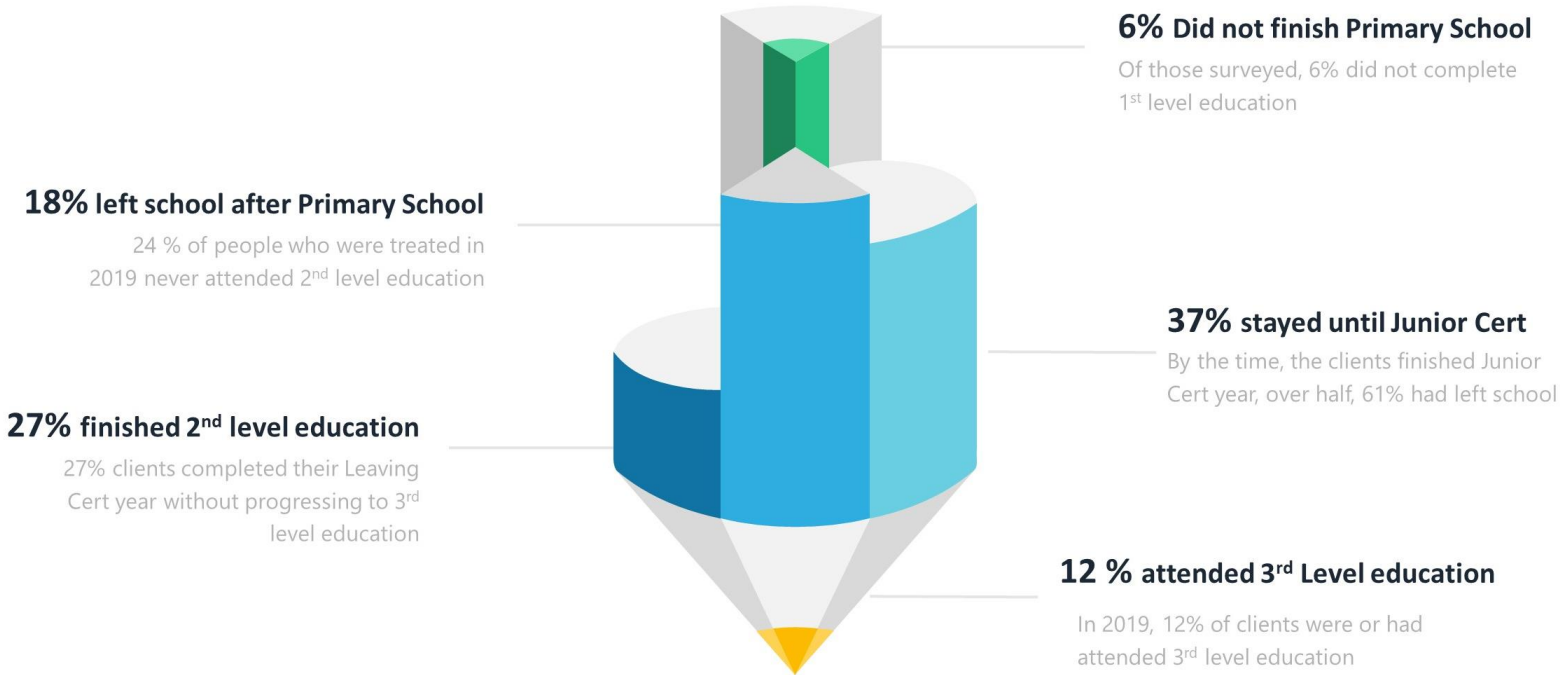
**12%**

Over half those in treatment were unemployed, this may reflect a dependency of substances such as alcohol however when taken in conjunction with the figures on education, it is more likely to relate to the socio-economic realities of the lack of opportunities afforded to those who fall out of the education system. The Task Force supports 'out of hours' addiction clinics as the figures show one fifth are in paid employment while another 15% are in some form of education or training. This demands flexibility in attendance at clinics during working hours. Asking for time off may be awkward with employers



# EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT

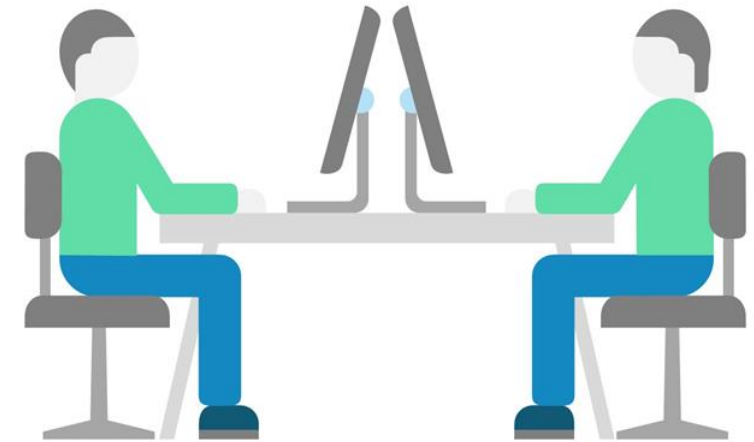
WHEN PEOPLE LEFT SCHOOL



Educational attainment is hampered by early use of harmful substances however a lack of life opportunities may itself lead to the use harmful substances in later life. 17% of those in treatment left school before the age of 14 years.

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

AT WHAT AGE DID PEOPLE LEAVE SCHOOL



**17%**

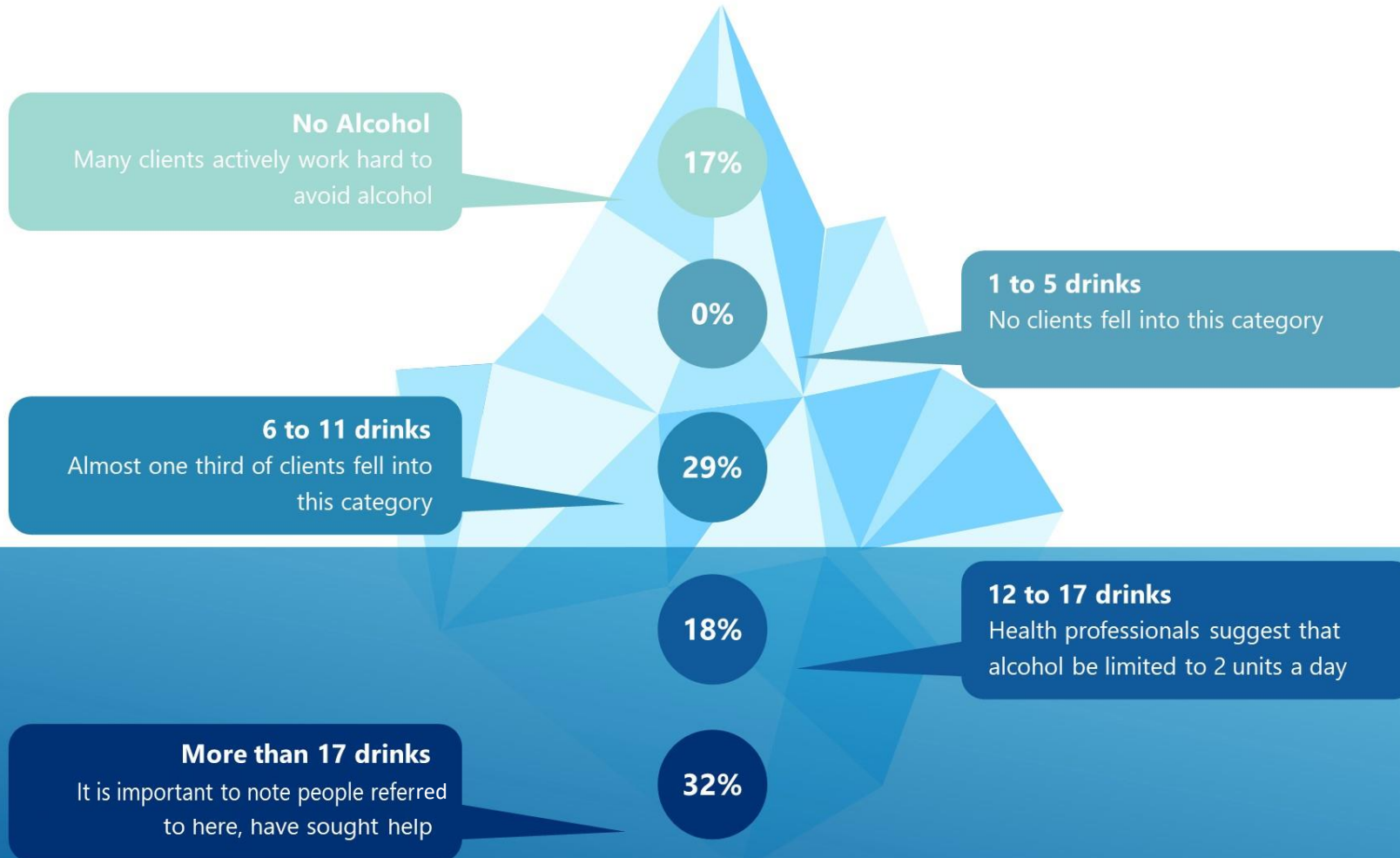
17% of clients left school at or before the age of 14 years

**83%**

83% left at the of 15 years or older

Many of the Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force funded programmes target young people from early years to finishing schools and work to support them throughout their journey, this includes Headlamps, St Fergal's and the Education and Prevention programme.

# HOW MANY DRINKS IN ONE SESSION?



# EXTENT OF PROBLEM DRINKING

## Hazardous Drinking

Hazardous drinking is defined as a quantity or pattern of alcohol consumption that places patients at risk for adverse health events.

25%

33%

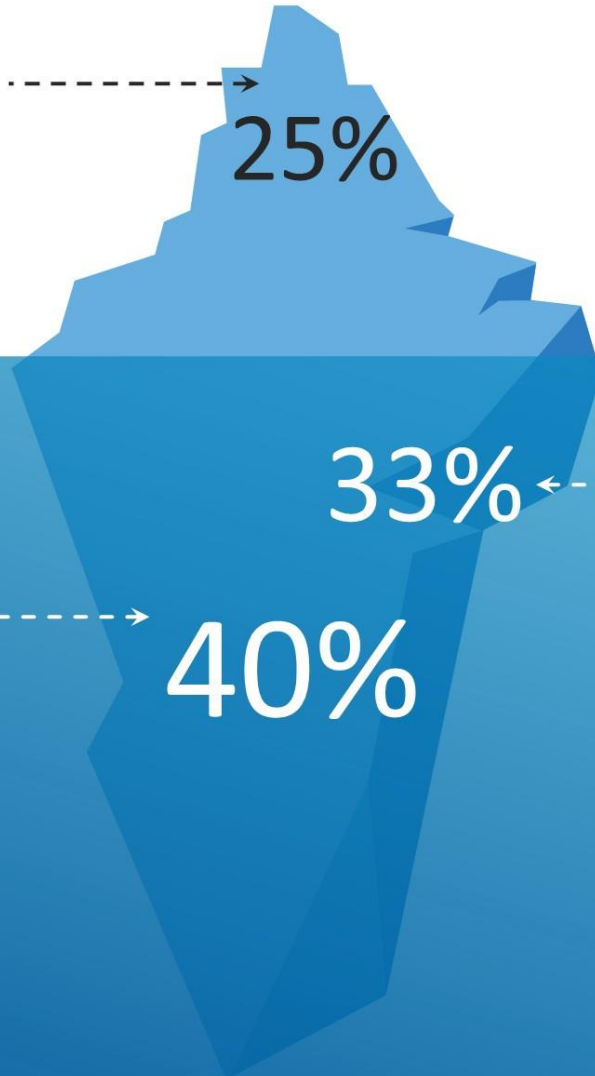
## Harmful Drinking

Harmful drinking is defined as alcohol consumption that results in adverse events (eg, physical or psychological harm)

## Dependent Drinking

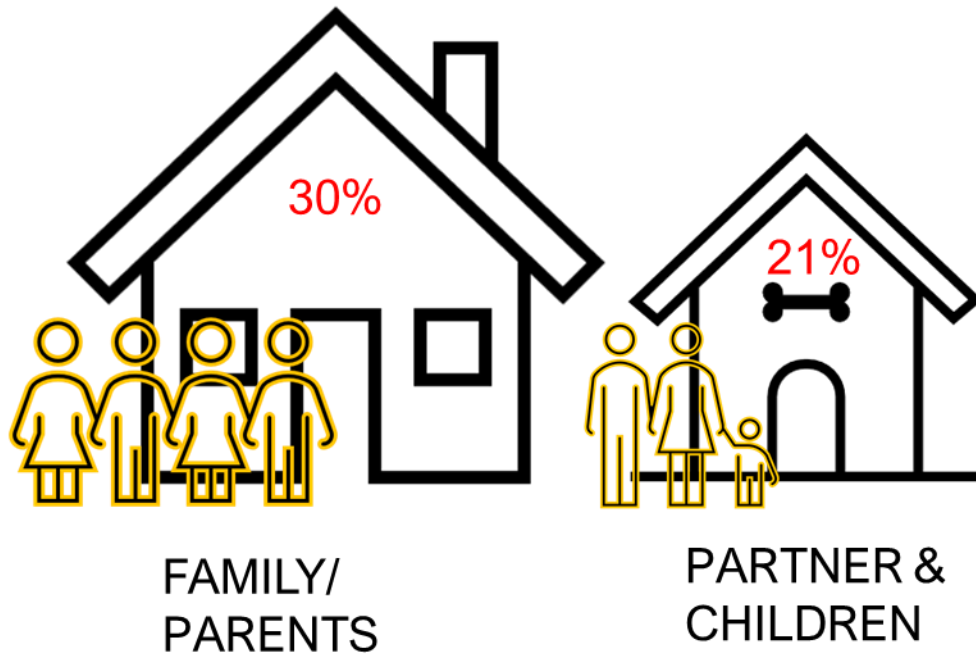
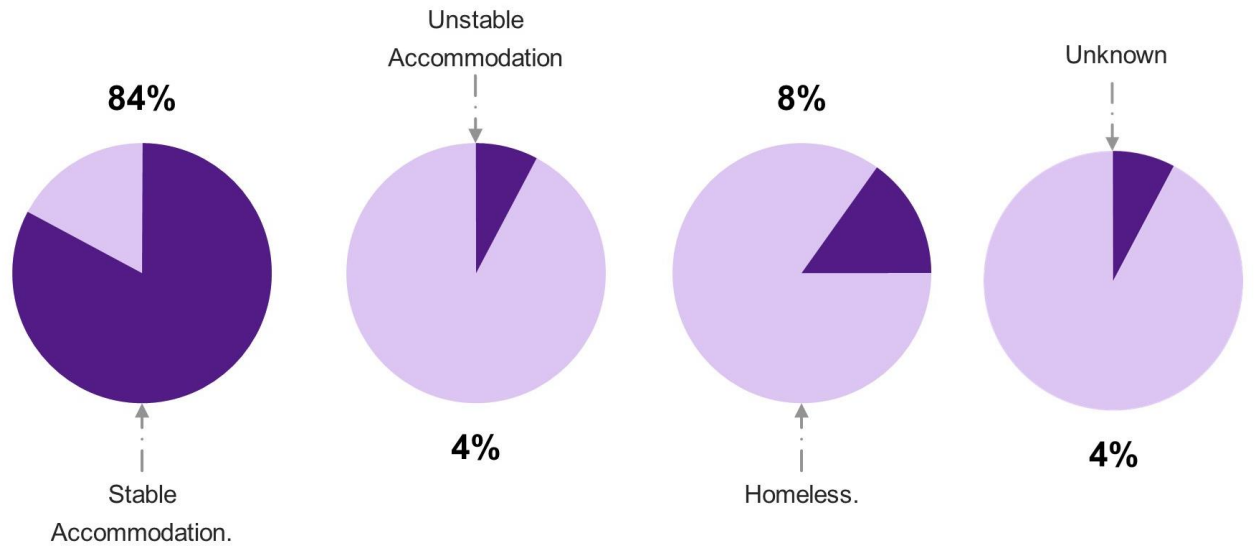
Being dependent on alcohol means that a person feels they are not able to function without it, that drinking becomes an important, or sometimes the most important, factor in their life.

40%





Accommodation can be chaotic yet 84% report that they are in stable accommodation. 8% were homeless. The majority group live in the family home at 30%. One fifth live with their partner and child (children). One in ten live alone.

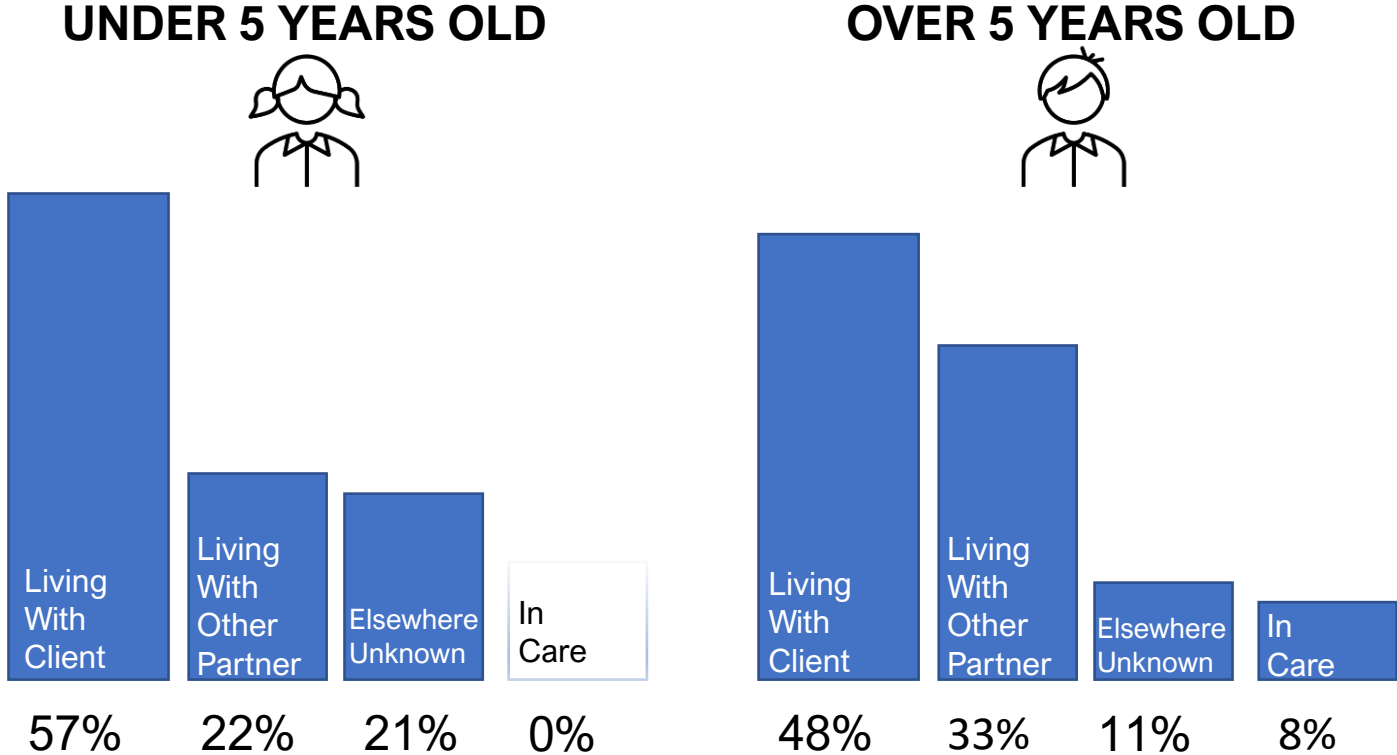


### Home Situations, who do people live with?



Although many people in treatment are very good parents, some others struggle, The experience of children and young people living with and impacted by parental problem alcohol and other drug use has come to be known as Hidden Harm. This is because the harm children and young people experience is often hidden, or if seen, is not recognised as harm. As it is not recognised as harm, these children and young people do not get the support they need.

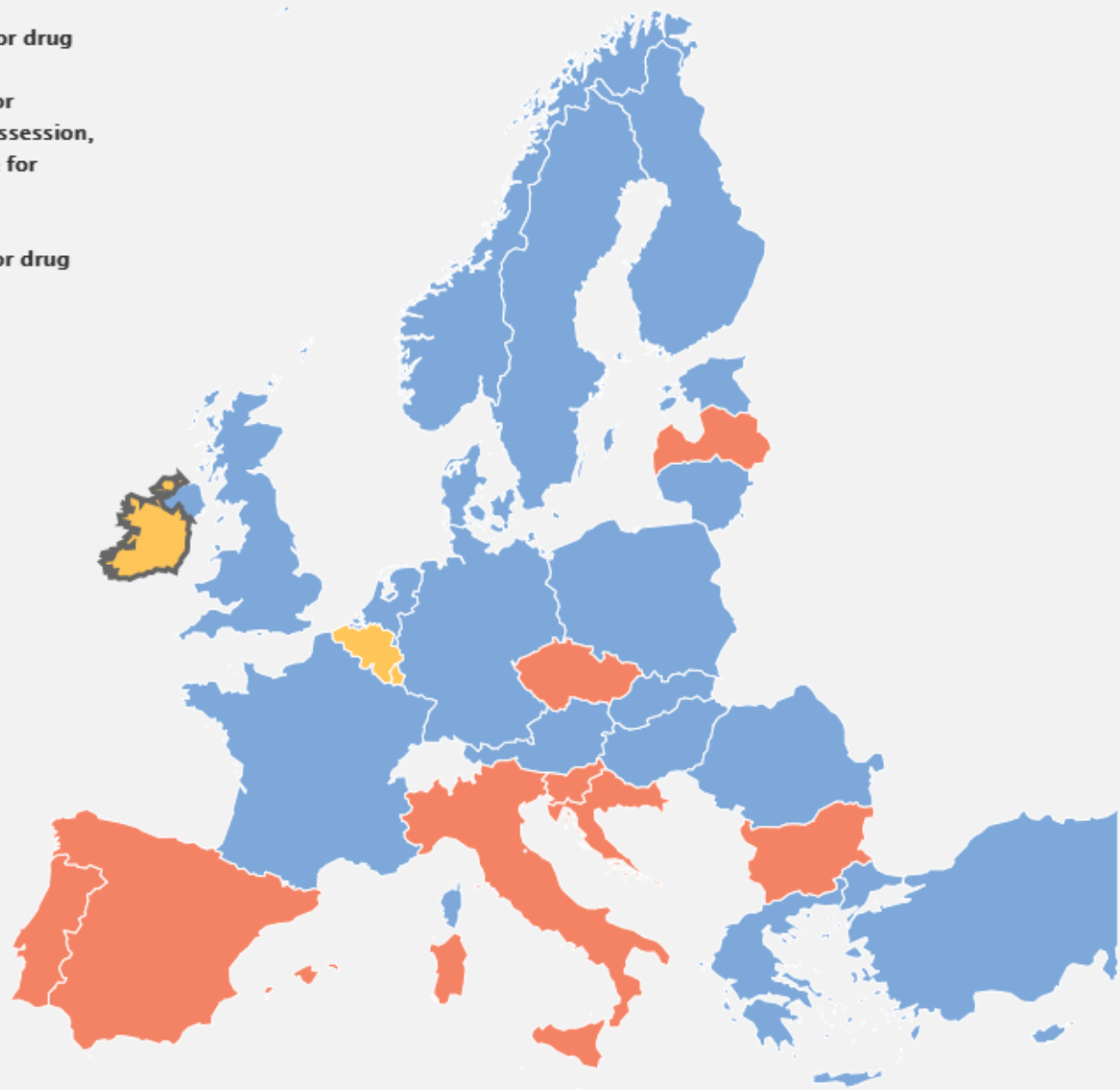
Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force will work with their counterparts in Dun Laoghaire and Bernardos to support these families at their new premises on the Dublin Road



**Drug possession and the Law in Bray**

# Drug Possession and the law

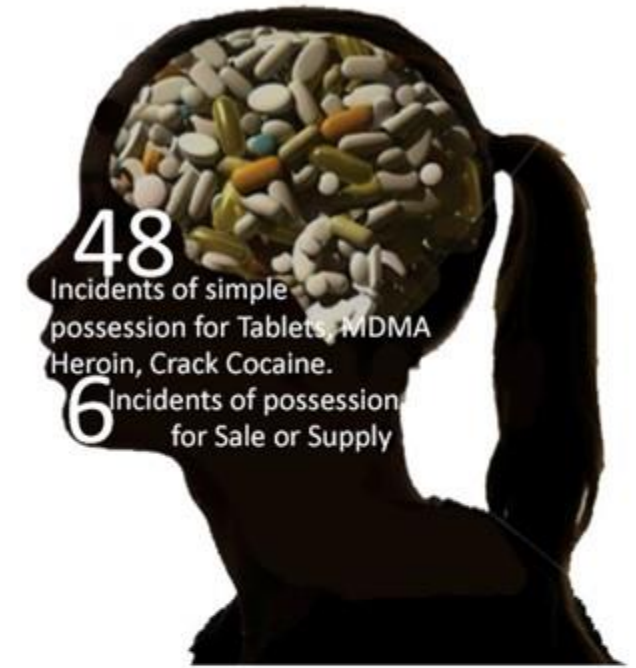
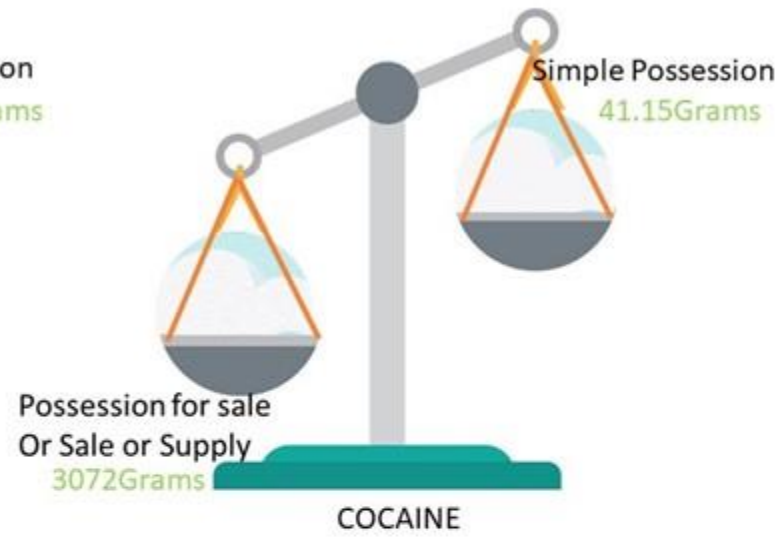
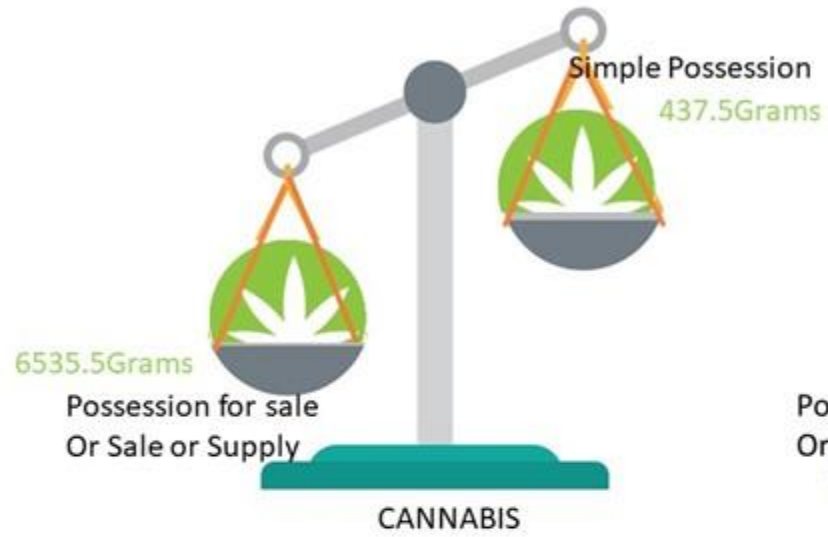
- For any minor drug possession
- Not for minor cannabis possession, but possible for other drug possession
- Not for minor drug possession



The likelihood of incarceration for minor cannabis possession compared throughout Europe

Data from 2017.

## Quantities of Drugs seized by Offence 2019



# 5%

Suspect Offenders under 18 years

# 41%

Suspect Offenders 18 to 30 years

# 5

Incidents of cultivation of cannabis



## **Emerging Trends from the Bray Municipal Area**



## EMERGING ISSUES

### Dual Diagnosis

Dual Diagnosis has been identified as a significant issue in Bray. Dual Diagnosis' is the term used when a person suffers from both a substance abuse issue and another mental health issue such as depression or an anxiety disorder. We believe that if you don't treat both together you can't beat either.

Most mental health services and addiction treatment centres in Ireland are currently not organised to treat most patients holistically. For example, if one has difficulties abstaining from alcohol due to anxiety, one may not enter rehabilitation services (most residential drug services insist a client must be "dry" before entry). Yet one can not get their anxiety problem treated until their addiction to alcohol has been addressed.

According to figures from the American Medical Association, up to 37% of people who abuse alcohol and 53% of people who abuse drugs also have at least one serious mental illness, and 29% of people diagnosed as mentally ill abuse either alcohol or drugs.

A study by the UK Dept. of Health put the figures even higher, suggesting that 75% of users of drug services and 85% of users of alcohol services experienced mental health problems. 44% of mental health service users reported drug use. (Weaver et al, 2002)





## **EMERGING ISSUES**

### Drug related Intimidation

Anecdotal evidence shared among members of the Task Force suggest that many families in Bray are living in fear. Fear of violence to themselves or their family members, fear of damage to their property and fear of their children being drawn into crime to pay off drug debts. In one story, a family were pursued for payment of a drug debt after their child had taken his own life.

Drug-Related Intimidation (DRI) is a common and persistent issue which is damaging to individuals, families and entire communities. It can take many different forms, such as: Direct violence or threats of violence to people who use drugs, or their families and loved ones, arising from non-payment of drug-debts. Demands to carry out illegal activities such as holding or moving drugs. The Garda National Drugs Unit and the National Family Support Network, have developed 'the Drug Related Intimidation Reporting Programme' to respond to the needs of drug users and family members experiencing drug related intimidation.

In Bray, the nominated inspector is Inspector Fergal Harrington at Bray Garda Station

**01 6665300**



## EMERGING ISSUES

### Hidden Harm

Parental problem alcohol and other drug use can affect all aspects of family life. It can disrupt family routines and responsibilities, relationships with relatives and friends, and the family's social circumstances and social status. The extent to which parental problem alcohol and other drug use affects the family, and each child within a family, at any one time and over time, is made up by all these inter-related factors (Templeton et al 2006, Adamson and Templeton 2012). The effects on the family of parental problem alcohol and other drug use depends on who is drinking or taking drugs in the family structure and to what level and regularity. The consequences may be verbal aggression, irritability, apathy, verbal and emotional abuse in various aspects, domineering behaviour and physical aggression in varying degrees.

Children living in families affected by parental problem alcohol and other drug use may be at significantly increased risk of poor developmental outcomes and child maltreatment (particularly neglect in all aspects). They are also more likely to develop problems with substance use themselves and experience poor outcomes that persist into adulthood e.g. poor school achievement, poor self-esteem, difficulties in making friends (ACMD 2003, Cleaver et al 2011; Shannon 2017). Specifically Alcohol Action Ireland commenting on the Shannon Report notes the very damaging effects parental problem alcohol and other drug use have on children. It sees this as a failure by society to address alcohol as a fundamental problem, and demonstrates ambivalence to alcohol and drug use. This places 'insurmountable burdens' on the child protection system.

# EMERGING ISSUES

## New Drugs

Nitrous Oxide is a gas that has a number of industrial uses and is used clinically as an anaesthetic gas for pain-relieving properties when mixed with air. It is a colourless gas that some say is slightly sweet smelling and tasting. It can be found in different forms such as whipped cream chargers 'whippets' which are small silver cartridges. It can also come as crackers with balloons attached or as balloons that have been filled with the gas.

It is inhaled, sometimes referred to as 'nagging'

There are always risks with drugs, it is safer not to use.

It is important to note that each person will react differently to a substance. Effects can be based on a number of factors depending on; how much is taken and the dose which sometimes can be unknown, personal factors such as the persons seize and mental health, if the person has consumed the substance before and if other drugs, alcohol or prescription medication are used at the same time.

However, Poly Drug Use is a worrying trend among young people, Using more than one drug at a time is known as polydrug use. This intensifies the effects of any individual drug and makes them more dangerous. It also can create new, more euphoric highs. For example, alcohol can intensify the effects of painkillers, but taking these drugs together makes it more likely that the user will stop breathing.



**What we fund**



# Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force

Bray Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force spends €1.5 million on these important projects in the Bray Area

7 views

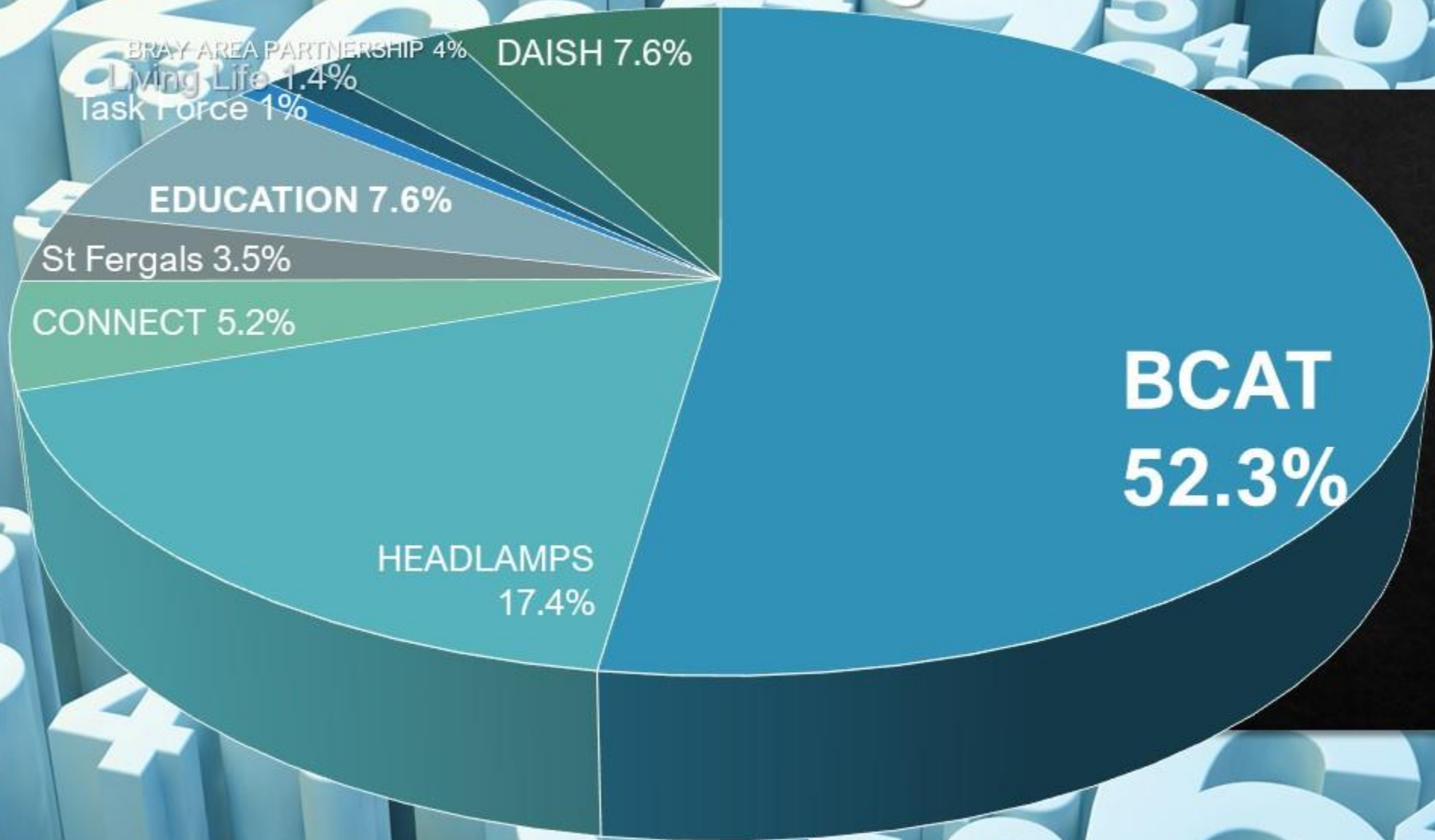
[SHARE](#) [EDIT](#)

## Task Force Projects

- BCAT
- Barnardos family support project
- Bray Area Partnership Integration Suppo...
- Bray Community Addiction Team
- Bray HSE Addiction Services
- DAIS Bray Traveller's Support
- Little Bray Family Resource & Developm...
- Living Life
- Ravenswell Primary School
- St Fergals Family Resource Centre
- St Fergals Junior National Catholic School
- St Kierans Special School
- St Peters Catholic Primary School
- The School Based Drug Education and P...



# 2019 Funding



BCAT

Headlamps

Connect

St Fergals

Education

Task Force

Living Life

Partnership

Daish

## The Headlamps School Support Programme

Funding;	€259,154.00
Chanel of funding	KWETB
Area of National Drug Strategy	Education & Prevention

The Headlamps Project was set up at the end of 2001, and is a school based youth initiative that aims to support primary school. The project is based on the concept of providing a positive learning environment for children with social, emotional or behavioural needs. The ethos offered to the children helps develop self-confidence and resilience and affords participants awareness of their potential. The room, resources and relationship between project staff and children reflects this focus.

Project staff work in close collaboration with parents, school Principal, teachers and Home School Community Liaison Teachers and links are also maintained with School Completion Programme. Staff also maintain contact with outside agencies to optimize opportunities for children attending the project.

The Headlamps Project provides an alternative setting within mainstream education as a means of additional support where the atmosphere offered is emotionally safe and secure.

The fundamental aim of the programme is to assist children in the development of self-image, self-esteem, confidence and resilience. Children attending the project are withdrawn from mainstream classes in small groups and work in a 'Project Room' situated within the school grounds. Sessions are generally 40 minutes and children attend once or twice a week.

The project is based on the concept of providing a positive learning environment for children with social, emotional or behavioural needs. The ethos offered to the children helps develop self-confidence and resilience and affords participants awareness of their potential. The room, resources and relationship between project staff and children reflects this focus.



In 2015, St. Peter's school lost a pupil due to a local tragedy. This had a profound effect on all students and staff alike. As the school was being extended at the time, a new garden was being built. The pupils asked that the garden be dedicated to the deceased student and that it also take her name. This was a lovely idea and was implemented into the building of the new school. Over the weeks and months that followed, this was a constant subject that was dealt with in the Project Room. The room was a space where the children could talk about their feelings, take time out from their day and also address the subject of bereavement through books and conversation. It also offers the flexibility to meet the current needs of the school and student population. Quite often students were brought to visit the garden and there always seemed to be a calming effect of connection and being outdoors while staying in the confines of the school. Bereavement has been and will be a theme that occurs in all Primary Schools at some level and we have found that having a Project Room is an excellent resource for the school to have.





## Bray Community Addiction Team

Funding;	€778,925
Chanel of funding	HSE/ Probation
Area of National Drug Strategy	Multiple

Bray Community Addiction Team is a community based project-providing services to both Under 18s and Adults within Bray and its environs, it has two premises 4b Dublin Road and 37 Beechwood Close.

BCAT provides the following services:

- Open-access low-threshold evidence-based services to people in Bray affected by drug and/or alcohol problems.
- Evidence-based interventions to the target group in one-to-one and group settings
- Outreach services to people with drug/alcohol problems.
- Addiction support to people in prison for drug/alcohol related crime.
- Addiction/integration support to people on release from prison.
- Prison links and Community Service Program
- Evidence-based interventions on a one-to-one basis to people experiencing homelessness.
- Evidence-based interventions on a one-to-one and group setting to family members affected by their relative's drug/alcohol use.
- Mutual Aid - Self-Management and Recovery Training (SMART)
- Health Promotion and Harm Reduction Service (NSP) Boghall Road Mon-Friday 9-5
- Raise awareness/educate the local community on drug/alcohol related issues.
- Work in partnership with local key stakeholders to improve outcomes for mutual client group or any other external parties that will enable us to improve our quality and range of services.

How to access BCAT: One-One Support

BCAT operates a rapid intake system where people with drug/alcohol problems and/or family members may present to BCAT on any day in person, by phone or email.

Open-access low-threshold Service

Drop in Monday-Friday between 10 am - 5pm and Saturday (Dublin Road Only 12.30 – 3.30pm)

Contact details: Email: [brayaddictionteam@bcat.ie](mailto:brayaddictionteam@bcat.ie) Phone: **01-2764692** Website: [www.bcat.ie](http://www.bcat.ie)

*“ I have been a client of the Bray Community Addiction Team (BCAT) for the last number of years. During that time BCAT have really helped me along the road to my recovery. My drug of choice was Alcohol. I had tried AA and other support groups, but they weren’t for me. Then I found BCAT and “Smart Recovery”*

*The support I have received and the tools I have learned from BCAT and Smart have been central to my long term recovery. I never felt “Judged” when I had a lapse, my key worker and all of the BCAT staff were always there for me, to help me pick up the pieces and to get back into my recovery.*

*The tools and the techniques I learned have given me the confidence to know and believe I can do it. That I can get my life back in order.”*

Liam



## Living Life Counselling

Funding;	€20,898
Chanel of funding	HSE
Area of National Drug Strategy	Counselling

Living Life Counselling is a low-cost affordable and accessible service offered to those persons in our community affected by addiction and are either in receipt of social welfare payments, unemployed or on a low income. Our service provides one-to-one counselling to those persons attempting to remain drug or alcohol free. This includes young persons under the age of 18. We provide family support through one-to-one counselling sessions and/or couples counselling to those affected by addiction. Our work can also incorporate working with younger clients (aged five years and over) through a number of mediums such as play therapy.


An initial assessment of need is provided, in conjunction with the client, to ascertain if counselling is an appropriate therapy for them at the specific time when they present. One of our four part-time accredited staff counsellors will allocate up to fifty minutes of face-to-face contact to complete this process with each client. Occasionally this meeting may necessitate follow-up contact with a professional third party who is actively and currently working with the client in another therapeutic framework (usually a GP or psychiatrist). The client's permission is always sought before any such 3rd party contact is taken.

When this process has been completed, the client is matched with a volunteer counsellor who is qualified to work with them on their specifically named issues. The usual duration of client engagement offered is six months with exceptions made if the staff counsellor feels that the client requires longer intervention.

During 2019, we provided support to 364 clients within the Wicklow area who have been impacted by addiction to drugs or alcohol or both. 237 clients were dealing with issues related to alcohol and 127 clients were dealing with issues related to drugs.

Contact Details; Phone **01 286 6729** Website <https://livinglifecounselling.com/>



The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of a person's hands. The hands have red nail polish. One hand is resting on a clear glass, and the other is resting on a keyboard. The background is slightly blurred, showing a white surface and a keyboard.

Cathy is in her 50's, a recovering alcoholic with depression, and is coming to the end of her therapy at Living Life. She is learning to live sober by going to AA meetings and takes anti-depressant medication. Cathy's awareness now of her past dysfunctional coping mechanisms such as people pleasing, avoidance (due to depression) and self-medicating on alcohol are very much evident to her now and she continues to grow with confidence and improved self-esteem, living in the now and using mindfulness, walking and AA meetings to aid her recovery. Without **Living Life Counselling**, she would not have been able to make such impressive progress in her life.

Funding;	€113,105
Chanel of funding	HSE
Area of National Drug Strategy	Multiple

DAISH is a Traveller specific addiction service that was set up in response to the issue of substance abuse within the Travelling Community. DAISH aims to address substance misuse among Travellers in a culturally appropriate way. DAISH is funded by the HSE via Bray Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

This revolutionary Bray project has turned the issue of addiction in the Traveller community into an important public health issue. The project fought hard to bring these issues to public attention, facing opposition from within and without the Traveller community. Now considered as an example of best practice in Ireland, DAISH is the ideal model for community based interventions on addiction. Recently, DAISH has made huge strides to reach out to Traveller women with addiction issues and again lead the country in this field.

The Service include:

One to One support

Advocacy & Referral

Key-working & Case Management

Family Support

Health Promotion & Harm reduction services

Drugs Education & prevention programmes

Counselling

Referral to Detoxification & Rehabilitation services

Referral to needle exchange services

Contact; Jim O'Brien or Christy Moorehouse **01-2762075** [daishproject.manager@outlook.com](mailto:daishproject.manager@outlook.com)



*“I got confidence and self-belief from the support I received through the Daish project. They encouraged me to make positive changes and choices in my life. Currently I’m being supported with getting my child back to my care. My keyworker is working with TUSLA on this. I’ve learned to find my own voice and I’m able to speak up for myself now, as in the past I wasn’t able to or wasn’t listened to. I always feel valued and respected by this service. R.B Service user*



*“I have the upmost respect for everything that you do, all the things you done for me and helping me and my sister too. Thank you for believing in me, brining me here to set myself free, you’re like a brother to me. I hope our relationship will never end, you have been there for my family too, you give advice when I don’t know what to do, I know you a long time, you have been there for all my family and my wife, I would not know what to do if you were not in my life . Love and respect” P. O B, Service user*





## Integration Support Project

Funding; €60,512

Chanel of funding HSE

Area of National Drug Strategy Multiple

The Bray Area Partnership Integration Support Project (ISP) is a rehabilitation focussed project providing one-to-one integration and aftercare support to a range of client categories across the broad spectrum of recovery and stabilised treatment. In addition, ISP incorporates a Progression Fund which supports individuals with education, training and personal development related costs. Individuals accessing the Progression Fund do not have to be ISP clients.

Supports include relapse prevention, relapse management, family, relationship and community integration issues, advice and support on social welfare issues, education and employment supports including appropriate referrals, service access and referral support.

We employ a combination of methods when working with our clients including Motivational Interviewing, Cognitive Behavioural Therapy and aspects of the Community Reinforcement Approach. Clearly each ISP client is different and we tailor one-to-one support to their individual needs, beliefs and strengths while acknowledging other supports they may be accessing such as NA, AA, ongoing religious based support and health / fitness / mindfulness lifestyle activities.

A key support to the success of ISP work is the intra- and inter-agency relationships encompassing both statutory and community and voluntary sector organisations – this involves working with agencies such the HSE Rehabilitation integration Service, Wicklow County Council, KWETB, MABS, housing associations and homeless related charities plus the support offered to clients through Bray Area Partnership's related services and supports.

The Integration Support Worker, Thomas Manley, can be contacted at 01 **2868266 / 089 2474108**

“

I used heroin last about 15 or 16 years ago – gave up drink at the same time – hit rock bottom and wanted to get my life together and keep my job. I started using drugs when I was 12 or 13. I started going to meetings to get clean and it worked for me. I went to meetings every day and there was nothing else and it worked for me. Every day was a right struggle but it got a little better every day.

I came out of my shell a bit and remembered what it was like just to be normal and I started to identify with other people. Ten years or so ago I heard about the partnership’s aftercare – rang Tom and made an appointment to see him and I still am seeing him.

It’s great to have a chat with Tom and he sees me when I need him. I work so sometimes that’s not always 9 to 5. Since the day I stopped using and decided to get clean I haven’t picked up again and having someone to talk to over those years has been great. When things are going hard for me I like to see Tom as much as I can and sometimes that can be two or three times a week.

Someone asked me why I still go to aftercare after all these years and it’s the same reason I still go to meetings – it’s important to stay linked in with your supports cos you just never know and you can’t become complacent.

”

Tom always tried to make himself available in hard times. I like that I control how often I link in and get support





## St Fergal's Young Women's Project

Funding;	€51,623
Chanel of funding	KWETB
Area of National Drug Strategy	

St Fergal's Young Women's Project is a community based youth project working in the Ballywaltrim area, funded through Bray Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force, under the Prevention and Education Pillar, to work with young women and their families to address issues of substance misuse, exclusion, disadvantage and Early School Leaving. We work through an interagency approach to ensure the work of the project is progressed.

The operating principles of St Fergal's Young Women's Programme are guided by our belief in the rights of young people and their ability to participate in programmes and services in a voluntary capacity and to be involved in the decision making processes that have a direct impact on their lives, our programmes and services are continually evolving as new and emerging needs and issues are identified, we provide the following services for young women and their families:

Drop-in

Drug and Alcohol Programmes which are age appropriate

Formal and Informal opportunities for education and training

Rebels Youth Group

Groups for young people aged 7-25 to include age appropriate life skills

Contact; **(01) 276 0376**

“ I recently completed the straightening families’ programme . I am a mother of four children aged 7, 9, 17 and 18, also recovering from some health issues. I didn’t do the programme because I had a problem with “a bold child”, I did it for myself ,as a parent, as a parent you struggle everyday with different issues that arise from being a parent but if you think that you’re “a bad mother “ that brings a lot more issues to the everyday family life .

The strengthening families programme gave me and us as a family, the tools to help with our family every day . I realised its “ok to have a bad day “ and there are better days to come, not every day has to be bad, but when you do have a bad day falling back on the skills gained from the programme got me through, as a family we still make time at least once a week to have a family meeting and to also listen to the good and the bad things that my family, as a family and as individuals are dealing with . My youngest child really enjoys the family meetings as he is so quiet but at family meetings he has his time to talk and be heard, the meeting also shows them that as a family we are focused on them and their life issues no matter how big or small they may seem.

While I was recovering I was not capable of being there fully for my family, at times it was like role reversal, my children became the carers, the strengthening families programme came along at the right time because when I got better, there was confusion in the family as to who was the parent and the

”  
programme brought us back to our proper roles as a family.



**Bray Community Groups**  
**Connect Bray Neighbourhood Youth Project**

Funding;	€77,791
Chanel of funding	KWETB
Area of National Drug Strategy	Youth

Connect Neighbourhood Youth Project provides a high-quality youth service to young people between the ages of 10 – 24, to the most disadvantaged communities in Bray. We provide Centre based services from three locations in the town to young people, based on their needs, issues and interests. The services include drop-ins, Life skills Programmes, educational and issue based group work programmes, one-to-one support, detached youth work (including outreach), outings, residential activities and summer programmes.

We offer young people the opportunity to develop holistically through informal education processes as a response to social needs in a safe and equitable environment. We believe in the right of young people and their ability to be involved in the decision-making processes ensuring their views are valued and recognised. We also aim to work in a collective approach and in a participative way that respects the individual and builds up the social and personal skills of all young people so they can develop their full potential.

Youth work is the engagement of young people through their voluntary participation in a process of planned programmes and activities based on the needs of the participants. It takes place in a safe and welcoming, non-judgmental environment and enables young people to enhance their personal and social development, it is young person focused and youth led and complimentary to a young person's formal education. It is based on equality, is outcome focused and provides a platform for young people to have a voice in society and a sense of belonging in society.

The project works with a range of Young People and their families who are excluded from society as a result of addiction, mental health issues, criminal activity and antisocial behaviour. We also work with young Travellers who are excluded from mainstream programmes and services. Working at a neighbourhood level enables us to focus on spatial targeting of Young People and their families. By identifying and reaching the most at risk in our communities we are able to support their engagement in both our organisation's internal services and programmes and external services. We use a variety of strategies internally and in collaboration with external agencies to support engagement and progression ranging from targeted outreach to referrals from local programmes, activities and the organisations wider services.

We take a multi-pronged approach to address needs of young people, their families ranging from delivery of formal educational supports for young people from primary to third level education, to the provision of an outreach and drop in service with disengaged young people. We work closely with local organisations to support engagement of young people in their services and have collaborated on and developed initiatives and referral mechanisms to address their needs . The youth project through its developmental programmes provides a range of opportunities to support young people affected by educational disadvantage in an out of school setting. **Contact (01) 286 7644**

*“Cats and dogs of all shapes and sizes  
all of them seeing the same horizon  
Fires and caravans in crimson fields  
Trying to keep warm starting with them wheels  
Boys on the session in the kip of a field.  
Got off with someone’s daughter, with the shouts of  
Someone get her water*

*I love my best friend  
She’s called Larry  
But all of you are unaware  
That her real name is Claire  
Running away from the boys in Blue  
There’s still no better place than you”*

**Kieva Keating**

Connect Bray Neighbourhood Youth Project  
With the writer & Poet Colm Keegan  
In conjunction with the Mermaid Theatre



## Bray Drug Awareness Education

Funding;	€112,399
Chanel of funding;	KWETB
Area of National Drug Strategy	Education

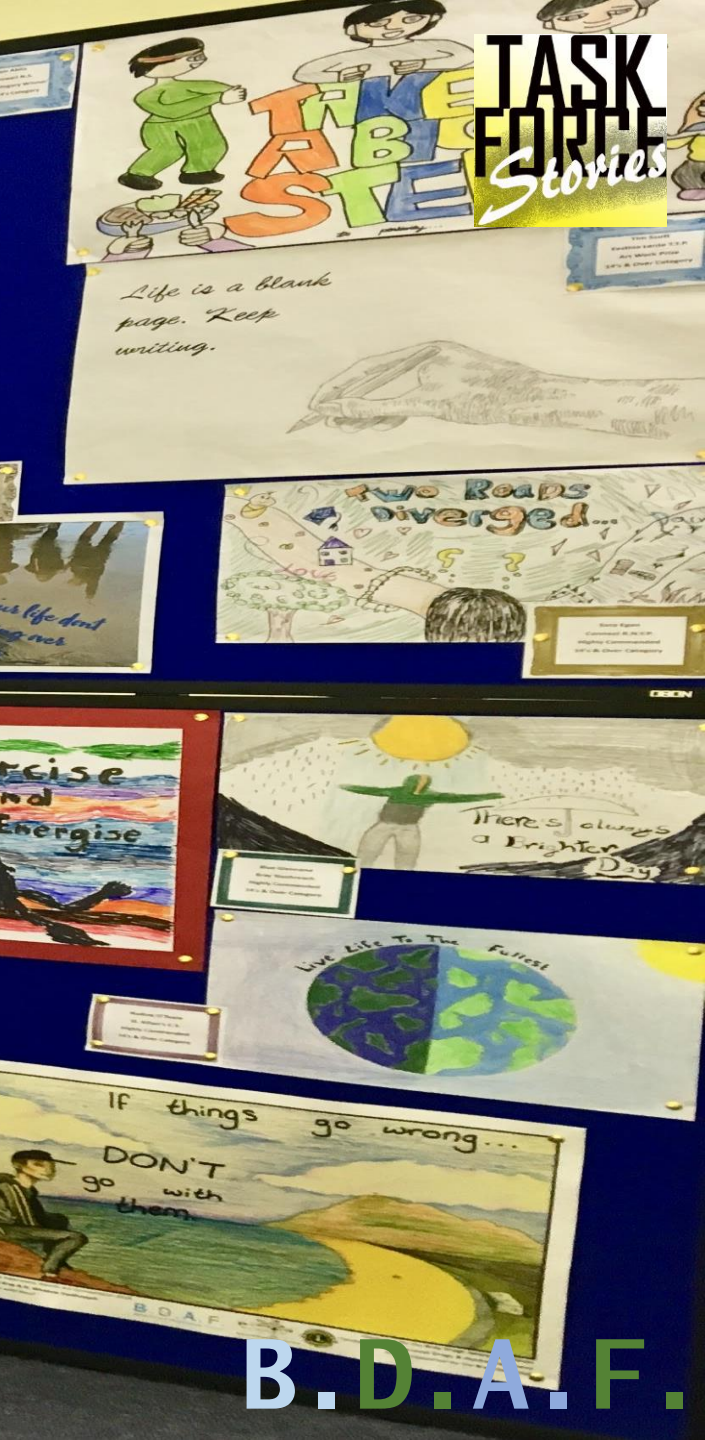
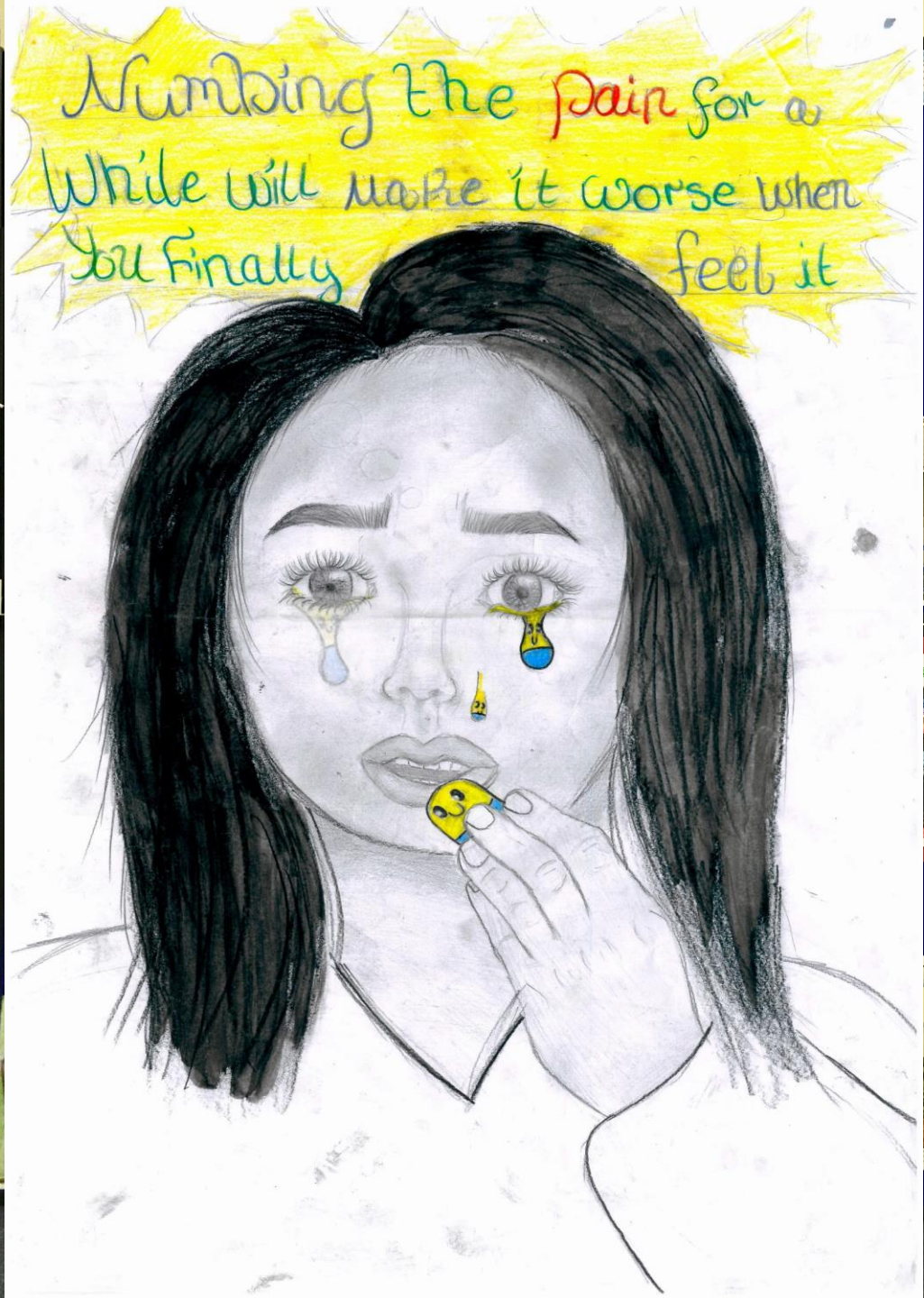
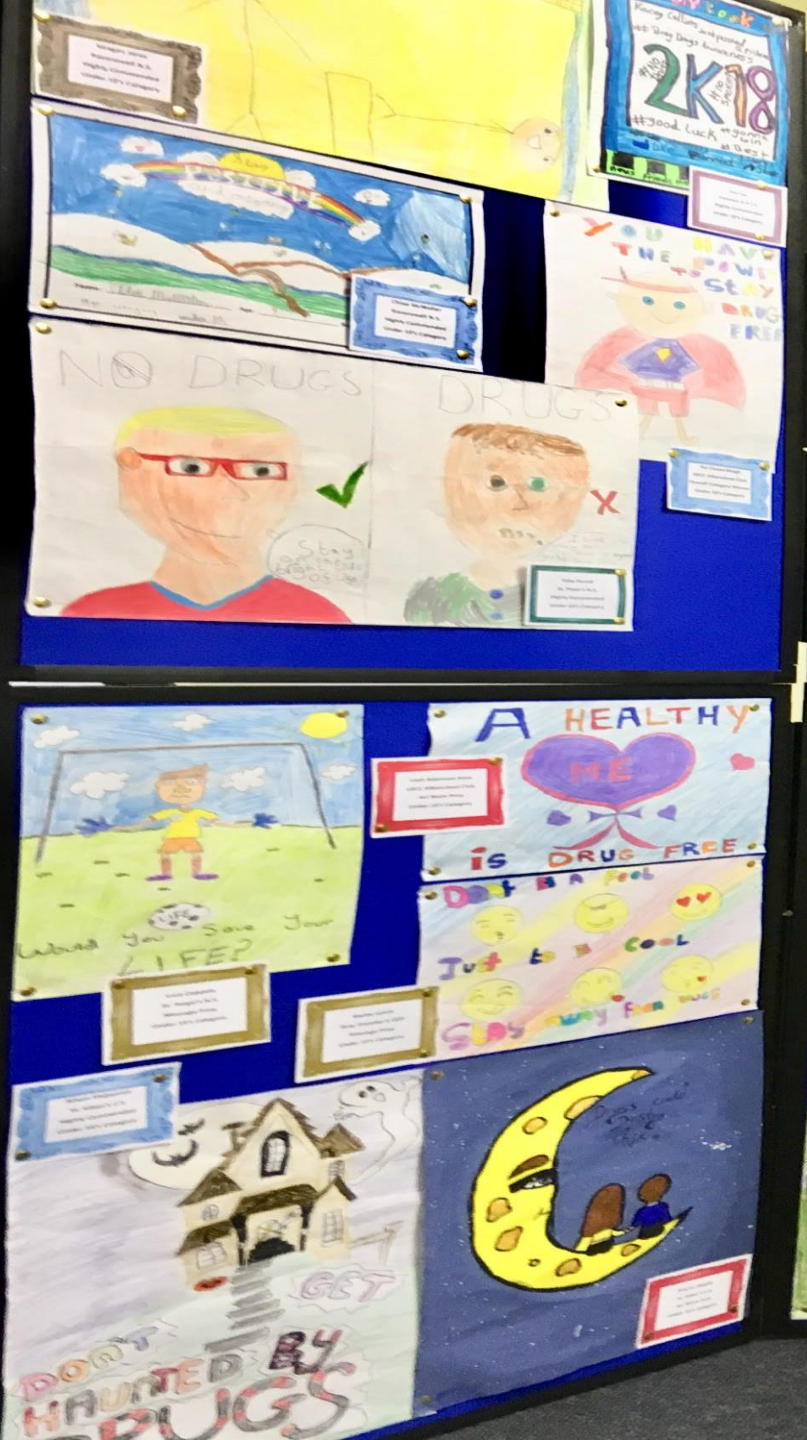
The purpose of the Bray Drug Awareness programme is provide a variety of drugs education and prevention responses to the local needs of young people within the town, with the objective of preventing and / or reducing substance use among young people. In addition to reduce the harm caused to those young people and their communities.

They provide appropriate drugs education and prevention programmes that are based on best practice guidelines and that are evidence based in approach. The programme generates a greater awareness among young people and the wider community around drug related issues and to provide accurate information on drugs. They provide current accurate information on drugs for adults working with young people and where necessary provide relevant training and up-skilling for those adults around substance use education and best practice guidelines.

Working with the schools Drugs Education & Prevention Worker Ger has built a solid network. The annual art competition receives hundreds of entries and promotes widespread public discussions. The project's annual conference facilitates multi-sectorial and community networking which coincides with the drug awareness month. The project has proved very innovative recently adding arrange of excellent podcasts to their range of resources

Tel: **01-2050502** email: [info@bys.ie](mailto:info@bys.ie)





TASK FORCE Stories

B.D.A.F.



**Future Actions**

## Local Actions;

### **a). Stabilisation Programme**

2021 will see the start of the Stabilisation programme, this will be funded by the HSE. The programme helps users to break their links with illicit and high risk drugs and begin the pathway to becoming drug free. This incorporates life skills programmes aimed at building many of the necessary tactics required to successfully reintegrate in to the community.

### **b). Service User's Forum**

Bray Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force wants to be informed by the service users who it works with . Their voice should be the leading guide to what we do. To this end, the Task Force will set up and resource a service user's forum. This forum will inform and guide the Task Force. It will be important to have service users represented on the Task Force itself.

### **c). Research and Strategic Planning**

In 2021, The Bray Local drug and Alcohol Task Force will tender for a research project. The research will do a complete 'gap and needs analysis of services in the Bray area. The research will show where the Task Force can support it's projects to meet these needs.

Armed with this research, the Task Force will develop a strategic plan for the coming 3 years. This strategic plan will be launched at the Task Force's 2021 AGM.

Regional Action; **Hidden Harm project**

with Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force & Barnardos

Across Ireland, thousands of children and young people are living with the impact of parental problem alcohol or other drug use. Hidden Harm is often concealed by shame, fear and stigma or is not picked up. Therefore, the exact number of children and young people affected by parental problem alcohol and other drug use is not fully known. The research indicates, at the most conservative estimate, that 1 in 11 children and young people are living in a situation where alcohol or other drug use is an issue. Given the scale of the problem, it is crucial that we identify and support these children and young people.

The programme will intensify the provision in Bray of practice interventions in families where children have been impacted by the substance misuse of parents and/or a carer.

This programme will contribute to the local enactment and development of the Hidden Harms Framework (HHF) through developing and promoting inter-agency structures initially across Bray and DLR, and potentially across CHO6 more widely

This programme will consist a series of actions designed to embed the HHF as a priority across all relevant Bray/DLR services and to scale up the need for intensive family interventions, and inter-agency policies, protocols and mechanisms, within the context of reducing harms to children from substance misuse.

Contact; Barnardos family support project 4 Dublin Rd, Bray, Co Wicklow (01) 905 8749

## National Action; **DRIVE Project. Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement**

This national initiative is supported by Bray Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force with the 13 other Local & 10 Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Forces, it is an interagency approach with the HSE Addiction Services across all CHO areas. Drug & Alcohol Task Forces & HSE Addiction Services currently support the delivery of a range of programmes / initiatives focused on the area of drug related intimidation.

1. To develop a framework to be used by Task Forces & HSE Addiction Services across the country to capture the nature and extent of drug related intimidation and violence in their respective communities
2. To Build the capacity of service providers who work in communities across Task Force & HSE Addition Service areas to empower communities to better respond to drug related intimidation and violence
3. To support the delivery of professional development for staff and services providers in partnership with An Garda Síochána and the National Family Support Network
4. To develop regional and local interagency protocols to improve relationships between the An Garda Síochána and key Community, Voluntary & Statutory stakeholders across Task Force Areas

To date the drug related intimidation response in Ireland has been somewhat limited. There is a clear need for a more grass roots approach which includes communities engaging in a more meaningful process through co-production. Task Force structures are uniquely placed to facilitate the community partnership that is required to move the approach from a largely national policy driven focus into a community action strategy. The DRIVE project will mean a sustainable, iterative approach that recognises the unique identities of urban, suburban and rural communities in responding to the issue of drug related intimidation and violence across Ireland

Bray Chamber of Commerce, Bray Homeless Forum, Wicklow County Council, Department of Health DPU payments Brian Dowling, John Kelly, Keith Brown, Anne Corr, HSE Addiction Services, Louise Devlin, Damien Murphy, Pauline Ruane, Geraldine Hicks, Joe Behan, Steven Matthews, Melanie Corrigan, Grace McManus, Dermot "Daisy" O'Brien, Rory O'Connor, Aoife Flynn-Kennedy, Anne Ferris, Minister Simon Harris, Minister Stephen Donnelly, John Brady, Pat Casey, Andrew Doyle, Jennifer Whitmore, Steven Matthews, KWETB, The Probation Service, Department of Justice, Family Support Network

*Thank you*



Bray Community Addiction Team, DAISH, St Fergal's Family Resource Centre, Connect Bray, Headlamps School Support Programme, Barnardos, Bray Area Partnership, Bray Youth Service, An Garda Síochána, Living Life Counselling, Bray Lion's Club, BLDATF Treatment & Rehabilitation Sub-group, BLDATF Drug Awareness Forum and the Finance Committee





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An Roinn  
Sláinte  
Department  
of Health

## **BRAY LOCAL DRUG & ALCOHOL TASK FORCE**

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