



Tallaght Drug & Alcohol Task Force Report on project activities, 2021-2022

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Abbreviations

CAAP	Community Action on Alcohol Project
CARP	Community Addiction Response Programme
CYPSC	Children Youth Persons Services Committee
HSE	Health Service Executive
iCAAN	Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network
JADD	Jobstown Assisting Drug Dependency
NHRC	New Hope Residential Centre
NSRF	National Suicide Research Foundation
NUI	National University Ireland (Maynooth)
P&E	Prevention & Education
RHSR	Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery
St Dominic's CRP	St Dominic's Community Response Project
SDCC	South Dublin County Council
SDCP	South Dublin County Partnership
SFP	Strengthening Families Programme
SWAN	SWAN Family Support Organisation Ltd
TASP	Tallaght Addiction Support Project
T & R subgroup	Treatment and Rehabilitation subgroup (TDATF)
TDATF	Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force
TDPP	Tallaght Drug Prevention Project
TRP	Tallaght Rehabilitation Project
TYS	Tallaght Youth Service
WASP	Whitechurch Addiction Support Project
YODA	Youth and Drugs Alcohol Service
YPP	Young People's Project



1 Introduction

This report provides an evidence-based update of TDATAF project activities in 2021, with a focus on the following:

- The findings of recent research commissioned by TDATAF.
- A description of TDATAF funded projects including inputs, outputs, and outcomes in terms of their impact on drug and alcohol use in the local communities.
- Rationale for continuation of each funded project in addressing priority drug and alcohol needs in the Tallaght area.
- Work plans for 2021 and 2022.

1.1 Summary of recent research commissioned by TDATAF

Tallaght is the largest county town of South Dublin with a population of nearly 94,000 which has expanded rapidly since 1971. It has a young population with 37% aged 0–24 years, 9% (about 9000) of whom are living in Small Areas that are classified as very disadvantaged, with a deprivation score of -20 or lower.

This level of deprivation is marked by high numbers of lone parents compared to the state average, low educational attainment, high levels of unemployment, homelessness, child protection issues, and high levels of vulnerability to poverty and benefit dependency. Killinarden was ranked 10th in the 50 most deprived Electoral Divisions in Ireland in 2016.

Associated with this level of deprivation is a vulnerability to addiction, mental health difficulties, anti-social behaviour, and crime, particularly amongst the young. The TDATAF area has had some of the highest incidences of substance misuse in Ireland for at least seven consecutive years. Between 2019 and 2020, there was an 18% increase in the use of cocaine, and crack cocaine and polydrug use are now the dominant substance misuse issues presenting to services.

The Next Generation Research (2016) estimated that close to 7,000 young people aged 0–18 in the TDATAF area could be impacted negatively by substance misuse. Recent research commissioned by TDATAF and published in October 2021, *the landscape of substance misuse and its impact on the communities of Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force*¹, described how the absence of positive role models and reduced resilience in families due to deprivation and poverty make it very challenging for young people to resist the lure of the drugs economy. For example, there are a significant number of crack houses in the local community and young children are living in these, and many young people are being groomed and acting as drug runners. Mental health issues are dominating communities with a higher than state average number of suicides, drug-related deaths, and incidences of self-harm.

¹ The landscape of substance misuse and its impact on the communities of Tallaght Drugs & Alcohol Task Force (2021) Finbarr Fitzpatrick, Business Improvement Solutions.



Crime rates are increasing. Between 2017 and 2018, An Garda Síochána reported a 75% increase in drug-related crime and a three-fold increase in the value of drug seizures. Between 2013 and 2019, CSO statistics showed that Tallaght Garda station was the fourth highest nationally with respect to the numbers of reported crimes.

The overall picture for the TDAF area is one of increasingly complex substance misuse and mental health-related issues impacting communities with high levels of crime, insecurity for residents, and overwhelming problems associated with family breakdown, violence, and drug-related intimidation. This is in the face of an increasing population and a 5.5% decrease in interim funding allocation to TDAF since 2010, combined with recently increasing rates of inflation. These are compounding factors which are severely stretching service provision.

2 Description of TDAF projects

This section summarises TDAF funded projects and services.

2.1 Tallaght Rehabilitation Project (TRP)

Main client target group(s)	<p>People who wish to engage in a rehabilitation recovery process and who are motivated to attain a drug and alcohol-free status. Clients can be stable on small doses of methadone or other prescribed medications, or clients can be drug and alcohol free when entering TRP.</p> <p>The services are for people residing in the Tallaght wide area; however, the aftercare service can cater for clients living outside of Tallaght. TRP also facilitate outreach to the probation and prison services.</p>
Brief service descriptor	<p>TRP offers a unique comprehensive structured specialist day programme and aftercare service within the local community for people who are progressing through a continuum of care within a recovery process, delivering programmes specific to the needs of our client group. TRP has developed various progression routes for clients which are therapeutic, holistic, and educational. TRP also assist clients who wish to embark on a detox from various medication., TRP has a strict protocol regarding detox plans for clients, detox will only be facilitated at the request of the client and in full agreement with their prescribing doctor or medical professional.</p> <p>Day programme hours are from 9am to 5pm 5 days a week. The evening aftercare services begins at 5pm to 9pm Monday to Friday. TRP also facilitate NA and CA groups on the facility.</p>
Projects that are run from TRP	<p>TRP deliver many modules to our participants including Relapse Prevention workshops, weekly key working sessions, weekly therapeutic process groups, 3-way special groups with parents and or partners of clients involved in the programmes, holistic therapies,</p>



	<p>health awareness modules and money management with outside facilitators from MABS, HSE etc., career guidance and educational options through specific individual learner plans for participants who are graduating from the services. TRP has links with various specialist counselling services outside of our own programmes and TRP will refer people to these services if required.</p>
<p>Staff members and volunteers</p>	<p>TRP have 20 staff on site: 9 therapeutically trained staff. Only 2 full time, 7 part time. 3 CE full time staff, 1 supervisor 1 assistant supervisor, (1 assistant supervisor position to be filled.) 1 Full time financial administrator. 1 full time manager. 2 receptionists part time CE 1 Security person part time CE 2 Gardeners part time CE 1 Maintenance part time CE. (Current volunteers and Placements.) 3 volunteers part time. 2 college placements.</p> <p>TRP are actively seeking funding to support staff resources, it is hoped that TRP can attain funding to restore full working hours to our therapeutic staff team which will greatly enhance our resources again and which will enable us to engage with more clients from the community and enhance our services overall. All TRP staff are highly skilled professionals and academically trained.</p>
<p>Number of clients.</p>	<p>Day programme services 21 clients (this is the maximum number of clients we can facilitate with current staffing). Aftercare services: 30 clients TRP also meet with family, friends and partners of clients who wish to engage in our services.</p>
<p>Main outputs/achievements for 2021:</p>	<p>TRP has completed many achievements in 2021, including, Signed MOUs with most of the other treatment, rehabilitation, and family support organisations in Tallaght to cohesively work together for the community and all the clients and their families who need various supports. TRP is very proud of the fact that we provided key essential services on site throughout all of 2021 and 2020. During the Covid 19 pandemic, we adjusted our services to suit the needs of our participants to ensure that there was a service available for them.</p> <p>Sept 2021: TRP hosted an event at Kiltalown house to celebrate recovery month.</p>



	<p>Oct 2021: TRP successfully facilitated a 4-day residential for our clients in the Cavan centre.</p> <p>Oct 2021: TRP facilitated a 6-week box smart module. These extra initiatives were facilitated parallel to our therapeutic and educational structures, which is a great testament to the commitment, passion, and work rate of the staff team and the board of directors.</p> <p>Also, among all the diversity of last year, TRP completed a service agreement with the HSE, and we also finished our Charities regulator document in line with our organisational charitable status.</p> <p>April 2021: TRP launched our new revised website and our annual report.</p> <p>TRP responded to all the actions and tasks in our strategic work plans for 2021.</p>
<p>How TRP is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly</p>	<p>As explained above, A key element of supporting people through recovery is to encourage clients to improve their health status. TRP clients took part in the Box smart module which has a physical and nutritional module in this initiative, encouraging exercise with a trained facilitator and a nutritionist to help clients make and eat healthy affordable meals. When people are engaged in meaningful recovery, they are no longer using drug paraphernalia or harmful substances, and this means less overdoses, less illness, less trips to the doctor, less trips to the hospitals, less criminal activity, less trips to the courts, and improvement in psychological and mental wellbeing. These positive outcomes have a huge ripple effect on the clients and the community as whole. Positive recovery has a huge positive effect on their families, especially those with children.</p> <p>TRP demonstrates that encouraging and supporting people to engage in a continuum of care that the IS A WAY OUT of the addiction cycle, and this is paramount in helping people to improve their quality of life and giving the person the encouragement confidence and self-esteem to believe that they can recover from addiction.</p>



2.2 WASP Family Support

Main client target group(s)	Families that are living with or close to a dependent alcohol or drug user. Individuals with intellectual difficulties and substance misuse issues. Family members of clients that suffer with addiction.
Brief service descriptor	WASP provides a place where people with addiction and their families can take that first step and find the expert support and advice they need. For those living close to a dependent drug/alcohol user it often seems that support is focused towards the user, when in fact it transcends like a vapour through the whole family and more importantly the children. Families and individuals need different kinds of help and support as no two families are the same. WASP believes that families need and deserve support in their own right.
Projects that are run from WASP	Family support, Counselling, Keywork, Family mediation, kinship care, Intimidation support
Number of staff members and volunteers	4 part-time 6 CE workers 12 Volunteers
Number of clients.	100 families in family support. 128 clients attended keywork & counselling 29 families attended family mediation 27 families attended Kinship
Main outputs/achievements for 2021:	Secured a position through funding from TDATF for part-time family support worker to start in Jan 2022. Achieved a conviction for a family intimidation case. Reunited family members together & children reunited with their parents. Completing the National Standards for safer & better healthcare. Both volunteers and staff have completed medical training for administering medication. WASP has a strong Board of Directors with extensive skills and expertise. We co-ordinate 2 NA meetings each week and have extended our Family Support groups. WASP has remained open throughout the entire Covid 19 pandemic with full outreach services. Many families have had help in getting suitable housing. Good Governance 2021 is completed and 2022 is on-going. MOUs are signed. WASP is fully compliant.



	<p>We have found working in cohesion with other Project Managers that we have signed into an MOU with has been very successful and has resulted in our clients having a better care plan and this has brought better outcomes for the client.</p>
<p>Brief paragraph on how WASP is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly</p>	<p>WASP provides on-going Family support groups and a Therapy Outreach Programme. We provide up to date information/workshops for adults and young people. Through these weekly support groups and activities, we provide a supportive environment. We are dedicated to working with all members of the family with a view to building self-awareness, self-esteem, and regaining or developing family strengths. This in turn helps individuals and families to develop positive attitudes, understanding, acceptance and new social and community/citizenship skills. Each individual arrives at a sense of self-belief, enabling them to live life with pride, self-esteem, freedom/independence and ambition for the future. In the Outreach Programme, WASP Project workers engage with family members in the family support group, providing one to one meetings and offer individual screening with a care plan.</p>



2.3 Education Bursary Fund

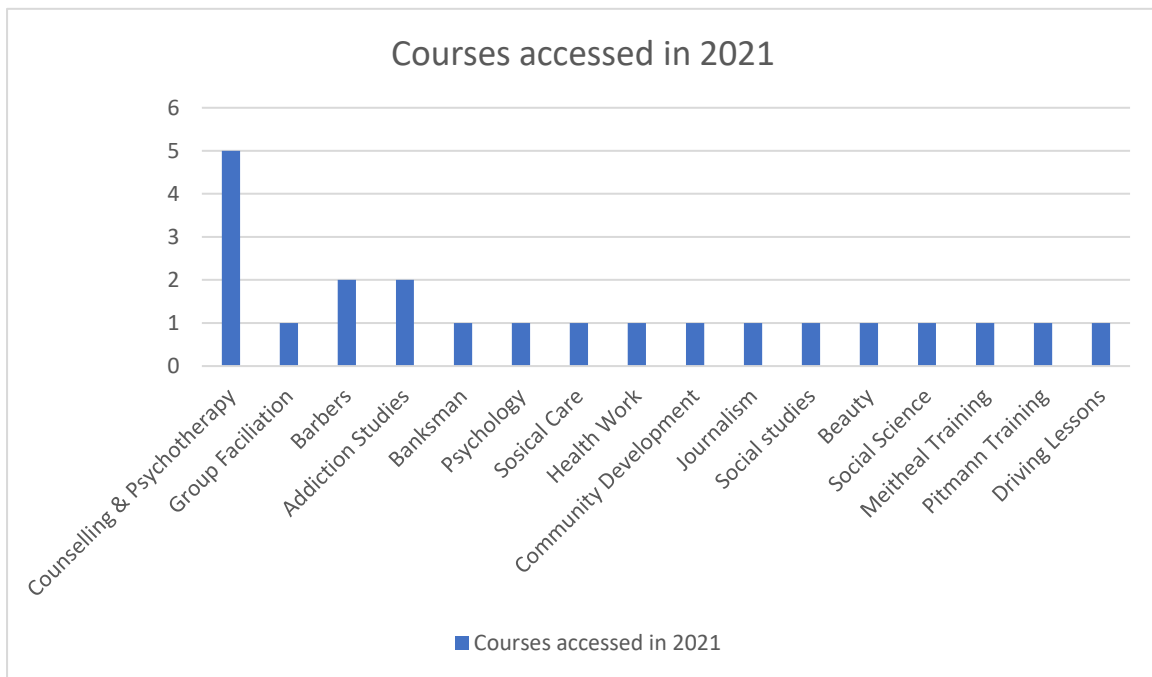
<p>Main client target group(s)</p>	<p>People in recovery from alcohol and substance misuse who wished to explore or progress their educational and or career prospects.</p> <p>Criterion to currently reside and/or accessing drug specific services in the TDATF area, including Tallaght, Dublin 24 and Whitechurch, Dublin 14.</p> <p>Depending on interest, a percentage of this fund was available to family members who have been affected by addiction.</p>
<p>Brief service descriptor</p>	<p>The purpose of this grant is to support service users based on goals of Access, Retention and progression in education.</p> <p>The grant framework is developed, based on these goals and the learning over the past years on educational needs, challenges and outcomes individuals' experience.</p> <p>It provides clients with educational opportunities they would otherwise be unable to afford. The SDCC Life Long Learning Officer provides guidance and advice to help clients find courses that are appropriate to their capacities.</p>
<p>Staff members and volunteers:</p>	<p>Administered by TDATF management team under SDCCP & currently supported by Tallaght Addiction Support Project</p>
<p>Number of clients.</p>	<p>Total Amount of Applications received in 2021: 32 (22 male, 10 female). Ten did not proceed because of life circumstances, alternative funding options, or non-eligibility.</p>
<p>Main outputs/achievements for 2021:</p>	<p>See Figure 1.</p> <p>22 individuals completed training.</p> <p>Total Amount allocated in grants €15,516.00</p>
<p>How the bursary fund service is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly</p>	<p>The Fund was available from February 2021 and was open until the grant allocation was expended/November 2021.</p> <p>An Expression of Interest Form was completed. Upon receipt of same, a meeting with Valerie Devaney, the Life-long learning officer with South Dublin County Partnership was then arranged. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the education/training pathway available to the individual. Then, the applicant completed an application form for completion with their key-worker.</p>



Applicants must have a rehabilitation care plan, which includes their education goals.

The Education Bursary Fund has been offered each year since 2004. It has provided a unique learning opportunity for many individuals over the years who have used it to develop new skills and go on into meaningful employment. Although we don't know the number, a substantial proportion of recipients of the fund are now working in the substance misuse field. We are extremely proud to have a bursary fund to support service users progress in education and development

Figure 1 Courses accessed through the Education Bursary Fund in 2021





4.4 St Dominics Community Response Project

<p>Main client target group(s)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Problematic Substance users aged 18 or over. • Substance users recently substance free at risk of relapse • Substance users seeking short term education around their substance use • Substance users seeking referral for residential detox/ rehabilitation • Family members/ partners affected by problem substance use (Peer led Group)
<p>Brief service descriptor</p>	<p>St Dominic’s CRP supports problematic substance users who are motivated to make changes in relation to their substance use, along with the associated behaviours. We offer Tier 3 community drug intervention on a one-to-one basis, along with Tier 4 referral and preparation support. We also develop group work based on our service user and incoming referral needs. The substance/ substances of choice influence the treatment plan; however, our approach is the same for all substances. We also offer support to family members and partners impacted by substance use.</p>
<p>Projects that are run from St. Dominic’s</p>	<p>Services delivered by St. Dominic’s CRP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive Assessments • Key-working/one to one • Complimentary Therapies • Counselling • Family Support Group (Peer Led) • Dual Diagnosis Group • Cocaine Service (Wednesday’s 2 – 9pm) • Acupuncture Groups • Brief Interventions • Phone Interventions • Case Management • Crisis Intervention • Urinalysis Screening • Tier 4 Residential Preparation/ Referrals • Community Detox Referral/ Support • Community Services Referrals • Community Addiction Studies Course (QQI Level 5)



<p>Staff members and volunteers</p>	<p>Manager (full time) Administrator (part time) Substance Abuse Counsellor (full time) Project Worker x 2 (full time) Receptionist x 1 TUS x 1 CE (19.5 hrs) Volunteers x 2 (6 hrs each)</p>
<p>Number of clients.</p>	<p>In 2021: 270 incoming referrals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 186 Substance use clients supported 65% Male; 35% Female <p>Problem Substance on Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cocaine – 67 • Crack Cocaine – 12 • Alcohol – 44 • Heroin – 9 • Benzodiazepines – 16 • Herbal Cannabis – 16 • Cannabis – 4 • Methadone – 16 • Pain Killers – 1 • Ketamine – 1 <p>7 Family support group members</p>
<p>Main outputs/achievements for 2021:</p>	<p>2021 Outcomes: Completed Treatment Substance Free = 59 Stabilised on Prescribed medication = 1 Progressed into Tier 4 Support = 19 Carried over into 2022 = 24 Referred Successfully to Community Programmes = 24 Completed Community Detox = 7 Disengaged Active in Substance Use = 49</p>
<p>How St. Dominic's is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly</p>	<p>St Dominic's CRP is focused on drug intervention to illicit change in problematic substance users, which is set out from our service user charter of rights and assessment. Our target group is active substance users with often complex needs. Each service user receives a tailored treatment plan based on their needs to support change in their substance use. Self-care, physical, mental and emotional health & wellbeing, along with the promotion of pro social outlets is part of service users' treatment plans. We support many to become substance free or stabilised in the community.</p>



	<p>We also refer a number of service users to access residential treatment. As a service, we are very focused on supporting our service users through the continuum of care, referring them on to more suitable services when they have reached a substance free status. For Tier 4 service users in residential treatment, we keep contact with them and the service to ensure adequate referrals are made and supported to ensure a good aftercare plan.</p> <p>Supporting problem drug users to become substance free and into recovery, we believe this will benefit the community as a whole. It reduces drug using behaviour in our communities and puts people in the position to support their communities. It reduces the health consequences associated with problem drug use which, in turn, reduces the costs and waiting times to health services. Relationships improve and the risk of homelessness is lowered.</p>
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4.5 St Aengus Community Action Group CLG

Main client target group(s)	<p>People, over 18, suffering from drug addiction, from the Tymon (1) & (2) LEA and greater Tallaght area.</p> <p>People in recovery who wish to gain entry to employment or further education, from all areas.</p> <p>People who are active drug users, seeking Harm Reduction.</p> <p>Families or Individuals who are seeking supports and information, due to a family members drug usage.</p> <p>People from the general community who access our service for advice or to address concerns about general drug use within the community.</p> <p>Local Second Level schools to provide drug awareness and prevention information.</p>
Brief service descriptor	<p>Community led Drug Treatment and Rehabilitation Project, founded in 1996, in partnership with the HSE, TDATF and DEASP, offering drug treatment and rehabilitation, free of charge, to those people suffering from drug addiction or in recovery from drug addiction. The Company is register with the CRO and the Charity Regulator and has an active Board of Directors.</p>
Projects that are run from St. Aengus	<p>Clinical Service twice weekly, offering methadone prescribing through two HSE provided General Practitioners.</p> <p>One to One Counselling via appointment with two registered Counsellors available.</p>



	<p>Daily Drop-In Service. Harm Reduction and Needle Exchange. Brief Interventions. Holistic Therapy. Referrals and Advocacy. Education and Training Programme, offered through our Community Employment Programme, including Personal Development, Group Work, Tai Chi, Wellbeing and Mindfulness, Relapse Prevention and Art Therapy</p>
Staff members and volunteers	<p>7 fulltime staff 2 volunteers 41 Community Employment participants, including Special Category, Disability and Active Labour participants. Sessional Staff employed for various Modules for the Education and Training Programme, as required.</p>
Number of clients.	<p>The Clinical Service currently caters for 27 clients, 7 of whom are female and twenty are males and in total have 24 children. One female and two males have no children and are still living in the family home. There are 23 clients attending Counselling services. Eleven participants attend the Special Category CE Scheme in St Aengus, four disability participants are placed in the Arts Studio CE Scheme, eleven participants are placed in SWAN, three participants are placed in St Dominics, four clients are placed in WASP, two participants are placed in TASP and two participants are placed in Threshold, all on a daily basis. Sixty clients attend for Needle Exchange. Drop-In Service has an average attendance of thirty clients weekly.</p>
Main outputs/achievements for 2021:	<p>There were 1350 attendances at the Clinical service, six hours per week, 1150 attendances at Counselling, four hours per week, 9750 attendances on CE Scheme, totalling 760 hours per week. 160 Needle Exchange attendances. Two clients detoxed from methadone; one client was transferred to St Aengus from Clondalkin/Lucan Clinic. Two clients were referred to Alcohol programme and six clients were referred for Cocaine addiction to an out of area Clinic, at their own request. Drop-In requests were badly hit by Covid restrictions and most calls were dealt with by TEAMS, Zoom or mobile calls. We were restricted during Covid by Govt. Health Regulations and the closure of our temporary accommodation in the early weeks of 2021, due to the Centre being closed and our services were mainly remote.</p>
How St. Aengus is helping to improve the health	<p>The St Aengus Service opened in 1996 in Tymon North and played a huge role in reducing the demand for heroin by the introduction</p>



outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly

of the Methadone service. The service has expanded into to a stand-alone premises, which is now the focal point of treatment, rehabilitation, prevention, and awareness in our catchment area. We provide programmes to assist people with relapse prevention, mindfulness and wellbeing. We link into other services in the Tallaght Area, including TDATF, other Community Drug Projects, Youth and Sports Projects, MABs, St Vincent de Paul, Barnardo's and Foroige. We are members of the PPN and link into local second level schools.

2.6 Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment (SWAAT)

The National Drug Strategy states:

“Women can experience barriers to engaging and sustaining involvement with treatment and rehabilitation services. Many women in addiction have experienced domestic violence (in their family of origin and/or in intimate partner relationships) and services should be equipped to respond appropriately to this issue. There is a need for greater awareness of the implications of domestic violence, trauma and mental health for treatment and rehabilitation of women with addictions. The absence of childcare can be a barrier for women attending treatment and after-care services.”

Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery (2017: p42)

In 2019 the TDATF along with the BLDATF submitted a proposal to the Department of Health to secure funding for a 3-year cross task force initiative to support women impacted by drug and alcohol use to access services in Tallaght and Ballyfermot. Funding was granted and the initiative commenced in March 2020 with Trinity College Dublin undertaking research across both communities to find out what made it difficult for women who seek support and to make recommendations of what could be done to improve access to appropriate services for women. A Coordinator was employed to develop and oversee the recommendations implementation plan. Despite the challenges the global pandemic provided, progress to date has been significant.



S.W.A.A.T. INITIATIVE AT A GLANCE ...



Tallaght Drug & Alcohol Task Force

S.W.A.A.T. is a cross task force initiative ran across Tallaght and Ballyfermot



Ballyfermot Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force

S.W.A.A.T. engages with the task force funded agencies in both areas to engage women in supports



S.W.A.A.T Interagency Steering Group

S.W.A.A.T. Steering Group meets Bimonthly and supports my work and oversees the aims and objectives of the initiative.



TCD & Research Advisory Group

The Research Advisory Group (RAG) was made up of the TCD research team, representatives from both Ballyfermot and Tallaght Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces, and service providers from both communities.



Ballyfermot STAR CLG

BALLYFERMOT STAR CLG is the host agency for the S.W.A.A.T Coordinator



S.W.A.A.T. RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS



1. Develop an adequate trauma informed response for women who use drugs



2. Establish gender transformative, integrated treatment and support services for women who use drugs



3. Establish a working group Between Ballyfermot and Tallaght Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces and the child and family agency (Tulsa)



4. Develop pathways for women to sustain recovery

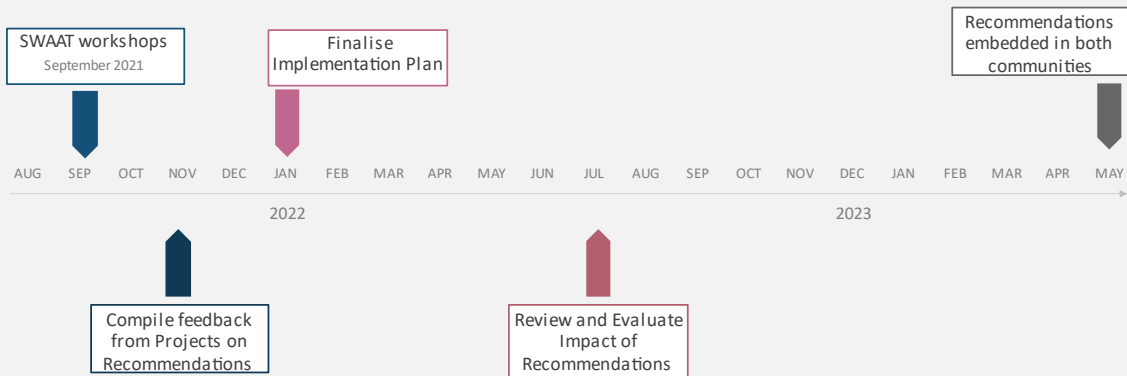


5. Expand pathways to education and training for women



Timeline

Our two-year action plan to implement research recommendations



A critical element of this implementation plan is the co-operation and collaboration between the agencies and services in Tallaght & Ballyfermot. Overall, the S.W.A.A.T. initiative to date has facilitated improved collaboration and engagement in progressing responses to the impact of substance misuse on women. It has supported engagement with a range of statutory, voluntary, and community-based organisations in progressing areas including sharing of information / training to staff, reducing stigma by making recovery visible across both communities (with a specific focus on women in recovery), and strengthening interagency working across the two communities.

There have been some great examples where the flexibility, collaboration and interagency cooperation that has developed has been essential in progressing the implementation of the research recommendations.

Our stakeholders have identified good collaboration as being essential in providing:

- better communication,
- improving access to women specific support services,
- providing support to vulnerable groups, and
- providing support services according to locally identified needs.

2.6.1 Some achievement highlights in 2021

Established pre-entry programme for women wishing to access residential treatment



Contingency Management programme for women who use cocaine powder and crack cocaine now established in both communities

Collaboration between SWAAT, statutory and voluntary agencies in Tallaght to create a now established working group that will develop additional childcare options to support women to access services for both planned and crisis appointments

Training program for new social workers being developed in collaboration with people across the two communities with lived experience, TUSLA & SWAAT

Female specific Recovery café as part of International Women's week

In September, Ballyfermot and Tallaght celebrated recovery month with a focus on women in recovery. Events were held and promoted to reduce stigma and to celebrate the fact that there is a growing community of people in recovery. Plans underway for Recovery month 2022

SWAAT Trauma Informed Tender awarded to Quality matters to design and deliver tailored gender specific trauma informed training to 75 people across both communities in 2022

2.6.2 Service User Representative

The term 'service user' includes people who use health and social care services.

Service users, because of their direct experiences of services, have unique insights which are a valuable resource to those involved in developing services and interventions

"Service users should be enabled to participate in the development of local services. Services should provide service users with the opportunity to provide constructive feedback on both positive and negative experiences of attending the service." (Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery, 2017, p69).

Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force have recruited a Service User Representative with lived experience, who will visit each of the funded frontline community-based addiction services to gather feedback from service users. The feedback will be compiled in a report and presented to the Treatment & Rehabilitation Sub-Group every 6 weeks. The aim is to not only improve services and pathways for those seeking support, but also to identify and blocks, barriers, or gaps in services. Members of the T&R Sub-Group will then work together to respond effectively to the feedback.

2.6.3 A Health Led Approach to Drug Policy 2021

In June 2021 TDATEF hosted an online Webinar titled "Drug Policy: A Health Led Approach". The webinar was attended by more than 100 people and included presentations and speeches from some of the leading experts and activists working to progress drug policy both here in Ireland and Internationally.

Speakers at the event included:

Dr. Marie Oppeboen, Consultant Psychiatrist, Co-Founder and CEO at Carmha Ireland. Topic - **Trauma and Dual Diagnosis**.



Anna Quigley, Coordinator at Citywide Drugs Crisis Campaign. Topic - ***Community Development.***

Tony Duffin, CEO at Anna Liffey Drug Project. Topic - ***Safer Injecting Facilities.***

Dr. John Collins, Director of Academic Engagement at the Global Initiative against Transnational Organized Crime. Topic - ***Human-Centred Public Health Approach.***

Jason Kew, Chief Inspector, Thames Valley Police. Topic - ***Drug Diversion and Naloxone.***

Senator Lynn Ruane, Independent Senator at Seanad Éireann. Topic - ***The intersection between Policy and People.***

2.6.4 Recovery Month 2021

To promote and celebrate International Recovery Month 2021, a planning committee was set up to organize events across the TDATF communities.

Recovery Month is observed across the globe throughout September. The symbolic colour is purple.

The aim of Recovery Month is to promote the emergence of a strong, proud recovery community and the dedication of service providers across our communities who make recovery possible and accessible to all. If a person develops problems because of drug and alcohol use or becomes dependent on them, they need to know that there is help available. Recovery can and does happen every day!

The theme for 2021: **Recovery is for Everyone...Every Person, Every Family, Every Community**

Tallaght celebrated by hosting many events throughout September. WASP Family Support hosted a day to celebrate loved ones in recovery. They released purple balloons to offer hope to anyone still on their journey to recovery. CARP in Killinarden went all out decorating their building purple to celebrate and promote recovery. The Barnardos Lorient Project hosted a coffee morning, gave recovery inspired wellness packs to people accessing their service, recorded an inspirational poem describing one woman's journey to recovery and participated in a night of recovery inspired entertainment in The Tallaght Rehabilitation Project (TRP). The night in TRP included drama, storytelling, poetry and music. The talent on show was incredible and showcased what people can achieve with the right supports. TASP in Fettercairn hosted a photography workshop with the aim to capture 'what recovery means to me' in photographs. This allowed people accessing the service to celebrate recovery while remaining anonymous if they wished.

The need for some people to remain anonymous further highlights the work that still needs to be done to reduce stigma and shame around addiction. The more open people can be about their challenges in relation to substance use, the more likely they are to seek help and support.

September 30th marks International Recovery Day and lots of buildings in Tallaght and across the globe lit up purple in solidarity.

Link to view TDATF video celebrating International Recovery Day:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tx7ndKdkGZA>



2.6.5 Tallaght Buildings lit up purple:

County Hall, South Dublin County Partnership, South Dublin County Council, JADD, Barnardos Lorien, St. Dominics, CARP & TRP

2.6.6 Training Plan 2021

Despite having to move everything online in response to the pandemic, an evidence based and progressive training plan was successfully delivered to frontline services throughout 2021.

Training included: Trauma Informed Practice, Responding to Domestic Violence, a series of Crack Cocaine Information Workshops including Working with Women and Crack Cocaine, Reflective Practice, Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction and SAOR Brief Intervention Training.

2.7 JADD Project CLG

Main client target group(s)	Adult services for opiate users and associated polydrug use issues. JADD also offer support services for the families of substance users.
Brief service descriptor	JADD work in partnership with the HSE to host the following services.
Projects that are run from your service (e.g., counselling, outreach clinic, drop in etc...	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 7 day a week Opiate Substitution Treatment dispensing clinic. • Tier 3 Treatment and Rehabilitation services. • 7 day a week Harm Reduction services including needle exchange, pipe exchange and advice services. • 40 hour a week drop in services • Assessment Team • Counselling services • Family Support • Education • Childcare services • JADD have engaged in assertive outreach in the immediate area for those impacted by crack cocaine use
Staff members and volunteers	31 staff and volunteers 4 Full Time 3 x 30 hours a week 3 under 20 hours 6 Full Time C.E <u>13 X19.5 Community Employment</u> 1x volunteer



	1x Recovery Coach
Number of clients.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JADD/HSE Methadone services has 54 daily service users. • The Harm Reduction service has over 400 individuals attending the service with 60 presentations on an average week. • There is currently 20 people attending JADDs Treatment and Rehabilitation service • Family Support is currently supporting 20 individuals • Childcare services are at Capacity with 18 children in the creche and preschool
Main outputs/achievements for 2021:	<p>JADD has increased its capacity to support more individuals with substance misuse issues as they have introduced 2 new positions to support those attending Methadone and Opiate Substitution Treatment.</p> <p>JADD continues to provide Harm Reduction services to those most at risk from the harm associated with both needle use and smoking harms.</p> <p>JADD engages in Assertive Outreach programs to offer increased supports to those who were identified as high-risk crack cocaine users to reduce the harms associated.</p>
How JADD is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly	<p>As noted above JADD has identified within its current services a cohort of individuals socially excluded and high risk due to their increased risky polydrug use. This was exacerbated by the introduction of Crack Cocaine into high-risk populations. This included Injecting Opiate users and individuals involved in sex work.</p> <p>Through increased harm reduction services and assertive outreach JADDs quantum of services increased to reduce harms within the community.</p> <p>JADD have continued also to provide Treatment and Rehabilitation to individuals substance use.</p> <p>Through JADDs low threshold services, individuals struggling to engage in the social care support have been given increased case management to reduce the social impact on themselves and their families.</p>



2.8 Community Addiction Response Programme (CARP)

Main client target group(s)	<p>CARP works cohesively in responding to the needs of individuals, families and local communities impacted by substance misuse through prevention, rehabilitation, and family support programmes.</p> <p>All age groups are supported from age 11yrs up</p>
Brief service descriptor	<p>History</p> <p>CARP began its work in July of 1995 as a response to drug issues in Killinarden Tallaght. CARP was a partnership between parents of individuals who engaged in substance misuse, meeting regularly since October 1994, and Killinarden Community Council. We became a registered company in December 1997.</p> <p>CARP has a non-judgmental approach to individual drug use; we have an open-door policy which means our doors are always open to anyone, as we understand that it takes great courage to walk through our doors. We will continue to identify and address the need to support and respond to emerging drug trends. We work cohesively in responding to the needs of individuals, families and local communities impacted by substance misuse through prevention, rehabilitation, and family support programmes.</p> <p>Our Mission</p> <p>CARP is a community-focused addiction response programme that uses evidence-based approaches to assist anyone who seeks support. CARP has a proud history of working on addiction issues with the community since 1995. We are distinguished by adopting the Community Reinforcement Approach in which our staff and volunteers are trained. We aim to provide the highest quality support, treatment, and advice in a confidential setting in which our clients from all backgrounds feel welcome and safe. Our success is measured by our high level of professionalism and commitment to best practice in all that we do.</p> <p>Our Vision</p> <p>Our vision is to continue to provide a safe space in which people from all backgrounds can find effective support for their addiction issues; where families affected by substance misuse can positively address their challenges; where young people can build resilience, and where our doors are fully open to our local community.</p>
Projects that are run from your service	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. 4 x Methadone scripting clinics 2. Full time Needle exchange / Harm reduction services 3. Full time youth worker 4. 2 x Family therapists



	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. family support groups 6. Addiction counselling 7. urinalysis 8. Crack cocaine support programmes / outreach support 9. low thresh hold Homeless drop in service 10. Key working / case management 11. Polish addiction service
Staff members and volunteers	<p>5 full time 5 part time</p>
Number of clients.	<p>Total number of attendances to CARP in 2021 = 7,463+ specific breakdown of attendance for each service can be found on the website. www.carp.ie</p>
Main outputs/achievements for 2021:	<p>CARP's crack cocaine programme for high risk and very vulnerable families has measurable outcomes, as evidenced by an evaluation of the pilot programme in 2020, including harm minimisation, consistent attendance, and participant improvement on the Happiness scale indicating that the programme helps participants feel a greater sense of wellbeing, trust, and support.</p> <p>The inter-agency collaboration between CARP and WASP has been in existence for XXX years, and leads to positive outcomes for families affected by substance misuse. WASP provides family support interventions and referral, and CARP focuses on helping the substance misuser within the family.</p> <p>CARP is located in Killinarden, one of the most deprived Small Areas in Ireland and, as such, provides an essential service for the most vulnerable in the area.</p>
How CARP is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly	<p>Supporting active users through harm reduction and support. CARP has been committed to supporting women using crack cocaine since 2017. CARP is well placed to support young people within a very disadvantaged community that poses a number of challenges for people of all age groups. As a frontline community addiction service CARP is at the coal face, supporting individuals and families impacted by addiction</p>



2.9 TASP and SWAN

Main client target group(s)	
Brief service descriptor	<p>To provide a holistic range of support services to individuals struggling with drug or alcohol issues, including key-working, case-management and counselling.</p> <p>To provide a range of support services to families and concerned significant others suffering as a consequence of drug or alcohol issues.</p> <p>To provide a range of therapeutic groups, complimentary therapies and personal development activities that support the recovery journey of individuals and families accessing our service.</p> <p>To work in an integrated way with other services that provide support individuals and families with substance use issues and to assist in the promotion and development of these services.</p>
Projects that are run from TASP	<p>Key-working Case Management Counselling Alcohol Group Programme Opiate Substitution Treatment (Dr McGovern's Clinic) Family Support Counselling (SWAN) Auricular Acupuncture (Awaiting Insurance) Reiki (Pending Insurance and accreditation) Reflexology (Pending insurance and accreditation) (All services interventions offered will adhere to best practice with a strong evidence base.)</p>
Staff members and volunteers	<p>TASP: 1 x Full time Project Leader 1x Full Time Senior Project Worker 1x Full Time Project Worker 1 x Volunteer 1 x CE Support Worker (with TASP as sub sponsor of St Aengus)</p> <p>SWAN: 1 Full time CE Assistant Supervisor 10 x CE participants providing administration support and alternative therapies 7 Volunteer Counsellors providing weekly counselling support to approximately 30 individuals.</p>
Main outputs/achievements for 2021:	<p>Refurbishment completed 2020 Website completed Recruitment of Project Lead Oct 2020 Establishment of TASP Board Spring 2021 Recruitment of Project Worker March 2021</p>



	<p>Established support service for individuals with drug and or alcohol issues</p> <p>Implementation of ECASS database/CRM and Registration with HRB</p> <p>Secured 8k National Lottery Funding for 2022 Horticulture Project</p> <p>Recruitment of Senior Project Worker (replacing vacant SWAN manager post) and replacement (PT) project Worker</p> <p>TASP registered with CRO Jan 2022</p>
<p>Brief paragraph on how your service is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly</p>	<p>Our range of services includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case Management: Capacity of 20 individuals • Key-working: Capacity for 60 individuals • Opiate Substitution Treatment: Up to 60 individuals (In Partnership with Dr Garrett McGovern) • Individual Addiction Counselling: Capacity for 20 Individuals. • Family Support Counselling: Capacity for 40 families or individuals • Auricular Acupuncture: Capacity for 12 individuals • Reflexology: Capacity for 6 individuals • Reiki: Capacity for 6 individuals • Parenting under Pressure. Capacity for 6 families • Dialectical Behaviour Therapy: Capacity for 12 individuals <p>We also run therapeutic groups for problematic alcohol users (2x 12 week groups per year, each with capacity of 12 individuals) and 2 similar groups for problematic cocaine users. We run a weekly recovery group for graduates of these groups and offer late counselling/ key working appointments on 2 evenings a week.</p>

2.10 New Hope Residential Centre

<p>Main client target group(s)</p>	<p>Men over 18s in addiction seeking to recover from addiction and live a substance free life.</p>
<p>Brief service descriptor</p>	<p>NHRC provides tier 4 residential addiction recovery service.</p> <p>16 Residential beds</p> <p>9 Step down beds</p>
<p>Projects that are run from NHRC</p>	<p>Residential rehabilitation, aftercare and supported housing.</p> <p>Food hamper/school packs distribution, charity shop (1.5 Staff).</p>
<p>Staff members and volunteers</p>	<p>7 Full time staff</p> <p>1 Part time staff</p> <p>7 volunteers</p> <p>1.5 Charity shop staff</p>



Number of clients.	Approx 130 clients ranging from pre intake to aftercare in 2021 1700 families receiving food hampers in 2021
Main outputs/achievements for 2021:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 new dogs added to the New Hope family (Frankie and Sally) • New Hope distributed 1500 school packs to disadvantaged families in the Tallaght community. • 300 shoe box gifts at Christmas to families struggling with addiction. • We remained open throughout Covid in 2019 providing residential rehabilitation. • New Hope saw unprecedented numbers of people looking for an assessment into its residential service in 2021 as people were struggling in addiction during the pandemic. • 36 new clients started in our residential programme in 2021.
How NHRC is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly	New Hope's underpinning objective is to support people who want to recover from addiction and live a drug free life. The organisation promotes this as the best outcome for someone in addiction. When a person recovers from addiction it highly improves their physical health and their emotional well-being.

2.11 Killinarden Community Safety Forum

Main client target group(s)	Community Residents, Service Providers, Families of Drug users, adult drug users, recovering / stabilised drug users
Brief service descriptor	Killinarden Community Safety Forum works in partnership with local residents, voluntary and statutory agencies to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and fear of crime in Killinarden.
Staff members and volunteers	One part time 9-2 Monday to Friday We have numerous volunteers that change with each activity.
Main outputs/achievements for 2021:	Community engagement Active participation Liaising with key agencies
How Killinarden Safety Forum is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance	Encourage positive participation by the residents which brings a safer environment i.e., engaging with older people to reduce feelings of isolation. We have run a gardening workshop for all ages to encourage people mixing age groups with a therapeutic activity.



<p>misuse in the community more broadly</p>	<p>We have run clean ups in the area with members of the community and young people from our Youth Project. We also run recycling days where people drop of items for recycling, and this helps to stop anti-social behaviour and illegal dumping. These are just a few examples of our activities to help keep Killinarden Safe.</p>
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2.12 Fettercairn Safety Forum

<p>Main client target group(s)</p>	<p>The Community of Fettercairn</p>
<p>Brief service descriptor</p>	<p>Supporting the residents to live in a drug free and safe environment.</p> <p>Participating on the Policing forum to raise issues that affect the lives of the community of Fettercairn.</p> <p>Keeping strong links with the Garda station and in particular the Drug unit to discuss areas of concern within the community.</p> <p>Supporting families on a day to day basic with issues affecting them and linking them with services relevant to them.</p> <p>Supporting the volunteers of the Estate management with clean-ups with the Fettercairn.</p> <p>Supporting homeless families on the local authority waiting lists.</p>
<p>Projects that are run from FSF</p>	<p>Fettercairn Estate Management runs a weekly clinic for the community. This clinic is staffed by SDCC allocations support unit and the community Garda. This allows residents to come into a confidential setting and bring their issues and concerns directly to the relevant authorities.</p>
<p>Staff members and volunteers</p>	<p>The office is run by one staff member on a part time basis.</p> <p>We also have six volunteers on the ground.</p>
<p>Number of clients.</p>	<p>Fettercairn Estate Management were still able to support 300 families with various issues affecting their lives. and at Christmas 350 hampers were delivered to struggling families.</p>



Main outputs/achievements for 2021:	The main achievements for 2021 was the large seizures of drugs In the community of Fettercairn this happened through regular contact with the Drug unit, also being able to link and support families during Covid 19.
How Fettercairn Safety Forum is helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance misuse in the community more broadly	Our service is well established within the community of Fettercairn and the resident use our service a first point of call to gain access to all services.

2.13 Tallaght Drug Prevention Projects- Foróige

Main client target group(s)	Yong people aged 12-18 Parents of young people
Brief service descriptor	<p>Tallaght Drug Prevention Projects seek to reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol to young people and their families living in Tallaght and Whitechurch by increasing their knowledge base and empowering them to improve their health, wellbeing, opportunities and quality of life.</p> <p>The work is undertaken in 3 key priority areas;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Prevent young people from using substances at all 2) Delay the age of onset of drug use 3) Reduce the harm for those already using <p>Foróige’s Drug Prevention & Education work is in line with the first priority identified in the mid-term review of the National Drugs Strategy “<i>To strengthen the prevention of drug and alcohol use among children and young people</i>” and is guided by local, national and international best practice and is focussed on those young people most impacted by substance and alcohol use.</p>
Projects that are run from this service	Targeted Drug Education & Prevention Programmes for Young People Drop in Youth Café Drug Awareness & Prevention Courses for parents



Staff members and volunteers	3 Full time staff members 6 Volunteers
Number of clients	<p>218 individual young people were engaged with the TDPP and Café projects through a combination of group, individual work, online and outreach work.</p> <p>60 parents and guardians took place in courses, workshops and services provided by TDPP Foróige.</p> <p>11 Adults, 11 Children & 5 teens participated in the Strengthening Families Programme</p> <p>5 staff and volunteers took part in TDPP Foróige trainings and workshops</p>
Main outputs/achievements for 2021:	<p>Programmes were sustained and delivered throughout 2021 despite the significant challenge of ever-changing restrictions on service delivery. Staff engaged creatively in person wherever possible and online and remotely where required to ensure that young people continued to receive the support, education and interventions required.</p> <p>Education & Skills Programmes for young people included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young Person’s Support Programme for Young People • “Let’s be Blunt” Cannabis Information Film Launch • Putting the Pieces Together Drugs Education & Awareness • Summer Activity Programmes • International Woman’s Week Spoken Word • One to one support interventions • STEAM Programmes • Music Education programme • Virtual Reality ASD specific programme • Foróige Level Up programme <p>Programmes and Interventions for Parents and Families included;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strengthening Families Programme • How to build self-esteem and Life-Skills in Children & Teens • Parents Plus- Adolescents Programme • Getting Ready for the Teenage Years
How the TDPP and Café are helping to improve the health outcomes of service users and substance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foróige’s work with young people engages those young people and families identified as being most at risk from substance and alcohol use and misuse. • Foróige staff engage a range of community partners to identify young people and families for engagement in a wide range of programmes and interventions tailored according to user needs • Young people engage in programmes and interventions that educate them about potential drug harms and build skills and capacity that support them to



<p>misuse in the community more broadly</p>	<p>make positive and informed choices. This is done in creative and innovative ways including through film making, use of VR technology and face to face learning sessions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foróige staff educate young people, addressing issues and misinformation about alcohol, cannabis and other substances and assisting those using drugs to address their use and seek to seek support where required. • Foróige staff build relationships with young people through their attendance at the Youth Café and take the time to identify the needs, interests and priorities for each young person. This allows tailored and supportive interventions be designed for each young person. • Parents engage in programmes that enable them to identify risk factors in their child and to support them to have positive conversations about drugs with their teenagers.
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2.14 Alcohol

2021 saw the Community Alcohol Programme further develop and solidify under the work of Tallaght Addiction Support Project. In March 2021 the TDAF Alcohol Development Worker left the position, as it happens, to oversee the progression of the alcohol programme as project worker in TASP. This gap presented an opportunity for TDAF to review it's position on Community Action on Alcohol and where the priorities now lay for TDAF but more importantly, communities of Tallaght and Whitechurch. The remainder of 2021 focused very much on research and a media campaign highlighting funding deficits and the impact of poly drug use and the crack cocaine crisis, on communities of TDAF. In addition, the TDAF Development Worker was seconded to another service for the majority of the year, leaving little opportunity to develop the alcohol piece beyond the community alcohol programme and our involvement in iCAAN, extremely limited. TDAF are committed to facilitating this review in 2022 and the development of a new strategic plan provides a fitting opportunity to reflect on work to date and priorities going forward. TDAF research, *The Landscape of Substance Misuse and its impact on the communities of TDAF*, highlighted that alcohol was identified by survey respondents, as one of the most prominent problem substances



3 Rationale for continuation of TDATE funded projects

3.1 Rationale based on area profile

Research commissioned by TDATE which was published in October 2021 highlights the levels of disadvantage in the TDATE area which has been compounded by rapid population growth in the last 30 years and insufficient development of services and housing infrastructure (Section 1.1).

In 2019, there were 1167 cases treated by TDATE funded services and recorded on the NDTRS. In 2020, this figure had increased to 1280 (13% of the total number of cases in Ireland in 2020) Cocaine was the main problem drug. Polydrug use was reported for 57% of all cases in 2020 with 51% of this cohort reporting that they regularly use three or more drugs. In 2019 77% of young people presenting to YODA reported cannabis was the main problem drug. The majority of young people attending YODA have a dual diagnosis with a very high presentations of ASD and ADHD diagnosed adolescents in particular and teenagers with low mood and anxiety who are engaging in deliberate self-harm.

3.2 TDATE's strategic relevance

In 2021, a review of the National Drug Strategy highlighted that a substantial level of development across Ireland has been made possible because of the drug task forces. The review states that *new services have emerged through the taskforce process, bringing many people and experiences together, to reconfigure services to work better with better outcomes for people on the ground and prioritising services according to local needs. All the taskforces and communities and services have come together to make great progress in spite of Covid.* The review also highlights how the drug task forces have made a major contribution to the success of previous national drug strategies and the current one.

TDATE is one of the most successful of the drug task forces in Ireland. It is strategically relevant across the areas of health and well-being, child protection, youth development, and community cohesion and safety. It has continued to commission high quality and pioneering research (PUT EXAMPLES HERE IN FOOTNOTE) and the projects it supports succeed in retaining significant levels of engagement with their local communities which have led to positive and far-reaching outcomes. For example, JADD has demonstrated that it is possible to break the inter-generational cycle of substance misuse; none of the children which have accessed JADD services have gone on to be substance misusers. St Dominics CRP and TRP have reported a notable number of clients who become drug-free and go on to lead meaningful and healthy lives, and CARP has successfully established the tools to engage with very high risk and vulnerable female crack cocaine users.

TDATE projects have also pioneered inter-agency working with demonstrable outcomes across services and projects, including alcohol misuse interventions, family supports and, most recently, JADD's summer project for high-risk families.

TDATE funded services are well positioned to deliver against each of the priority areas. The ~~date~~ to address the social determinants and consequences of drug use on disadvantaged communities means that strategy and policy in relation to early intervention and young people will become increasingly relevant to the TDATE in the short to medium term.



3.2.1 TDATAF and subgroup meetings

TDATF Board members are listed in Table 3. TDATF meets seven times per year as does each sub-structure, including: Executive, Treatment and Rehabilitation, Family Support, Education and Prevention, Project Managers, and the Independent Finance Group. The Supply / Justice group did not meet in 2021 but will resume meetings in 2022 as Covid19 restrictions ease.

3.2.2 Interagency work

Interagency work increased significantly in 2021, mainly due to the establishment of the Killinarden and Jobstown interagency groups. Remote working also facilitated participation in a wide range of virtual meetings. In 2021, TDATF was represented on several groups, including:

- South Dublin Joint Policing Committee (JPC)
- Drugs Sub-Committee JPC
- West Tallaght Community Safety Forum
- Tusla: Parents Support Network, Killinarden
- SWAAT (Supporting Women Access Appropriate Treatment)
- LDATF Chairs and Coordinators Networks
- Connecting For Life South Dublin
- ICAAN (Irish Community Action on Alcohol Network)

3.3 Challenges to TDATAF

Despite TDATF's successes, a survey conducted in 2021² (n=308) indicated that 89% of respondents felt that the situation in relation to substance misuse and its impact on the area was worse or much worse while 11% felt it had remained unchanged or had improved. Visibility of drugs in the area, the normalisation of use and reductions in Garda resources were cited as the three main reasons for the escalating situation. Cannabis, crack cocaine, and cocaine were identified as the three main problem drugs followed closely by alcohol, nitrous oxide and benzodiazepines. Of the 308 respondents, 95% felt that the current level of investment to respond to the substance misuse issues in the TDATF area was either inadequate or very inadequate. Only 4% felt that the current investment was adequate. More investment in services for children and teenagers, front line community drug services, and Gardaí resources were the preferred options for the majority of respondents. Investment in family support, new and alternative treatments, and residential services were the preferred options for over 40% of respondents.

Crack cocaine was identified as the most pressing issue facing front line drug services and the communities of TDATF. Crack cocaine users frequently present with complex needs (at risk of

² The landscape of substance misuse and its impact on the communities of Tallaght Drugs & Alcohol Task Force



homelessness, child protection issues, criminal justice issues and mental health). TDAF has directed funding to JADD and CARP to provide key working, case management and other services for crack cocaine users but the level of need continues to overwhelm service provision.

Front line services believe that almost all problematic drug use have some element of polydrug use although the service user may not recognise the secondary drug as a problem. The intensity of the come down from crack cocaine is so horrific that people will take alcohol, tablets, and benzos to manage this, which is how poly drug use manifests for crack cocaine users. The dangerous misconception of weed as a socially acceptable drug is amplified by the number of young people presenting to YoDA with addiction and mental health problems brought on and exacerbated by what they perceive as normalised cannabis use.

Crack cocaine use is visible in the community with increased begging at shops and public areas across Tallaght and associated problems with public order, intimidation, dealing, violence, mental and physical health, child welfare, deprivation, neglect and forced prostitution. The location of a significant number of 'crack houses' are known to the local community. The public health risks within such houses are profound and some may have young children living in them which increases exposure at an early age and the associated risk of inter-generational addiction.

Mental health issues are increasingly presenting in the TDAF community, including numbers of suicides at above the national average and drug-related deaths; increased anxiety seen in young people whose parents misuse substances; increasingly erratic behaviour and poor mental health in crack cocaine users, and a huge emotional burden on children and grandparents caused by the impact of substance misuse in families. Feedback from projects highlighted self-harm amongst teenagers which is a concern given the link between self-harm and suicide ideation.

Drug related intimidation takes many forms ranging from extreme violence to explicit threats and more nuanced implicit intimidation focused on breaking down community spirit, dividing neighbourhoods and families, creating a sense of hopelessness where the only alternatives are drug consumption and subservience to the criminal gangs. It spans all areas of Tallaght and families from all socio-economic backgrounds have been impacted.

3.4 Funding shortfall

TDAF funds nine projects across the continuum of care including treatment and rehabilitation, family support and education and prevention.

When TDAF was established in 1998, funding allocations were based on a much smaller population and need than what has evolved in the subsequent period. TDAF have in the intervening period been trying to manage this historic underfunding. It ranks eight out of fourteen in funding per LAD area behind areas of Dublin with much smaller populations and numbers accessing drug and alcohol services.

The economic crash of 2008 precipitated the onset of cumulative cuts to the TDAF budget over the subsequent decade. Resource constraints, continued growth in population and the increased incidence and complexity of drug related issues presenting within the TDAF area have impacted on the ability of the task force to respond as effectively as it could. TDAF received a total annual allocation of interim funding from the HSE & DOH amounting to €1,244,952 in 2020, in 2010 this figure was €1,316,913.



This represents a 5.5% reduction in funding over a 10-year period against the backdrop of spiralling population growth, urban sprawl, increased prevalence of substance misuse.

When viewed against inflation at 10.7% over this 10-year period and the transfer of some discretionary budgets by TDATF to front line services, the scale of the reductions is much greater than 5.5%.

The cumulative impacts of the cuts since 2008 is that projects are now working with a deficit and have to introduce cost cutting measures. Due to the increasing need presenting, services are continuously challenged to do more with the same level of resources. Of particular concern is the challenges around staff recruitment and retention which is resulting in an over dependence on CE staff.

3.5 Garda resources

Tallaght is located within the Dublin Metropolitan Region (DMR) South which along with Crumlin & Terenure is one of three Garda districts in DMR South. The Tallaght district also has a dedicated drugs unit whose primary role is the enforcement of drugs legislation, focussed on the sale and supply of controlled. Cannabis, heroin, and cocaine are consistently the three highest value drugs seized and though increasing, the amount and value of seizures of crack cocaine remains low.

In the Tallaght District, the number of drug offences has almost doubled in recent years from over 400 offences in 2017 to over 700 in 2018. There are many drug markets in Tallaght including those locally and the demand created by the people travel from other areas of Dublin and Ireland to purchase drugs in the TDATF area. The detrimental impact of open drug dealing on communities such as fear, creation of no-go areas and withdrawal from civic and community life leading to a spiral of neglect and increased criminality has been documented through Sections 3, 4 and 5 of this report.

The Tallaght District needs additional community Gardaí in the area to provide the increased visibility needed to reassure the community. There are also six Garda Youth Diversion Programmes (GYDP) in the Tallaght & Whitechurch working with young people aged 10-25 who have disengaged from services. Recent policy changes in relation to the future of policing, the piloting of community safety partnerships and the community crime impact assessment are designed to give communities greater involvement in community safety. Sufficient funding will need to be invested in areas of highest deprivation to facilitate these policy shifts.

Table 2 summarises Gardaí statistics for 2021. The Gardaí reported that, in 2021, cannabis was the predominant drug, followed by cocaine, and then heroin. Increasing amounts of crack cocaine were seized. A number of firearms, associated with drug related crime, were also seized.

Table 2 Garda statistics for 2021

Sect. 3 Misuse of Drugs Act (Simple Possession)	277
Sect. 15 Misuse of Drugs Act (Sale/Supply)	209
Searches (Persons and Premises)	1295

4 Work plans for 2021

4.1 TDATF Executive work plan, 2021 (TDATF Executive subgroup)

ACTION	STRATEGIC PLAN THEME	OUTCOME
Development of TDATF Strategic Plan 2021+, set up steering sub committee	Effective Partnership	Research prioritised ahead of plan. Findings will be the foundation on which our strategy will be developed
Finalise TDATF TOR & Operational Guidelines:	Effective Partnership	Finalised and agreed by TDATF May 2021
Establish Independent finance group	Effective Partnership	Achieved, first meeting held in April 2021 & committee remained active throughout the year
Create Awareness campaign: impact of cocaine use on communities. Seek additional resources	Improved Service User & Community Outcomes	Achieved somewhat through increased media campaign and launch of research report. Need for development of awareness information remains
Participate in Mid-term review of RHSR	Effective Partnership	Participated when consulted
Continue to make the case for additional, sustainable funding for TDATF	Effective Partnership	Achieved – very busy year in this regard, launch of research presented additional opportunities including TDs topical issue in Leinster House and presentation to Joint Health Committee of the Oireachtas
Sustain Education Bursary Fund with delivery in 2021		Achieved see 2.3
Review CAAP		Remains outstanding. Focus in 2021 was to support the development of the Alcohol Treatment Programme under TASP
Support frontline community addiction support projects		Regular meetings of the project managers held in 2021, needs of frontline services remained at the forefront of media campaign and rationale for funding prioritisation strategy overseen by IFG
Covid 19		In 2021 TDATF continued to support projects within the constraints of Covid. A survey of the impact of covid on frontline services was finalised at the end of 2020. CARP and JADD



		<p>continued to provide services, other projects had to close for between 4 and 11 wk, and NH was unable to take new referrals for 3 months. Group work, drop-in, and keywork/car planning were variously affected. The main negative impacts were incoming referrals and managing waiting lists, referral pathways, increased demand because of increase substance misuse, additional paperwork, increased uncertainty, and a reduction in service provision. Going forward, projects requested more PPE, clear guidelines from the HSE, direct access to Covid testing, and self-care interventions for staff.</p>
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4.2 Treatment and Rehabilitation work plan, 2021

Theme	Objective	Lead Agency	Progress
Recovery Month	September is International Recovery Month when people around the world participate in events to celebrate Addiction Recovery and increase Recovery awareness. T&R group to plan events to celebrate Recovery Month 2021	All	Achieved Hugely successful See 2.6.4
SWAAT	Initiative of TDATEF, BLDATF & Community Projects in Tallaght and Ballyfermot to support women to access appropriate treatment services. Research carried out by Trinity College Dublin to make recommendations which will inform the workplan of the coordinator.	TDATEF	Achieved See 2.6
Training	Proposal that the education and training bursary for service users be expanded to allow project workers apply to be brought to the TF. Grace to circulate mail to projects to identify training needs.	TDATEF	We didn't get to do this due to limited resources, lots of collective training was provided however
Family Support	Addiction specific family support to be developed to meet demand in TDATEF area	WASP & SWAN	Funding reallocated to sustain crack cocaine specific family support in WASP. Project development of SWAN under TASP ongoing
Alcohol Programme	Increase in problematic alcohol use reported by services. Community Alcohol programme to commence as soon as possible.	TASP	Several programmes facilitated by TASP when it was safe to do so
Crack Cocaine	Strategy required to respond to the needs of individuals impacted by the increase in crack cocaine use	All	TDATEF research highlighted the need for pilot projects in JADD and CARP to be sustained.



Powder Cocaine	Out of hours (evening/weekend) group programme needed	TASP	Nasal cocaine programme developed by TRP & St. Dominic's
COVID19	Frontline services require additional, continued support to cope with the pandemic and to be prioritized for vaccination roll out	TDATF/HSE/DP U	Community addiction services were one of the first groups to receive vaccines in programme. TDATF continued to support projects were possible
Childcare & Child Protection	Need for a 'drop in' style childcare service to allow parents to access appointments. Interagency work between community drug projects and TUSLA to be developed.	All	SWAAT began discussion around this in 2021, work is progressing well and ongoing
Young People	Young people at risk of substance use and being recruited into the drugs trade need assertive 'street' outreach	TDATF	Success achieved, funding secured through SDCP to pilot a detached street work programme in Jobstown and Killinarden



4.3 Prevention and Education workplan, 2021

ACTION	Progress	STRATEGIC PLAN THEME
Detached Street work: long term Goal is to have 2 street workers with specific role of outreach – Killinarden pilot in first instance	Funding secured	Improved Service User & Community Outcomes Increased Capacity
Young People and mental health/engagement with substance misuse: highlight gaps and barriers	<p>TDATF established 2 interagency groups (Killinarden & Jobstown), specifically to look at issues impacting young people in these areas. From the Killinarden Interagency group, the detached street work proposal was developed.</p> <p>TDATF research presented additional opportunities to highlight issues impacting young people</p>	Improved Service User & Community Outcomes Effective Partnership
Cannabis: Attitudes and approach to cannabis use – wider population and problematic users	Let's Be Blunt awareness video developed by TDPP, launched summer 2021. TDATF research found cannabis to be the most concerning substance in the wider community	Improved Service User & Community Outcomes
Access the hard-to-reach youths who are interested but parents not engaging	Interagency groups facilitated commencement of discussion on this. Tusla established a parent's support drops in for Killinarden area, supported by TDATF and other agencies.	Improved Service User & Community Outcomes



	Street work pilot programme developed; funding secured	
Communication Strategy: to ensure youth schools and families are informed of P&E services – particular focus on schools & DPP supports available	Achieved somewhat through school's survey and interagency groups but covid restrictions did present barriers in progressing this fully. Ongoing	Effective Partnership
TDATF Strategic Plan 2021+ Consultation role	Participated in research consultation, strategy to follow	Effective Partnership



4.4 Family Support workplan, 2021

SUB-GROUP	ACTION	STRATEGIC PLAN THEME	OUTCOME
Family Support	Coordination & Support: Family Support sub-group to continue to meet 7 times per year to support family support groups / workers and coordinate the work of TDATE under the heading of family support	Effective Partnership	In early 2021 it was agreed to pilot including family support on T&R agenda more formally. This was tried and reviewed, the decision was to continue in this way but family support group to meet in their own right bi annually
Family Support	Hidden Harm: Continue to provide practical support for families in the form of respite / fun days and training	Increased capacity Effective Partnership	Was not possible due to covid 19 restrictions. In lieu of this a voucher system was put in place for the most vulnerable families in December
Family Support	Training: respond to emerging training needs of sub-group members and family support groups	Increased Capacity Improved Service User & Community Outcomes	Ongoing
Family Support	Intimidation: Keep this on the agenda	Increased Capacity	Very much stayed on the agenda in 2021, both at TDATE table as well as the Joint Policing



			<p>Committee, particularly drugs sub-group of the JPC</p> <p>Pilot intimidation advice / support clinic established in November by CARP and WASP</p>
Family Support	Practically sustain family support work on the ground (WASP) – including carers group & others	Increased Capacity Improved Service User & Community Outcomes	Achieved. TDATEF reallocated some funding in 2021 to sustain family support work in WASP

5 Workplans 2022

TDATF's strategic priorities for 2002 are as follows:

- Strategic plan development
- Implementation of research recommendations (The landscape of substance misuse and its impact on the communities of Tallaght Drugs and Alcohol Task Force, Oct 2021. Finbarr Fitzpatrick)
- Continue to highlight the need for additional resources
- Support SDCP Street Work Pilot project
- Respond to funding opportunities for support services relating to crack cocaine and community enhancement

The focus of the project managers in 2022 is as follows:

- Development of the strategic plan, 2022-2025
- Recommendations arising from the research published in 2021
- Further development of interagency work and continuum of care
- The Independent Finance Group, represented by Project Managers, will remain committed to the the regular review of TDATF funding, noting that these may change in the context of strategy development in 2022 and future years.

Priorities for the subgroups responsible for delivery of the TDATF pillars are as follows:

5.1 Prevention and Education work plan, 2022

Issue	Action
Cannabis subcommittee – training, survey, communication with wider community. Target Consultation participants, TDPP, YODA, Street work	Niamh/Grace to investigate training needs TDPP lead out on cannabis survey Sub group meet 1 st March
Supports to schools: survey of needs, training on request.	TDPP provide PTPT for teachers and youth workers etc in Spring 2022
Supports to Parents - incorporate drug awareness into programmes and Let's Be Blunt	Leah and Catriona Doyle from SDCP providing Parent Plus for Adolescents. Feb 23rd for 8 weeks, 6-8pm online
Nitrous-Oxide awareness- development of video/ awareness campaign.	Leah –with young people in Fettercairn - will potentially link with Whitechurch and Balgaddy.
Cannabis is the primary driver in mental health issues: Mental health piece around cannabis related suicides and need for public awareness.	Grace invite Jigsaw to P&E plus subgroup Niamh Mc G/ Valerie bring P&E issues to Connected For Life committee; Grace and Andy to CYPSC
Support SDCP street programme	Invite additional representation from pilot as appropriate Pilot learning should inform development of P&E for young people in Tallaght Committee can inform pilot as to how best DSW can compliment existing services



5.2 Family Support work plan, 2022

Action	Strategic plan theme
Coordination & Support: Family Support sub-group to continue to meet 7 times per year to support family support groups / workers and coordinate the work of TDATF under the heading of family support	Effective Partnership
Hidden Harm: Continue to provide practical support for families in the form of respite / fun days and training	Increased capacity Effective Partnership
Training: respond to emerging training needs of sub-group members and family support groups	Increased Capacity Improved Service User & Community Outcomes
Intimidation: Keep this on the agenda	Increased Capacity
Practically sustain family support work on the ground (WASP) – including carers group & others	Increased Capacity Improved Service User & Community Outcomes



5.3 Treatment and Rehabilitation subgroup work plan, 2022

In line with the National Drug Strategy: Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery, 2017-2025

Theme	Objective	Lead Agency	Date to be Completed
Recovery Month	International Recovery Month in September when people around the world participate in events to celebrate Addiction Recovery and increase Recovery awareness. T&R group to plan events to celebrate Recovery Month 2022	All	September 2022
SWAAT	Cross TF initiative (TDATF & BLDATF) to support women to access appropriate treatment services. Research implementation plan: Establish a 'drop in' childcare service to support parents to access appointments. Roll out Trauma Informed Practice training plan across both communities. Support services to develop programs specifically tailored for women.	TDATF	Ongoing
Training	Methamphetamine Training CRA/ACRA SAOR ASSIST Trauma Informed Practice	TDATF	Ongoing
Intimidation	A pilot clinic for people impacted by intimidation running in CARP. TF are in contact with SDCC to seek financial supports for families who incur costs because of drug related intimidation.	WASP/CARP	Ongoing
Family Support	Networking opportunities for families will be developed in 2022. SWAN to recommence holistic therapy provision.	TDATF	Ongoing
Alcohol Programme	Community Alcohol programme running from TASP – increase in places required to meet demand.	TASP	Ongoing



Crack Cocaine	Strategy required to support projects to respond effectively to the needs of individuals impacted by crack cocaine use.	All	Ongoing
Young People/Cannabis	Young people at risk of substance use and being recruited into the drugs trade need assertive 'street' outreach. TDATF will establish a Detached Street Work Team to engage young people in Killinarden and Jobstown.	TDATF	Ongoing
Service User Rep	TF will work with and support the new service user representative to gather feedback from people accessing services in the TF area so that gaps and barriers to treatment and recovery can be identified and effectively addressed.	TDATF	Ongoing



Table 3 TDATF Board Members

No	Name	Sector
1	James Doorley	Chairperson
2	Alan Edge – SDCC Cllr.	Political
3	Cathal King – SDCC Cllr.	Political
4	Sean Crowe - TD	Political
5	Charlie O'Connor – SDCC Cllr.	Political
6	John Lahart - TD	Political
7	Paul Murphy - TD	Political
8	Mick Duff – SDCC Cllr.	Political
9	Paula Donovan – Rep for TD Colm Brophy	Political
10	Larry O'Neill – SDCP	Voluntary
11	Andy Leeson – Foróige	Voluntary
12	Kerri Smith – Barnardos	Voluntary
13	Layton Kelly - New Hope	Voluntary
14	Pat Daly - TRP	Voluntary
15	Patrick Nevin - Tallaght Travellers CDP	Voluntary
16	James Fletcher – HSE	Statutory
17	Roisin McLindon – DDLETB	Statutory
18	Jonathan Hayden - SDCC	Statutory
19	Eugene Donnelly – DEASP	Statutory
20	Cathal O' Sullivan - Probation	Statutory



21	Super Intendent Ian Lackey- Gardaí	Statutory
22	Tony Condren	Community
23	Cathy Murray	Community
24	Niamh Guerrine	Community
25	Samantha Duff	Community
26	Hilda Hamilton	Community
27	James Kelly	Co-option