

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force CLG

Annual Report

2021



BLDATF
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This document captures the range of activities undertaken by the BLDATF during 2021. This report outlines all the communications, funding, events and promotions as well as research and other coordinating pieces within the year. BLDATF welcome the support of its stakeholders to carry out its work and in our pursuit of strengthening our reach into the community through its funding and communications projects.



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Section 1: Background and overview of Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force

BLDATF is one of 12 LDATF around Dublin, which were set up in the late 1990s to address the drug crisis of the time. BLDATF support a number of organisations within the community to provide a range of services and activities across the region. The BLDATF recognises that the impact of problematic substance use extends beyond the individual, to the family and the wider community, and as such we work closely with the wealth of networks within the Ballyfermot community to collaborate, raise awareness and reduce stigma associated with problematic drug and alcohol use. This section takes extracts from the draft BLDATF Handbook which was signed off in March 2020.

1.1 Role of Drug and Alcohol Task Forces

Local and Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Forces¹ play a key role in assessing the extent and nature of the drug problem in their areas and coordinating action at local level so that there is a targeted response to the drug problem in local communities. They implement the National Drugs Strategy² in the context of the needs of their region or local area through action plans which have identified existing and emerging gaps. The goals of the strategy are:

- Promote and protect health and well-being.
- Minimize the harms caused by the use and misuse of substances and promote rehabilitation and recovery.
- Address the harms of drugs markets and reduce access to drugs for harmful use.
- Support participation of individuals, families and communities.
- Develop sound and comprehensive evidence-informed policies and actions.

Drug and Alcohol Task Forces comprise representatives from a range of relevant agencies, such as the HSE, the Gardaí, the Probation Service, Education and Training Executives, Local Authorities, Youth Services, as well as elected public representatives and Voluntary and Community sector representatives. There are 14 Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces in Ireland, 12 of which are in Dublin and the other two are Bray and Cork.

1.2 BLDATF Legal Entity (BOD)

BLDATF (the company) is funded through core funding from central government, primarily from the Health Service Executive (HSE). BLDATF is a company limited by guarantee formed in March 2017 and registered with the Companies Registration Office, Registration No: 600165. It has two Executive members (directors) namely, Henry Harding and Vincent Jackson that fill the roles of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Company Secretary. The company has a support structure to help it fulfill its role. The company's Memorandum of Arts is provided in Appendix 1.

1.3 Ballyfermot LDATF Company Structure

The following chart shows the company structure as approved by the BLDATF in 2019.

¹ Source: <https://health.gov.ie/healthy-ireland/drugs-policy/local-and-regional-drugs-task-forces/>

² Source: http://www.drugs.ie/downloadDocs/2017/ReducingHarmSupportingRecovery2017_2025.pdf

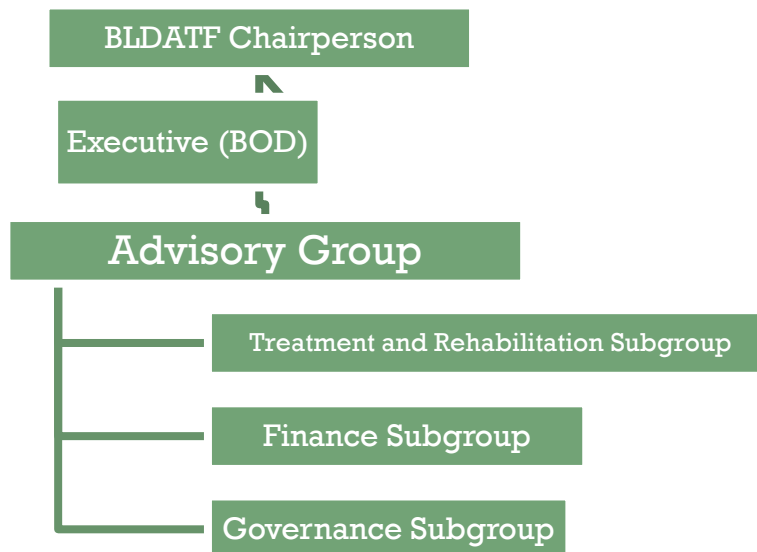


Figure 2: BLDATF company structure.

1.4 Advisory Group (AG)

The AG consists of thirteen (13) representatives from the community and voluntary sector, key statutory agencies and the two directors. The work of the AG is governed by Terms of Reference issued by the company, being guided by the National Drugs Strategy that involves the use of an innovative and evidence-based approach in ensuring the development of a coordinated and integrated response to the harms of drug use. The AG is supported by the following sub-committees with their own TORs.

- Treatment and Rehabilitation
- Financial Monitoring
- Governance

1.5 Governance

2021 was BLDATF 4th year as a CLG, during this time the BLDATF has undertaken various activities to strengthen and support its governance structures.

- In 2018, through a grant received from the Drugs Policy Unit (DPU), the BLDATF tendered for a consultant to develop a board handbook. This piece of work was completed at the end of 2019.
- In 2019, BLDATF recruited Ambit Consulting to undertake a governance support project for all funded agencies, from which an action plan was developed.
- Alongside the governance support in 2019, was a piece of work conducted supporting HSE funded projects to align themselves with Safer Better Healthcare³ as indicated in the service arrangements.
- In 2020 the BLDATF commissioned a financial review of the Childcare Fund which was completed in Q2 2021.
- 2020 the BLDATF governance handbook was signed off by the BLDATF with a view to review in one year. Upon sign off on the governance manual in March 2020, the BLDATF agreed a six weekly schedule for main TF meetings and the Finance and Monitoring Subgroup meeting

³ Source: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/qid/resourcespublications/national-standards-for-safer-better-healthcare.html>



- In 2021, the BLDATF undertook a full project review and strategic planning process, the strategic plan itself being signed off in Q1 2022 with a view to launch in Q2 2022.

1.6 Employees

There were no staffing changes in the reporting period. The company has one direct employee:

- Financial and Operational Administrator

The company has two seconded employees:

- LDATF Coordinator (the coordinator), employed by the HSE assigned to BLDATF.
- Project Officer, employed by BCP on behalf of the BLDATF, through a GAA in agreement with the HSE.

Ballyfermot LDATF Staffing				
Position	Employer	Time period	Hours	Grade
Coordinator	HSE	(since July 2018)	F/T	HSE 7
Financial and Operational Administrator	BLDATF	(Since May 2017)	F/T	HSE 4
Project Officer	BCP	Since March 2019	F/T	HSE 5 (BCP ⁴ equivalent)

Table 1: BLDATF staffing

1.7 Reporting Arrangements

The below information is taken from the BLDATF Governance Manual:

- The Administrator reports to the Chairperson of the BLDATF, which may be varied to take into account any changing needs of the company. The Administrator's day-to-day work will be directed by the Coordinator.
- The Project Officer reports on a day-to-day basis to the CEO of the Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership. The day to day work of the Project Officer is guided by the BLDATF Workplan and informed by the Coordinator. The Project Officer works collaboratively with the Treatment and Rehabilitation Subgroup of the BLDATF.
- The Coordinator reports to, and is accountable to, the Local Area Operations Manager, HSE Addiction Services, for all human resources matters and work activity. For the efficient and effective delivery of programmes and services, it is necessary for the Coordinator to have a close working relationship with the Chairperson and the Advisory Group of BLDATF and to provide such supports, knowledge and expertise that will guide the company in the management of day-to-day operations and the development of its strategic plan.




Figure 3: Young woman performing at the Community Addiction Studies Graduation in autumn 2021.

⁴ Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership



Section 2: Overview of funded initiatives

2.1 Agency summaries

<p>Ballyfermot Advance</p> 	<p>Ballyfermot Advance Project is a community based project helping people who are drug and alcohol users and those affected by drug and alcohol use in the family. The organization provides open access low threshold services to people with drug/alcohol problems through daily access to drop in services (food, crisis intervention). The services offered are: one to one key working, care-planning and case management using evidence based approaches (MI, CRA) and in line with the Continuum of Care process developed by Ballyfermot LDATF. Advance also offer out of hours outreach to deliver services to hard to reach drug/alcohol users in the Ballyfermot area.</p>
<p>Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership</p> 	<p>The Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership on request from the Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force act as the employer for the BLDATF Project Officer. The overall aim of the Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership is to support the community to reach its full potential, to encourage participation, and to target its resources at those most in need in our community. BCP was set up in 1996 as a response to long term unemployment and poverty. BCP was an initiative of local community activists and Ballyfermot Area Action Co-operative who sought funding from Government to support a range of programmes which would support the local community to tackle social exclusion and poverty caused by unemployment, and other social factors.</p>
<p>Ballyfermot Social Intervention Initiative</p> 	<p>Ballyfermot Social Intervention Initiative's target groups are those who are hardest to reach and have a poor history of engaging with services. The project provides support to families (parents and siblings) where one or more members is engaged in drug related anti-social behaviour. The project offers one-to-one support with the aim of strengthening people's coping mechanisms, often with the goal of helping people to maintain their tenancy. The service also offers outreach to the specialised drug and alcohol services, and collaborate on a number of community based interagency networks.</p>
<p>Ballyfermot Star</p> 	<p>Ballyfermot Star provides non-judgemental support, guidance and education to drug users, their families and the community, enabling them to cope with and overcome the effects of drug use. Ballyfermot Star runs a range of groups and services. Realt Solas (Star Light) is a programme that supports individuals with problematic use of Cocaine, Cannabis/Weed, and Alcohol. Realt Na Clann offers family support using the CRAFT model to families affected by problematic substance misuse. The project also hosts a childcare service and a CE scheme.</p>
<p>Ballyfermot Youth Service</p> 	<p>The main objectives of BYS are to work with young people in the Ballyfermot area to empower them to make positive decisions around their life choices, to meet their needs by providing appropriate social, personal and developmental programmes. These programmes use social and non-formal education approaches. Peer Education rests on the view that young people learn a lot from one another as part of their everyday lives and that peer groups play an important part in defining and maintaining an individual's identity. The method of Peer Education has been very successful over the last number of years, as an effective approach to drug prevention. The programme aims to draw on an approach which empowers young people to work with other young people and which draws on the positive strength of the peer group. By means of appropriate training and support the young people become active players in the educational process.</p>
<p>FamiliBase</p>	<p>FamiliBase is a community based, not for profit organisation with charitable status that works with children, young people and families supported by a range of funders. FamiliBase</p>






	<p>consists of a multi-disciplinary team with staff recruited from the following range of disciplines; Early Years, Arts, Social Care, Youth Work, Youth & Community Work, Formal Education, Addiction Counselling, Business, Administration and Finance. FamiliBase has three programme delivery pillars i.e. Early Years Supports, Child and Parent Supports and Youth and Community Supports. FamiliBase operates an integrated model of practice with integration occurring within the programme pillars and also across them.</p>
<p>Fusion CPL</p> 	<p>Fusion CPL is based in the heart of the Cherry Orchard community. Fusion provides support to individuals who are coping with addiction issues either living in the community or incarcerated in prison. Support such as keyworking, counselling, holistic therapies and group work using both therapeutic and social skills are available. Supported Community Employment is also available. In addition we provide support to individuals under the Community Prison Link programme. Between 2015-2018 Fusion CPL developed a family support programme called the Reach Out programme. This programme seeks to help restore the relationship between prisoners and their children.</p>
<p>Matt Talbot</p> 	<p>The Matt Talbot Community Trust, based in Ballyfermot, provides support for individuals in recovery from addiction and returning from prison. The Matt Talbot Community Trust works with both males and females between the ages of 18 and 65. The majority of our group on our day programme in 2017 were between the ages of 20 and 57 years of age. The organisation also works with family members of all ages. Most participants have a criminal history or involvement in the wider criminal justice system, and most are early school leavers with no formal qualifications and minimal employment history. The project runs a Future Options Programme, the aim of which is to equip participants with the necessary skills and competencies for a successful move on to further education and/or employment.</p>

Table 2: Overview of funded organisations.

2.2 Changes to funded organisations in 2021

During 2020 Ballyfermot Social Intervention Initiative recruited an interim manager whilst the project worked through an organizational review. As an initial step of this review, the project renamed *Blue Door*. During this period and into 2021, the project agreed to consider looking at a merger with another larger agency. The merger was agreed upon to ensure Blue Door’s on-going viability due to budget constraints. The project board agreed it was necessary to explore the possibility of a merger with another local organisation with a similar purpose and shared values After consultations with a range of stakeholders, the project agreed a merger with The Cherry Orchard Equine Centre.

For this merger, the project conducted a range of consultations as well as contracting the support of an external agency to help develop a Memorandum of Understanding for the transfer. Having reviewed the documents, the case for the merger was supported at a local level by the BLDATF. The BLDATF did however, recognize that approval from their end was subject to approval from our colleagues in the CDYSB, as they are the channel of funding for this project. Notwithstanding, final approval was required from by the Drugs Policy Unit. This approval came through at the end of 2021. As such, the Blue Door Board of Management resigned and dissolved at the end of 2021, as per the rules of the Constitution. As mergers are not approved mid-year, the transfer over to the Equine was on the 1st January 2022, with BSII no longer as standalone project in the community. Notwithstanding, the work continues and the merger was supported locally by the BLDATF.



2.3 List of funding streams within the BLDATF region

Project Code	COF ⁵	Funding (E)	Project Promoter	Funding Purpose																						
BF3	HSE	130,319	Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force	BLDATF Administration and programme costs, inclusive of grants for one off initiatives.																						
BF7	HSE	294,551	Ballyfermot STAR	Programme and salary budget for substance misuse treatment and rehabilitation support services. Including Family Support.																						
BF2-1	HSE	398,000	Ballyfermot Advance Project	Programme and salary budget for low threshold substance misuse treatment and rehabilitation support. Including brief intervention for family support.																						
BF2-2	HSE	110,829	Fusion CPL Project	Programme and salary budget for substance misuse treatment and rehabilitation supports. Project hosts CPL worker.																						
BF2-4	HSE	13,601	Ballyfermot Youth Service (BYS)	Programme budget for peer education model for young person's drugs and alcohol education.																						
BF2-9	HSE	68,385	FamiliBase	Programme and salary budget line for child welfare key workers addressing the impact of parental substance misuse.																						
PS1	HSE	13,601	Ballyfermot STAR	Peer support programme budget for across whole Star project.																						
BF2-9A	HSE	152,000	FamiliBase	Administrative budget and programme costs to cover childcare fees for individuals looking to access support for problematic substance misuse.																						
BF10	HSE	50,000	Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership (BCP)	Acts as the employer of the Project Officer for the BLDATF. The worker provides community based supports to the BLDATF.																						
BF2-10	CDYS B	97,742	Ballyfermot Social Intervention Initiative (BSII)	Programme and salary cost for service based in Cherry Orchard addressing tenancy sustainment.																						
BF2-14	CDYS B	106,503	Matt Talbot (MT)	Programme and salary cost for drug free day programme.																						
BF2B-3	CDYS B	51,201	FamiliBase	Salary cost for youth substance misuse worker providing one-to-one and group interventions as well as school based drugs education.																						
TOTAL BLDATF annual budget: 1,486,732																										
<table border="1"> <caption>Budget Distribution by Project</caption> <thead> <tr> <th>Project</th> <th>Funding (E)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Advance</td> <td>398,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>FamiliBase</td> <td>121,886</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Star</td> <td>294,551</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fusion</td> <td>110,829</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BYS</td> <td>13,601</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BSII</td> <td>97,742</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BCP</td> <td>50,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MT</td> <td>106,503</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BLDATF</td> <td>130,319</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>1,486,732</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>					Project	Funding (E)	Advance	398,000	FamiliBase	121,886	Star	294,551	Fusion	110,829	BYS	13,601	BSII	97,742	BCP	50,000	MT	106,503	BLDATF	130,319	Total	1,486,732
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Table 3: List of funding streams.

⁵ Channel of Funding



Section 3: Overview of treated problematic drug and alcohol use in the Ballyfermot LDATF region

This section captures the data pertaining treated substance use in the BLDATF region. This information is taken from the BLDATF area National Drug Treatment Reporting System (NDTRS)⁶ treatment data for all services inputting into the system in the BLDATF region. According to the Health Research Board, “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’” (HRB, 2022)⁷. Clients who attend needle-exchange services are not included in this reporting 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. Compliance with the NDTRS requires that one form be completed for each new client coming for first treatment and for each previously treated client returning to treatment for problem drug use (ibid.). The below data refers to anyone who was treated or assessed for treatment in services in the BLDATF area.

3.1 Age profile of people accessing services

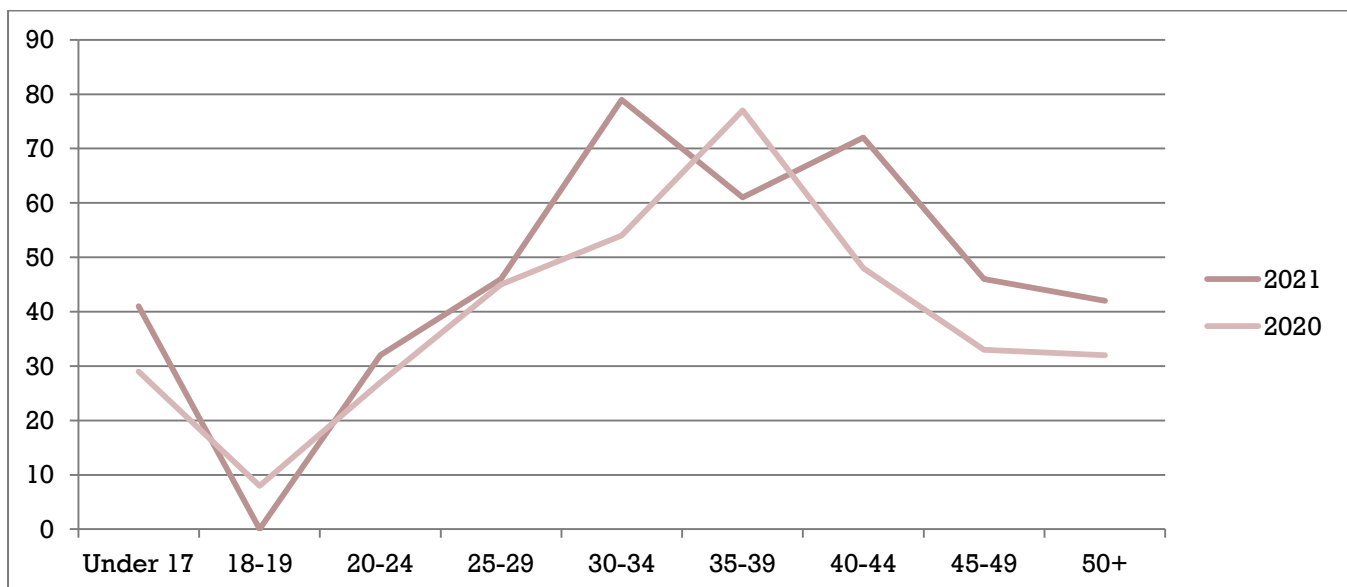


Figure 4: Age profile of people assessed or treatment for services in BLDATF region.

There was an overall 9% increase in the overall number of treated cases in 2022 compared to 2021. As expected, with the easing of restrictions, the opening of schools and full re-engagement of youth and

⁶ https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/26858/1/Master_NDTRS_2019_protocol_hard-copy_V5.pdf

⁷ Health Research board (2022) *HRB Drug Task Force Area Reports: Ballyfermot Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force 2021* Health Research Board



family support services, 2021 saw an increase in the number of under 17s being referred for support, an increase of 41% between 2020 and 2021. We likewise witnessed an increase in the number of 20-24 year olds referring for support, again likely connected to youth and educational services being fully resumed during the year – an increase of 19%. There was a 46% increase in the number of people in the 30-34 age category in support services, a 50% increase in the number of people aged 40-44 years, similar increase with the 45-49 age category and a 31% increase in the over 50s.

3.2 Gender of Service Users

The data indicates as with 2020, that 40% of people in treatment were female. As with last year, this compared to the national data, indicates that Ballyfermot shows a higher percentage of women referring to services. This is a positive result demonstrating the local area’s capacity to respond to women.

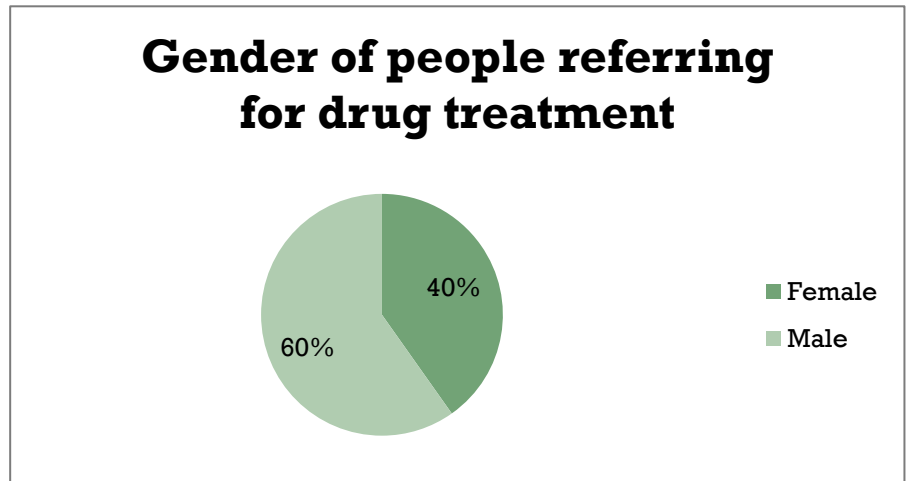


Figure 5: Gender breakdown of people accessing services in BLDATF region.

3.3 Drug of choice

Of those people assessed or treated in 2022, 47% said they had more than one problem substance. Of all people who accessed services, 53% had been previously treated for problem alcohol or drug use. The main problem substance reported was cocaine by a large majority, with heroin, cannabis, alcohol and benzodiazepines following respectively.

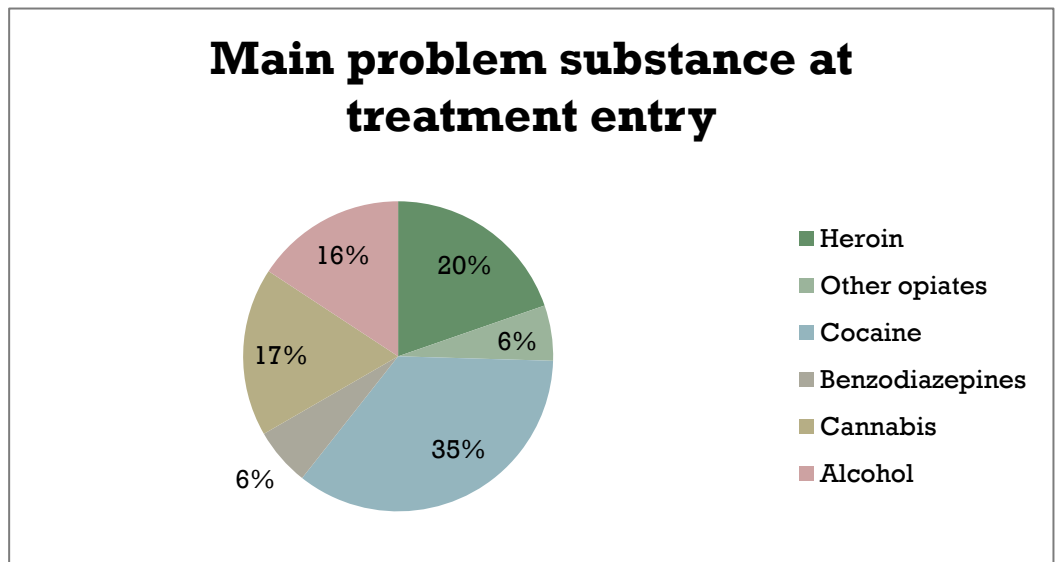


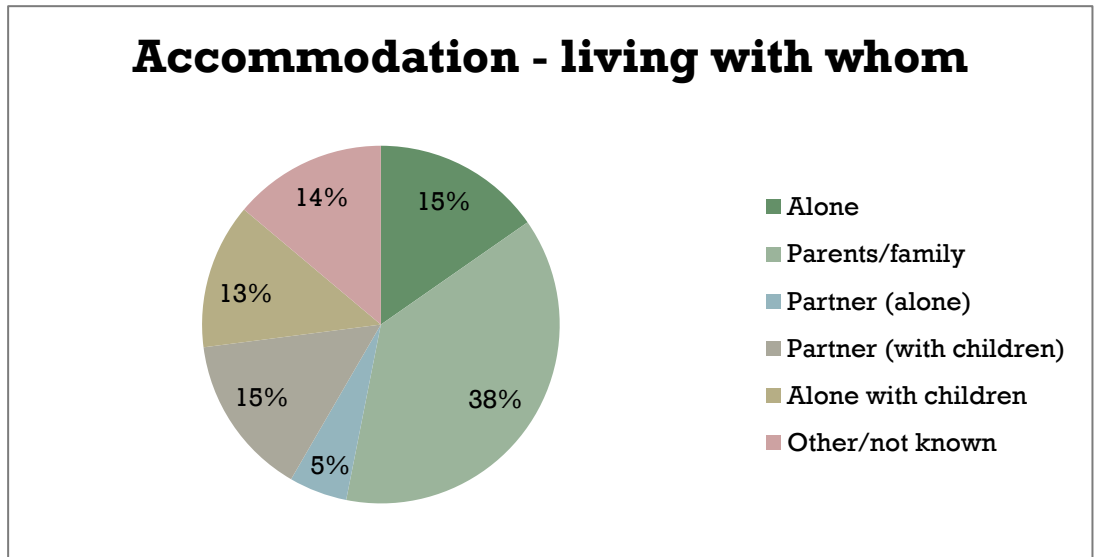
Figure 6: Main problem substance reported at assessment.

Cocaine – in particular crack cocaine – was reported as becoming increasingly problematic for service users in the past year or so, the service data demonstrates this. Of those who said they had two or more problem substances, cocaine was named as the second most common secondary substance, after benzodiazepines.



3.4 Living arrangements and employment and education status

86% of those treated or assessed in the BLDATF area reported living in stable accommodation. Only 15% lived alone, most people are either living with family (37%), with their partner and children (14%), alone with their children (13%) or with their partner (5%). The majority (65%) reported as unemployed with 18% having



completed their leaving certificate. **Figure 7: Living arrangements reported at assessment.**

The majority of those assessed or treated in the reporting period had completed their junior certificate (42%), 20% had primary level completed only. For the majority, the source of referral was self (50%) but referral from another treatment centre did feature (21%) and family referrals for some also (8%).

3.5 Children identified in the NDTRS data

In line with our on-going work in relation to children impacted by parental substance use, we can use the NDTRS data to identify the number of children living with service users.

The NDTRS captures data on the number of children living with service users and children who are under 18 and not living with their parent. Of the number of people who were assessed or treated in the reporting period, 88% had children, under the age of 18. Of this group, 46% had children under the age of 18, with just 18% with children under the age of 5. This indicates much like last year that parents of younger children seem to be less likely to refer for support.

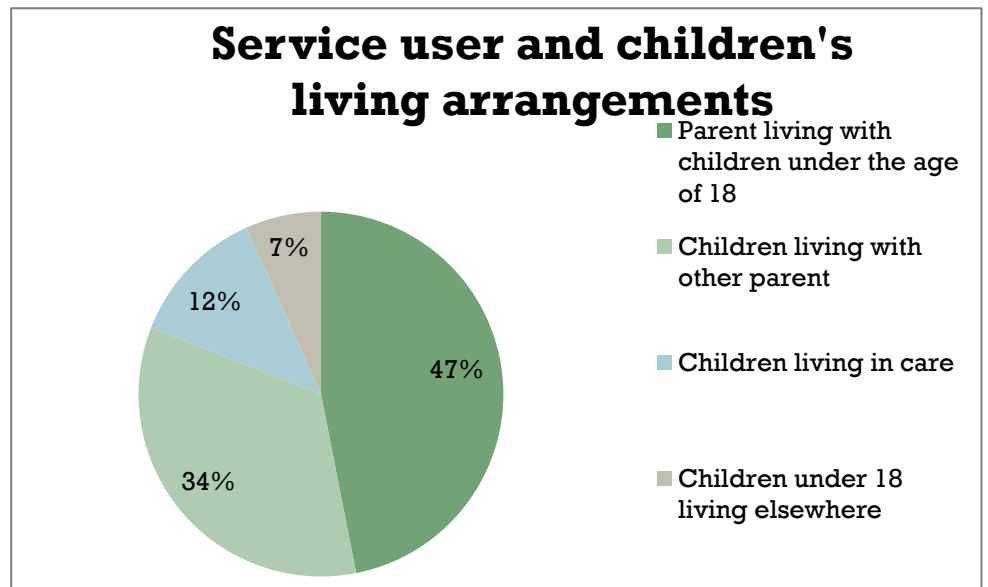


Figure 8: Living arrangements for children and parents identified by NDTRS data.



Section 4: Covid-19 – the impact of the pandemic

Restrictions associated with Covid-19 began in Ireland in March 2020. 2021 was the year in which the restrictions associated with Covid-19 remained in force to a greater or lesser degree throughout the year. As with 2020, the BLDATF adapted its planned activities in-line with the restrictions, however this year we fulfilled all our commitments as planned albeit with some delays.

4.1 BLDATF operations

4.1.1 Meeting and network engagement

Due to the restrictions associated with Covid-19, the BLDATF main TF meetings were all on-line for 2021 except for September which saw a slight reprieve in restrictions. The Finance Subgroup of the BLDATF were largely in person due to the small numbers attending this meeting. Other meetings and network engagement were a blend of both online and in-person meetings.

4.1.2 BLDATF Communications

The pandemic provided opportunity for the BLDATF to strengthen its digital and social media communications. The BLDATF Project Officer continued to develop and strengthen the BLDATF online profile during 2021, including Twitter and Facebook. Also during the summer of 2021, the BLDATF alcohol leaflet and a newly designed nitrous oxide leaflet were delivered to each house in the Ballyfermot area.

Where can I go for help?

Ballyfermot Advance: Individual support and drop-in.	(01) 6238001
Ballyfermot Star: Individual and family support, childcare service, CE Scheme.	(01) 6238002
BSII: Individual and family support, information and drop-in.	(01) 6267041
Fusion CPL: Individual and group support, employment and education support.	(01) 6231499
Familibase: Child and family support, young persons substance misuse service and childcare support.	(01) 6546800
JobPlan: Individual and group support, employment guidance.	(01) 6235612
Matt Talbot: CE Scheme - Individual and group support, training and education.	(01) 6264899
Liberty: CE Scheme - Individual and group support, training and education.	(01) 4193999
HSE: Primary health care services, GP, Public Health Nurses.	07669 56000 Ballyfermot Primary Care Centre

Useful websites: www.askaboutalcohol.ie • www.alcoholicsanonymous.ie
www.services.drugs.ie • www.smartrecovery.ie

Do You Drink Alcohol?



ciste na gcuntas diomhaoin
the dormant accounts fund

Figure 9: BLDATF alcohol information leaflet.

4.2 Service Provision

4.2.1 Operations

All services continued to operate throughout the pandemic albeit with restrictions. In the initial phase some projects reverted to online/remote work entirely, others retained onsite with some outreach or “garden visits” for people engaged in their services. Throughout this year, services showed immense resilience and commitment to the work and navigated their services’ way through the restrictions as they were announced at various points in the year.



4.3 BLDATF Funding

4.3.1 One off exceptional covid costs for projects

Again based on feedback from projects on the increasing costs associated with adherence to Covid-19 public health guidelines, the BLDATF forecasted a total of €10,000 for exceptional covid costs for projects. This money was used towards the summer programme budgets, reported in section 5. During 2021, the HSE began to supply funded agencies with PPE, which would have significantly reduced the programme costs for projects.

4.3.2 Additional therapeutic counselling services

As reported previously, on account of a budget becoming available to the BLDATF due to changes in some of its planned activities in 2020, it was agreed to provide a one off budget for community based counselling. These counselling hours were completed in October 2021, with the payment (€6000) being made in February 2021. The contract for the counselling hours was awarded to Cherry Orchard Family Resource Centre after a competitive tendering process by the BLDATF (see appendix 2). Expressions of interest for the counselling hours were invited from locally based family resource centres in the Ballyfermot LDATF region.

4.3.2.1 Counselling outcomes

A total of 27 clients availed of this counselling service, 6 of whom were male. The ages ranged from 18 years to 50 years old.

Counselling was offered in both normal and out of hours, depending on clients' needs. As the service was offered through a range of restrictions, phone, Zoom and in-person counselling was offered by way of maintaining the service.

The service indicated that through the counselling service, they witnessed a reduction in alcohol and drug use amongst clients, greater self-awareness and coping mechanisms and where necessary onward referrals were made to a range of services such as Women's Aid, MABS, Pieta House, Legal Aid service and the National Learning network. The service reported also that with the reduction in other services and with Covid-19 restrictions, that clients reported high levels of isolation. This coupled with domestic violence and drug and alcohol use demonstrated a clear need for the service and the benefits for clients was noted. The service highlighted that the BLDATF funding was essential for the support for the 27 individuals.



Figure 10: Testing out virtual reality headset in Familibase.



4.4 Drugs Policy Unit Once off Covid Budget

In November 2020 the Drugs Policy Unit provide an opportunity for all Task Forces to apply for one off grant up to €20,000. The grant was paid to the BLDATF in January 2021 and grants were issued to projects in February 2021, with the exception of Ballyfermot Advance which was paid out in 2020 Q4, as this grant was to cover out of hours outreach supports over the Christmas period.

4.4.1 DPU Covid Grant breakdown

Projects could apply for a fund to support them under a number of categories as set out by the DPU. It was approved at the BLDATF

level that a portion of the money be allocated specifically to out of hours outreach and that the balance be shared equally between all funded drug and alcohol support services.



Figure 11: Tree planting for International Women's Day 2021.

Project	Amount	Purpose
Star	€2000	Development of IT facilities
Familibase	€2000	Change in layout of offices
Matt Talbot	€1980	Staff training and exceptional costs meeting client needs
Advance	€2000	Development of IT facilities, safe operation of drug and alcohol support groups and service user supports.
	€6000	Out of hours outreach during Christmas and New Year period.
BYS ⁸	€2000	Development of IT facilities, support for service users and exceptional costs meeting client needs.
BSII ⁹	€2000	Changes in layout of offices, support for service users and exceptional costs meeting client needs
Fusion CPL	€1750	Support for service users.

Table 4: DPU Covid grants.

⁸ Ballyfermot Youth Service

⁹ Ballyfermot Social Intervention Initiative



Section 5: Targeted Intervention Funds

Feedback on these funds in the 2021 strategic review work was to continue to offer the Targeted Intervention Fund, summer project grants and small community grants. The Targeted Funding Initiative (TIF) received positive feedback, it allowed for access to extra counselling sessions which are very important. Applications were invited in March 2021 with payments going out in April 2021. The decision making procedure for these funds remained that the Finance Subgroup process all applications, with recommendations brought to the main TF meeting for comment. The application form and criteria are provided in Appendix 2. As with previous rounds of TIFs, the fund is used to support initiatives not otherwise covered by existing services. Applications were accepted from TF funded and non-funded agencies. The overall budget for TIF this year was €42,000 with the maximum award being €10,000. Applicants were required to have all previous paperwork and TIFs completed before a new application could be approved and an outcome report is a requirement of feedback from the initiatives upon completion.



Figure 12: Bray with Ballyfermot Advance.

5.1 Targeted Intervention Funds Awarded

Project(s)	Purpose of fund	Target Group	Amount awarded
Advance	Assertive Out of Hours Outreach	An out of hours street based outreach support for those not already engaged in services	€9,600
BSII	Adult one-to-one counselling hours.	Service users of BSII with referrals from St Ultans, The Equine Centre and the Bungalow.	€10,000
BYS	Part time outreach worker for the new Skate Park in Ballyfermot.	Young people accessing the Skate Park.	€10,000
FamiliBase (in partnership with Advance and Fusion)	Family systems counselling	Family therapy with a focus on supporting children and families impacted by Parental Substance Misuse. Described as a community based systemic family therapy approach.	€10,000
Total awarded:			€33,600

Table 5: Targeted Intervention Funds awarded.



5.2 Targeted Intervention Fund Project Outcomes

Project(s)	Completion date	Outcomes achieved (hard)	Outcomes achieved (soft)	Feedback from service users
Advance Assertive Out of Hours Outreach	November 2021	1182 interactions, 85% of which were with males, all over the age of 18. The NSP ¹⁰ distributed 278 crack pipes, 140 foil packs and 714 intravenous pre packs.	The OOH service increases the number of people referring into Ballyfermot Advance drop in and other supports. Referrals made to Dublin Simon Rough Sleepers Team, Safety Net medical services and Dublin Simon Detox beds also. The OOH is now an integral part of Advances suite of services and being increasingly recognised by other a service users as well as community projects as a valuable support and referrals made to the team frequently. During the pandemic, the team were able to support service users access their covid vaccines.	<p>“It’s great to have you out late to help us”</p> <p>“it makes it accessible when we are in work”</p> <p>“Thanks for ringing the Freephone for us” “</p>
FamiliBase (in partnership with Advance and Fusion) Family counselling	November 2021	8 families (21 participants) availed of the service with a total of 78 sessions provided.	Increase in overall family well-being; reduced symptoms of trauma; child and parents’ capacity to emotionally regulate has increased; great family capacity to communicate with one another; greater awareness of impact of behaviour on others and families have been empowered to change.	<p>“My mind doesn’t remember but my body does. The harder I tried not to let it out the worse it got”, (then after the session) “it’s like now my body is clearing out, making space for something else”</p> <p>“It’s like having a parasite. Like having it there for years and you don’t know”</p>
Ballyfermot Youth Service	November 2021	115 participants; 59% male and 41% female. The majority of young people availing of the service were 10-19 years old.	Having the funding meant that the BYS could deliver effective programmes for young people, not just about sport but about the social aspect for young people. BYS were able to target a core group of young people who have been involved in anti-social activity in the area and engage them in positive programmes. As a result of the engagement at the park, there has been an increased sense of ownership of the skate	<p>“It’s very important at the moment to have somewhere to go to get away from the world”</p> <p>“I’m only in college two days a week so the other days that I am off I come down here and it just loosens me up, relieves all my stress, it’s great”</p>

¹⁰ Needle Syringe Programme

park which has meant the area is well maintained and not attracting anti-social behaviour.

Ballyfermot Social Intervention Initiative

December 2021

Total of 27 clients were looked after, each availing of a weekly 1 hour counselling session. 22 of the participants were female, with the majority aged in their 20s. All were over the age of 18. 21 of the individuals were supported through Blue Door keyworking/care planning in Blue Door, 7 were supported in referring to other supports. 2 clients' availed of evening appointments.

Clients were supported through personal development and behavioral changes. Referrals were managed quickly and efficiently, with a monthly counselling provision meeting held with other counselling services in the area to ensure best use of resources.

Feedback about the service was positive; it was noted that access to this counseling was of significant benefit as it was quicker to access than counselling through referral from GPs.

Table 6: Targeted Outcomes

Intervention Fund



Figure 13: Gurteen Youth Club ready for the young people.



Section 6: Small Grants Schemes

6.1 Community Grants

Ballyfermot LDATF fund small community projects in the community as a means to strengthen the community capacity to minimize the impact of problematic drug and alcohol use. In 2021 the BLDATF agreed to retain the criteria which was used in 2020 and to also continue with the support of Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership (BCP) for the administration and promotion of the grants. The maximum budget available in 2021 for these grants was €10,000.

The grants were launched in March 2021. The grant applications were assessed by an inter-agency committee made up of BLDATF, the BCP and Dublin City Council. All applicants were offered the opportunity for support with their application through BCP and any group that was awarded was given on-going support as needed for the duration of their project. Given the challenges which arose as a result of Covid-19, some projects were not able to complete their



Figure 14: Ballyfermot Skate Park in action.

activities in 2020, and therefore carried the work into 2021. This meant that there were fewer applicants for 2021, but some new local groups came forward which was a positive outcome.

6.1.2 Grants awarded

Project	Purpose	Total award
Cherry Orchard Running Club	Positivity session with Bressie and yoga, meditation and mindfulness. Bus transfers and equipment for the annual summer project.	€2000
Disability Action Group	ISL Interpreters and training for parents with disabilities facilitator costs to support parents with disabilities.	€2000
Future Ballers	Equipment and start-up costs for new youth football club.	€860
Gurteen Youth Club	Funding to support outdoor activities in the youth centre, including picnic benches, basketball hoops, table tennis.	€1765
Le Fanu Environmental	Planting materials, hanging baskets and wood for projects such as fairy doors and bird boxes for Le Fanu Park group.	€1800
Total spend		€8425

Table 7: Community grants awarded.



6.2 Summer Programme Budgets 2021

In 2021 BLDATF retained the Summer Programme Budget. This year it was agreed to welcome applications from both TF funded and non-TF funded agencies. Applicants had to be a constituted group and applicants were advised that activities must target families, children and young people adversely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Applications up to €2500 were considered but with no guarantee of the full amount requested being awarded. Applicants were reminded that this was a one off fund, there is no guarantee of further funding for this activity. This year with the help of Familibase, a short video was produced which showcased some of the activities funded¹¹.



Figure 15: Two ambassadors from Ballyfermot surfing Sligo (photo courtesy of Ballyfermot Youth Service).

6.2.1 Grants awarded

Project	Activity Summary	Amount awarded
Ballyfermot Advance	Day trips for families attending the service, range of outings to be funded	1192.75
Ballyfermot Le De Salle GAA Club	Fitness and mental health promotion for children 5-16 years old.	2500
Ballyfermot Youth Service	Outdoor activities for young people including Circus skills, music and golf.	2500
Cherry Orchard Integrated Youth Service	Day trips for young people. Tayto Park, Baysports and Dublin Zoo	2205
D10 Youth Swim Club	Support to revive the swim club using outdoor activities.	1000
Familibase	Summer programme costs for mainstream and targeted youth/family support.	2500
Gurteen Youth Club	Summer Programme for young people from the Ballyfermot / Cherry Orchard Area.	2400
St Ultans	Residential trip and summer camps over 7 week period.	2500
Total awarded		16797.75

Table 8: Summer Programme grants awarded.

¹¹ <https://ballyfermotldatf.ie/>



6.2.2 Summer Programme Outcomes

Project	Outcomes	Participant feedback
Ballyfermot Advance	<p>15 adults and 8 children (under 12 years old) attended. 9 male and 6 female adults.</p> <p>This was a great opportunity to provide a range of psycho-social interventions in a fun and non-threatening way. It facilitated conversations around physical health, mental health, nutrition, stress management</p>	<p>It was great to see the kids laughing and joking and having a good time. I had a good time too. It made me realise how much I am missing out on as a parent.</p> <p>I was too tired to drink after the day out so just went to bed</p> <p>It was great to be beside the sea</p>
Ballyfermot Le De Salle GAA Club	<p>130 young people aged 4 years old to 15 years old, with boys and girls taking part. As a result of the programme many young people have now joined the GAA Club.</p>	<p>Participant feedback was really positive and engagement was strong.</p>
Ballyfermot Youth Service	<p>A total of 506 individuals engaged with programme over 3 months. Which equated to 2328 different visits, as well as supported a structured summer programme in July for 75 young people. In June the summer events began with music and art festival and art installation on the Ballyfermot Road. Three separate groups were brought on residential trips. Activities included mountain biking, abseiling, Zipit, Tayto Park, Jump Zone and many more.</p>	<p>Thanks for a great week. Girls had a great time. This grant helped fund access to activities for young people who may not have accessed support previously, we were able to reach out to young people who were impacted by drug and alcohol problems.</p>
Cherry Orchard Integrated Youth Service	<p>85 young people availed of the programme. There were males and females and ages ranged from 10-17 years old. All from the Ballyfermot/Cherry Orchard area.</p>	<p>We would like to thank the task force, we are greatly appreciative. Parents and children's feedback was very positive. Young people stated that it was such a relief to get out of the community after the pandemic and lockdowns, parents said they were happy their children were engaged in activities and having fun with their peers.</p>
D10 Youth Swim Club	<p>52 young people took part, 24 male and 28 female. Attendance and engagement was very positive</p>	<p>Older participants buddied up with younger participants. Engagement resulted in children and young people planning for Easter and Halloween activities also.</p>
Familibase	<p>359 individuals' availed of the programme, made up of 66 parents and 291 children and young people. Families engaged in outings, and connected with</p>	<p>My son had a fantastic time, while out on the trips and the few days away. Brilliant experiences and learning for him. Thank</p>



	other parents too. New referrals were made for families and young people. EYS and parents connected on a different level than when just doing drop-offs and collections.	you to FamiliBase. 97.6% of participants were strongly satisfied with the summer programme and 96.3% said they would recommend the summer programme to family and friends.
Gurteen Youth Club	400 young people over a period of 3 weeks. Activities ran from 10am to 4pm. As a result of the programme many young people have enrolled for other activities in the youth club.	High levels of participation on the programme. Young people engaged with existing friends and forged new friendships.
St Ultans	16 young people engaged in the programme. A group were brought to the Cavan Centre for a residential weekend, and there was also a trip to Tayto Park.	Feedback from participants demonstrated that the young people were happy to get the opportunity to avail of activities after a long period living with Covid 19 restrictions. The Cavan trip was cited as the highlight of the summer programme.

Table 9: Summer Programme grants outcomes.



Figure 16: "Lads out for a walk" - Familibase

"It was great to see the kids laughing and joking and having a good time. I had a good time too."

Ballyfermot Advance participant.



6.3 Christmas Programme Budgets

In November 2021, BLDATF welcomed applications for the Christmas Programme Budget. As with our other small grants, this budget was open to TF funded and non-TF funded agencies (organisations must be a constituted group with their own bank account and charity/company number). The aim of this budget was to support local community organisations and groups to run programmes over the Christmas period to help reduce isolation, support families and to strengthen community and social engagement over the December-January period. It was hoped through using this budget that we could reach older people in the community as well as young people and their families. Although the overall budget for these grants was small, it was hoped that it helped projects develop some programmes to run during the Christmas period where many services are closed. At the time of the launch of these programmes, we were witnessing another potential lockdown as Covid numbers increased across the country. This affected the number of applications coming in and the type of programme people could run.

6.3.1 Christmas Grants awarded

Project	Description	Amount awarded
Advance	Christmas Dinner, Hall Rental, Emergency Fuel Cost, Santa Experience	€800
Ballyfermot Dela Salle	This program aims to bring the community together to strengthen the clubs links through festive activities that's inclusive for all abilities	€800
Ballyfermot Youth Service	Funding for as range of activities and outings over Christmas period for young people. Aim to support and encourage participation through vouchers and prizes.	€800
Cherry Orchard FRC	VUE Cinema tickets For up to 35 families to use over the Christmas period.	€800
Familibase	Contribution towards Ice Skating Over 95 people from Ballyfermot / Cherry Orchard will be targeted for this programme and brought in to small groups to Ice Skating by Familibase	€800
Gurteen	Young people need opportunities to meet and socialise in a safe environment our project will see approx. 8 groups of 25 young people have that opportunity to meet, have fun and enjoy a time of the year when young people like to meet up.	€800
BSII	Funding towards Christmas Craft Fair including room hire, art materials and refreshments.	€800
Total awarded		€5600

Table 10: Christmas grants 2021.



Section 7: Drugs Policy Unit - Strand 2 Funding

7.1 Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment

Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment (SWAAT) is a National Drugs Strategy Strand 2 Strategic Health Initiative which aims to build community capacity to support women to access treatment and recovery from drug and alcohol use across the Tallaght and Ballyfermot LDATF areas. Denise Joy was employed as the SWAAT Coordinator in March 2020. The SWAAT Coordinator's work plan is supported by an interagency SWAAT steering group which guides the initiative. SWAAT works with the community projects in Ballyfermot and Tallaght to strengthen the capacity to respond to the needs of women. SWAAT adequately address one of the 12 strategic health initiatives set out in the National Drugs Strategy 'Women who use drugs and alcohol'¹². SWAAT highlights the importance of looking at women as a distinct group in terms of drug and alcohol treatment services.

7.1.1 SWAAT Research

The research began in 2020 but was delayed due to Covid-19. The Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment Research Report was launched by Minister Frank Feighan via Zoom on **Thursday, 24th June 2021 at 11am**. This webinar shared key findings and recommendations from the research; "Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment; Tallaght & Ballyfermot" conducted by Jo-Hanna Ivers & team, IPH, Trinity College Dublin¹³. The event was open to all living and working in both Tallaght and Ballyfermot and anyone who had an interest in listening to the research findings and supporting women to access appropriate support for drug and alcohol use. The launch was held on-line and had in excess of 120 attendees.

S.W.A.A.T.
Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment

S.W.A.A.T. is a National Drugs Strategy Strand 2 Strategic Health Initiative which aims to build community capacity to support women to access treatment and recovery from drug and alcohol use

S.W.A.A.T. RESEARCH will be launched
by Minister Frank Feighan
Via Zoom
Thursday, 24th June 2021 at 11am
International Guest Speaker: Professor David Best

This webinar will share key findings and recommendations from the research; "**Supporting Women to Access appropriate Treatment; Tallaght & Ballyfermot**" conducted by Professor Jo-Hanna Ivers & team, IPH, Trinity College Dublin .

Register free on [SWAAT-Research-Launch.eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/swaat-research-launch)

Figure 17: SWAAT Research launch flyer.

¹² http://www.drugs.ie/downloadDocs/2017/ReducingHarmSupportingRecovery2017_2025.pdf (p42)

¹³ <https://www.tcd.ie/medicine/iph/>



7.1.2 SWAAT Launch guest speakers

Alongside Professor Jo-Hanna Ivers who conducted the research, the guest speaker was Professor David Best. Professor David Best is Professor of Criminology at the University of Derby and Honorary Professor of Regulation and Global Governance at The Australian National University. He is also chair of the Prisons Research Network of the British Society of Criminology. He trained as a psychologist and criminologist, he has worked in practice, research, and policy in the areas of addiction recovery and rehabilitation of offenders. He has authored or co-edited seven books on addiction recovery and desistance from offending and has written more than 200 peer-reviewed journal publications and around 70 book chapters and technical reports. In 2019, he has produced a monograph entitled “Pathways to Desistance and Recovery: The role of the social contagion of hope” (Policy Press) and a co-edited volume entitled “Strength-based approaches to crime and substance use” (Routledge). He currently leads a longitudinal research study into pathways to recovery by gender in Scotland, England, Belgium, and the Netherlands. His research interests include recovery pathways, recovery capital and its measurement, social identity theory and its implications for recovery, recovery and desistance, addiction treatment effectiveness particularly in prison settings, prison and community connections, and family experiences of addiction and recovery.

Dr. Jo-Hanna Ivers is an Assistant Professor in Addiction. She leads the Neurobehavioral Addiction Group at the Discipline of Public Health & Primary Care at the Institute of Population Health, School of Medicine, Trinity College Dublin. Jo-Hanna has worked as a researcher in the Discipline of Public Health & Primary Care as part of a broader addiction team since 2009. During this time, she has completed several large-scale addiction studies including the evaluation of the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework. Jo-Hanna has specific training and extensive experience in a wide range of research methodologies including qualitative, quantitative, neuro-behavioural processes, bio-psychosocial intervention, and outcome evaluation. Her work has been published in several high-impact international peer-reviewed journals and has extensive experience of addiction treatment. Prior to research, Jo-Hanna worked in frontline addiction services.

7.1.3 SWAAT Research findings

The research findings lead to six recommendations. The SWAAT Coordinator has been central in coordinating and developing



Figure 18: Denise Joy SWAAT Coordinator.



Figure 19: SWAAT Research recommendations.



these recommendations. Local women from both communities and the task force funded agencies have helped design the implementation of these recommendations into the communities.

7.1.4 SWAAT Collaboration

A critical element of SWAAT is the co-operation and collaboration between the agencies and services in Ballyfermot and Tallaght. Overall, the SWAAT initiative to date has facilitated improved collaboration and engagement in progressing responses to substance misuse.

Lack of access to childcare services was cited as the most significant barrier to accessing treatment in the SWAAT study 2021. SWAAT has collaborated with statutory and voluntary agencies in Tallaght and is creating a working group in 2022 to look at childcare options available for women who use substances and need to access supports, to identify gaps and, work using an interagency approach to address these gaps to support women accessing appropriate treatment.

SWAAT 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, and strengthening interagency working across the two communities.

Throughout 2021 there have been great examples of collaboration between SWAAT and the agencies in Ballyfermot & Tallaght.

- SWAAT is a member of an interagency group in Ballyfermot called SPACE (SUICIDE PREVENTION AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT) GROUP DUBLIN 10
- Women's Aid Domestic Violence training delivered across Ballyfermot & Tallaght by SWAAT.
- St Dominics community response Tallaght are now offering female specific treatment assessments by Tiglin in response to the SWAAT research recommendations. This has been replicated in Finglas.
- The SWAAT research recommendations and Implementation plan were presented to the CFSN¹⁴ & CYPSC¹⁵ in Ballyfermot & Tallaght.
- SWAAT has established strong networks with Tulsa in both communities.
- SWAAT is a member of an interagency working group with a focus Parental Substance Use in Ballyfermot.

“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)

¹⁴ Child and Family Support Network

¹⁵ Child and Young Persons Services Safe and Secure Sub Committee



- Presented SWAAT research and recommendations and Implementation plan to the CFSN & CYPSC¹⁶ in Ballyfermot & Tallaght.
- CARP in Tallaght are collaborating with Ballyfermot Advance & SWAAT to set up a Crack Cocaine Women's group in January 2022. This group will promote positive engagement with women who were not yet linked in with treatment supports.

7.1.5 SWAAT Community Events

As with previous years, in January 2021, the SWAAT initiative agreed to fund a series of events to mark International Women's Day (IWD) across Tallaght and Ballyfermot. The SWAAT initiative felt it needed to raise public awareness around the unique needs of women and to promote services available to women across the community. Now in its fourth year IWD has grown into a truly unique event, it is a fantastic day for women in Ballyfermot and Tallaght and encompasses a range of events in both communities.

IWD is an inter-agency initiative incorporating Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership (BCP), Dublin City Council (DCC) and the Treatment and Rehabilitation (T&R) Subgroup services. The project involved supporting a number of events online with the Task Force funded projects, organising, and delivering a range of self-care packs and also supporting a range of inter-agency events through publicity by way of social media, leaflets, and posters.

In addition to IWD, SWAAT also supports Recovery Month in both communities. In 2020 and 2021, SWAAT promoted stories of the many women who have recovered from addiction and live fulfilled lives. The celebration of Recovery month across both communities gained considerable coverage in local media. The aim is to reduce stigma and to promote and celebrate recovery, that recovery is possible.

7.2 Community Alcohol Detox Project

The Community Alcohol Detox project was established to cover Ballyfermot, Canal Communities, Dublin 12 and the South Inner City. The Community Alcohol Detox project focused on four core areas: the employment of an Alcohol Liaison Worker to complete the work programme, to strengthen the interagency model of practice under the National Drug Rehabilitation Framework, to develop a best practice model for a Community Alcohol Detox project framework for use by community drugs projects in



Figure 20: Women celebrating International Women's Day 2021.



partnership with the HSE Addiction Services, Primary Care and Community General Practitioners, and to build the capacity of all stakeholders through training and meaningful engagement.

The Regional Alcohol Liaison Worker was recruited in early 2020, hosted by Community Response. However in 2021 a new worker was recruited. The new worker embedded themselves into their new role, taking onboard achievements from previous worker. As covid restrictions remained in place the worker used a blend of in-person and online meetings and consultations.

A core component of the project was to build on existing mechanisms and progress service user involvement and consultation to have an active role in the development of the framework and model of practice and to identify useful training and information resources. Likewise, GP and medical engagement was regarded as key, and as such the Liaison Worker focussed their engagement with stakeholders on gathering service user feedback and working towards GP engagement.



Figure 21: Niamh Foley the Alcohol Link Worker at the November webinar.

7.2.1 Community Alcohol Detox - Training

The training programme reflects the recommended training which was outlined in the original Drugs Policy Unit application based on the research and reports. Priority agencies for training are Task Force funded agencies in each community, however the CADP Project management Group recognises that mixed groups will add value to the training and that inter-agency work will be enhanced by using training as networking opportunities across the Tiers. Training is categorized as core training indicated in the original application (SAOR, MI, Case Management/Keyworking highlighted in blue below) and then complementary to support families and to enhance mental health and well-being; all training is based on local needs. The Project Management Group agreed to continue the rollout of basic MI across the four LDATF areas throughout 2021.



Figure 22: Agenda for alcohol webinar, November 2021.

One round of Inter-Agency case management Training operated by Urrus¹⁷ was run in Q4 and 3 rounds of basic Motivational Interviewing and one round of intermediate was run during the year. Overall feedback about training was positive. The uptake of the case management training was lower than hoped, however

¹⁷ <https://byap.ie/services/urrus/september-2022-training>



this could be due to the demands on projects' time due to covid and staffing issues. It was also felt that whilst online training was a useful tool, that in-person training is better.

7.2.2 Webinar

For European Alcohol Awareness week the project hosted a webinar. The webinar gave an overview of the project to date, and introduced some important service user stories. The webinar also provided important input from a GP, the aim being to encourage and support GP engagement with the project.

7.3 SAFE Project

The SAFE initiative is an information and awareness campaign funded across 4 DATFs to advertise outreach points / supports at each train station from the Midlands into Heuston to access harm reduction supports. Posters are displayed at train stations and cards with contact details are provided as part of outreach being provided in each area. The aim of campaign is to provide information of services available to those who are using crack cocaine and heroin and engage them in the most appropriate supports locally. The steering group, in consultation with service users, worked on the design and development of the 'SAFE' campaign targeting those who require information of services available to them. This project recruited the Assertive Case Manager (ASM) in November 2019, and the work continued throughout the reporting period. Ballyfermot remained connected with the project on account of the outreach element to the work, with local outreach workers engaging with the ASM in 2020. A review of the initiative was conducted in 2021 which highlighted some of the challenges for the project and make a number of key recommendations for the remainder of the project.

7.3.1 SAFE Review recommendations

Recommendation in relation to Aim 1: To provide a coordinated response to reduce the drug litter, reduce the levels of public drug use, reduce anti-social behaviour in the train stations **is:**

- That the SAFE Initiative continues and builds on the co-ordinated response to ensure that the reduction in the levels of drug litter, public drug use and anti-social behaviour in the train stations is maintained.

Recommendations in relation to Aim 2: To provide outreach points / supports at each train station from the Midlands into Heuston Station so Service Users can access harm reduction supports including NSP and Crack Pipes **and Aim 3:** To provide information of services available to those who are using crack cocaine and heroin and to actively engage them in the most appropriate supports locally **are:**

- That Community and Voluntary Drug and Alcohol Projects and the Assertive Case Management Service continue to offer the Outreach support.

Recommendations in relation to Aim 4: To provide a case management services on an outreach basis to the people who are most at risk and are the most complex and entrenched cases in the Clondalkin / Kildare area under the SAFE Initiative and to provide access pathways to support services for people experiencing problematic substance misuse issues **are:**

- That the SAFE Initiative continues to offer the pro-active Assertive Case Management Service by approaching people and offering an Assertive Case Management Service to them at train stations and on the train.



- That SAFE Initiative should review and re-write the Assertive Case Manager's Job Description in consultation with her.
- That the Operations Group should take a more hands on approach in the management and overseeing of the Assertive Case Management Service and as part of this should undertake a literature review of similar Initiatives and projects to provide baseline outcomes and outputs.
- That the SAFE Initiative look at the long-term viability / desire for the SAFE Initiative and in particular the Assertive Case Management Service.
- In running what is a three-year pilot, that the SAFE Initiative should set aside time and resources to map how the SAFE Assertive Case Management will end or evolve for the sake of Service Users and staff.

The recommendation in relation to Aim 5:

To set in place an inter-Drug and Alcohol Task Force and Inter-Agency Initiative / structure that could effectively and efficiently support the achievement of the four Aims above is:

- In order to sustain the Initiative, that the SAFE Initiative names the long-term purpose of its work and determine what resources it needs.
- That the SAFE Initiative develops greater clarity on its structure.
- That the SAFE Initiative write a clear agreement between the 4 Task Forces involved in the SAFE Initiative.
- That SAFE Initiative explores and re-structures the link between the SAFE Initiative and the 4 different Drug and Alcohol Task Forces involved in the SAFE Initiative in terms of actioning decisions.
- That the SAFE Initiative develops clarity on the availability of resources to support the SAFE Initiative from the 4 Drug and Alcohol Task Forces and from the Community and Voluntary Drug and Alcohol Projects.



Figure 23: Recovery Walk 2021 Le Fanu Park, Ballyfermot.



Section 8: Drugs Policy Unit - Strand 1 Funding

8.1 Research into older persons

In the summer of 2019 the Drugs Policy Unit (DPU) offered the opportunity for all Drug and Alcohol Task Forces to apply for additional funding, Strand 1 one off funding was used to fund this research project. This research was commissioned by BLDATF, on the suggestion of the Dublin City Council representative on the Task Force, to explore the issues affecting older people in the community who are experiencing problematic drug and alcohol use. Previous feedback at local level to the BLDATF had indicated that there was a high volume of older drug and alcohol users (40+yrs) in the community, some of whom were engaged in services and others who were hidden in the community with known problematic drug and alcohol. The research was begun in 2019 but was delayed due to Covid-19. The research aim was to:

1. Research the needs of older drug and alcohol users in the community
2. To make recommendations with regard to the development and strengthening of appropriate supports in partnership with other key stakeholders.

8.1.1 Report design

The report design was commissioned by BLDATF. Art work from local services was used throughout the report to demonstrate the value of art in the community and to showcase the talent of local artists, whose work was printed in the dTalk 2020 magazine. BLDATF would like to thank the artists and the projects who supplied these images.

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force invite you to the research launch of "It's like we're the forgotten..."
on
Friday 12th November 12pm-1.30pm
This event will be held online.

This research was commissioned by BLDATF to explore the issues affecting older people in the community who are experiencing problematic drug and alcohol use. BLDATF consulted with a range of stakeholders for this piece of work and we look forward to collaborating going forward.

This is free to attend. Attendees will need access to a laptop/computer/smartphone with microphone, speakers and internet connection to attend.

The speakers include Cllr Vincent Jackson Chair of the Ballyfermot LDATF, Audry Deane the researcher and Emily Reaper from SURIA (Service User Rights in Action).

This event is open to all those who work and live in the Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard Community and to other stakeholders.

We look forward to having you there.

To book a place please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/launch-of-bldatf-older-persons-research-its-like-we-are-the-forgotten-tickets-195140599787> or email: clara.geaney@hse.ie or scan QR Code

For more information about this event please contact: groche@bcpartnership.ie 087 1486080

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force
info@ballyfermotldatf.ie
Facebook: BallyfermotLDATF.ie
Twitter: @local_task

Figure 24: Older persons' research launch flyer.



8.1.2 Research launch

After some delays, the research was signed off by the BLDATF in Q2 2021. Using artwork provided by the local projects, this report was designed over the summer and launched in autumn 2021. Due to covid-19 restrictions being implemented again, the launch was held online. A video of the launch was posted online after the event¹⁸. Attendance at the launch was in excess of 80 people, coming from both local services and the community as well as colleagues and friends from neighbouring communities.

8.1.3 Research launch agenda

Time	Speaker and topic
12-12.05pm	Ali Warner, Host – Practical Guidelines for the event
12.05-12.10pm	Clara Geaney, event chair – Opening statement
12.10-12.20pm	Vincent Jackson Chair of the BLDATF – Launch the report
12.20-12.35pm	Audry Deane - Overview of research report and recommendations
12.35-12.50pm	Emily Reaper - Service User Rights In Action
12.50-1.25pm	All – Reflective Conversations & Plenary Discussion
1.25-1.30pm	Clara Geaney – Closing Remarks

8.1.4 Speakers

Audry Deane combines her management development consultancy work with over 25 years as a policy and advocacy expert in the community and voluntary sector to secure better outcomes for disadvantaged groups. She has national public sector board experience as a member of the Residential Tenancies Board and sits on the Irish Medical Council Ethics Committee and is Chair of the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force. She is currently working on the Sláintecare Building Healthy Communities Programme.



Figure 25: Audry Deane research consultant.

I am Emily Reaper. A mother of a beautiful daughter and a grandmother of 3!!! I've worked in the drug services since 1991. I started with Merchants Quay as a volunteer, went to Maynooth and Trinity to enhance my education. Since then I've been an advocate for drug users because I truly believed the rights of drug users were being over looked in a 'dramatic' way. I was concerned and I wanted to work on these issues. After some freelance work and two years with Ana Liffey, I teamed up with Tommy Larkin and we set up UISCE where I worked for 18years. I became a member of INPUD (International Network of People Who



Figure 26: Emily Reaper - SURIA

¹⁸ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fauUbQ5URhw>



Use Drugs] and later was on the steering committee for ENPUD (European Network of People who Use Drugs). I am now with an organisation SURIA (Service Users Rights In Action) for many years. We work towards a human rights concept and this model has proven to be more helpful than any other way in challenging policy makers within the addiction services i.e. the HSE. My role in SURIA is field research as my own lived experiences and as a service user I can understand some of the issues drug users go through.

8.1.5 Plan going forward

BLDATF look forward to engaging with a range of stakeholders to progress aspects of the research recommendations. The BLDATF intend on integrating aspects of the research findings into its strategic plan 2021-2025. Of particular note are the references to shared care planning which will fit well within the BLDATF Treatment and Rehabilitation Subgroup, but in addition health supports can and will be supported through the BLDATF engagement with Primary Care. On a broader scale the BLDATF look forward to collaborating on both an operational and strategic level with a number of local services and supports as well as the wider community to deliver upon both targeted and universal supports for this often forgotten group.



Figure 27: It's like we're the forgotten research front cover.



Section 9: Community Engagement

9.1 Nitrous Oxide

Building on the from the work in 2020 on nitrous oxide it was felt that some follow up work was required to revisit the topic in the community. Stemming from the Project Officer’s participation on the CFSN, additional work was carried out on the issue of NO₂. Feedback came from professionals working with young people and families in Ballyfermot. There was also communication from Denis Murray of the HSE Adolescent Addiction Service to the same effect. In response, the issue was brought to T&R¹⁹ and it was agreed that an information leaflet be designed outlining for young people, parents, guardians and professionals what NO₂ is, the effects and dangers presented by the substance as well as local support in place to help young people with substance misuse and other issues. The Project Officer designed a leaflet as described above which was printed and, along with a parental guide to addressing substance use with young people²⁰, it was delivered to every household in Ballyfermot.



Figure 28; BLDATF Nitrous oxide leaflet.

9.2 Recovery Month

This was the second year BLDATF celebrated International Recovery Day, on 30th September 2021. The SWAAT Coordinator organised a number of recovery walks through Le Fanu Park in Ballyfermot. The walks needed to be socially distanced due to Covid 19 so a schedule was drawn up with various projects having their own slots to walk in. Local projects ran some events and talks around recovery and all received t-shirts and other promotional materials to help with their events. With the support of local colleagues and services we also lit up the Civic Centre, the library, and the Primary Care building as part of the #LeaveALightOn Campaign²¹. The collaboration with these key buildings in Ballyfermot in partnership with the projects in Ballyfermot showed solidarity and the BLDATF is grateful of the support it received from local groups, agencies and service managers.

Some people may face additional barriers to accessing treatment...[they] do not have the internal and external resources needed to achieve and maintain recovery from substance misuse... Internal resources may include their resilience, whereas external resources may be their social networks, family or community supports. These resources are also referred to as “recovery capital” DoH (2017) Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery (p39)

¹⁹ Treatment and rehabilitation subgroup

²⁰ <https://ballyfermotldatf.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Parents-Guide-HSE-AlcoholDrugs.pdf>

²¹ Video of the #LeaveALightOn Campaign <https://youtu.be/m06Y2tYPmtg>



9.2.1 Examples of the publicity for International Recovery Day.



Figure 30: Colleagues in Tallaght showing their support for the SWAAT Project – this photo featured in local media..



Figure 29: The Echo featuring Recovery Month.

Shining A light

ON RECOVERY

LEAVE A LIGHT ON CAMPAIGN

On the 30th of September every year, prominent buildings across the globe light up purple to celebrate recovery from addiction. These include the buildings below, among others in Dublin and Cork.

We ask that people in recovery, addiction recovery services family and friends come out and support the event by walking from the different buildings that will be lit up on the night, sharing your pictures and showing your support for this event. Here are some photos from Ballyfermot supporting Recovery in 2021...

▲ Primary Care Service Staff supporting Recovery Month

▲ Recovery Walk in Le Fanu Park

Figure 31: dTalk 2021 highlighting the work for Recovery Day.



9.3 International Women's Day

This piece of work was coordinated through the SWAAT Project, but had engagement right across the communities of both Tallaght and Ballyfermot from a variety of agencies. The SWAAT Coordinator met with Task Force funded agencies in Tallaght & Ballyfermot. Agencies were offered funding to run an event to celebrate international women's week 2021 for which they would get a small programme budget. The final planning meeting with agencies from both communities occurred at the end of February and a leaflet of the events that will be held across both communities was agreed and printed.

A joint SWAAT event joining both communities took place on Thursday 11th of March 2021. The SWAAT Webinar had guest speakers Senator Eileen Flynn and Senator Lynn Ruane. This webinar focused on female leaders in both Tallaght and Ballyfermot communities. In Ballyfermot civic centre we planted a birch tree to celebrate women in the community. A range of promotional materials were provided to agencies, including International women's day t shirts, mugs, facemasks. It was agreed that photos of the events will be promoted through SWAAT social media pages.



Figure 33: An example of a gift pack provided to women attending events for International Women's Day.



Figure 32: Celebrating International Recovery Day in Ballyfermot 2021.

9.3.1 International Women's Week theme

- IWD 2021 campaign theme: #ChooseToChallenge
- A challenged world is an alert world.
- Individually, we are all responsible for our own thoughts and actions - all day, every day.
 - We can choose to challenge and call out gender bias and inequity. We can choose to seek out and celebrate women's achievements.
 - Collectively, we can all help create an inclusive world.
 - From challenge comes change, so let's all choose to challenge.



9.3.2 International Women’s Day Events 2021

The projects in Ballyfermot & Tallaght created a series of online events to celebrate international women’s week 2021. The first event compiled a Photo collage of women in the community. Selfies of women posing with their hand up for #ChoosetoChallenge was posted on SWAAT social media platforms.

Ballyfermot Star invited local singer **Mary Byrne** to sing as part of their event. This video was also shared at the joint SWAAT event. *Ballyfermot Star* used the budget available to buy Jewellery box making materials and created 40 packs containing these kits and international women’s week merchandise. *Ballyfermot Star* partnered with Dignity Packs Ireland and sourced Self-Care packs for each woman. Photos of the jewellery boxes were shared online. *Matt Talbot Community Trust* hosted a digital story telling workshop and organised a webinar with International Guest Speaker Dr Nancy Carvajal Medina. *Ballyfermot Advance Project* facilitated a ‘Self Determined Women’s Art Project’. *Fusion CPL* organised zoom self-care and mindfulness 15-minutes sessions. *Familibase* created a video of local women from the community who have shown leadership and are role models in the community. *Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership* ran an ‘I am Remarkable’ workshop that strives to empower women and underrepresented groups to speak openly about their achievements in the workplace and beyond. This way we can be acknowledged and encouraged to challenge our social perceptions around self-promotion and celebrate how remarkable we truly are as women.



Figure 34: I am Remarkable Workshop hosted by BCP.

Blue Door gave women a bracelet making kit to do at home, each bracelet had an inspirational word on it & each participant also received a key ring. There was an online video of the event at the end with a montage to celebrate the work of the participants. This was an interagency project with the staff of Blue Door facilitating with St Ultan’s & The Bungalow.



Figure 35: showing solidarity in Star.



9.3.3 International Women's Day outputs and impact in the community

- Most International Women's Week 2021 events were held online due to COVID 19 restrictions.
- Creative events allowed for information sharing and encouraged female participants to engage with staff in a positive and creative way.
- The packs supplied to the women allowed them to be creative in their own homes with their children. This creative event was welcomed by the women as they have been in lockdown for over two months. The final pieces were beautiful and were a testament to the hard work by staff and female participants alike.
- The videos from the events were shared at the online SWAAT – A Celebration of female leadership webinar. This event was well attended by other service providers, politicians, policy makers, and women in both communities. The videos promoted the excellent work being carried out in Ballyfermot and boosted the areas profile.
- All the events in Ballyfermot were promoted across SWAAT social media platforms. This allowed the events to have a wider reach as it was shared with a wider network.

9.4 Community Addiction Studies

The Community Addiction Studies is coordinated by the BLDATF Project Officer, with the support of the BLDATF Finance and Operational Administrator. The course is co-facilitated by a worker from one of the local agencies, Ballyfermot Star. It was decided to go ahead with the Community Addiction Studies Course however, due to Covid, the course had to be rolled out online. The PO put a zoom and communications infrastructure in place to carry out interviews and ensure that the IT would work to make the course accessible online. In consultation with Urrús the material was made available in soft copy format and PO made this available to course participants in hard copy as required. The course was promoted through social media and attracted a strong number of applicants which was surplus to availability of places. The course completed successfully with 17 graduates, most of whom achieved a grade of distinction. The graduation was held in person during a period of relaxation in Covid restrictions – however covid safety protocols such as hand sanitizing, encouraged mask wearing and contact tracing were maintained. Food was provided and Familibase provided a lovely venue with lighting and sound set up for some local young people to perform music. The certificates were presented by the BLDATF Chairman Cllr Vincent Jackson.



Figure 36: Chair of the BLDATF, Councillor Vincent Jackson awarding a CASC Participant with their certificate at the graduation hosted in Familibase.



9.5 Responsible serving of alcohol

In autumn 2021, BLDATF partnered up with D12 LDATF to develop a poster for distribution to licensed premises in both TF regions. The poster was developed using information provided by the Alcohol Forum²² and Dublin North Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force²³. Both of these organisations have developed materials designed to support local alcohol retailers to ensure they are serving alcohol inline with best practice and government guidelines.

Whilst BLDATF has produced a range of information regarding alcohol and drugs, it was agreed by the BLDATF to expand the suite of materials to include local licensed premises. This decision was welcomed and supported by the Gardaí, who distributed the posters in early 2022. The BLDATF included its own website and other relevant links on the poster, but have not received any feedback on the poster to date (summer 2022).



Figure 37: BLDATF and D12 LDATF Alcohol serving poster.

²² <https://alcoholforum.org/empowering-communities/>

²³ <https://ndublinrdtf.ie/our-news/>



Section 10: Service User Engagement

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force are committed to seeking service user feedback in as many aspects of our work that we can. Likewise, the TF projects involve service users in their service plans and reviews consistently, and service user engagement is written into the service level agreements with each project. In 2021 BLDATF incorporated service user feedback into its work activities in a number of ways:

➤ As with previous years, service user involvement was a core component of International Women's week. Projects ran workshops and open days in consultation with women in their organisations, designed to encourage and support more women into the services.

➤ The 2021 (printed in 2022) contained a number of pieces from people who use services. Page 33 features "William's Story with Blue Door"; here one of the people who have accessed support with Blue Door gave permission for his story to be told, to highlight the work of the project and how they helped him move forward positively with his life.

➤ Service user feedback is always integrated into the TIF outcome report forms, this feedback is noted earlier in this document. This feedback helps the BLDATF with any desktop review of the grants schemes we offer, but also demonstrates to services that the BLDATF is committed to ensuring

"I knocked on so many doors and they were closed in my face until Blue Door. You've got to trust somebody and blue Door put the foundations down for me to stand on and get my life back together" "Will" Blue Door

"A young man has [health condition]... low self esteem, low confidence, subject to some element of bullying in the school environment and outside his own home... He hasn't left the house because he was paranoid about [health condition] and stuff like that. But since the Skate Park and he's been made to feel welcome, he's gone and bought a bike and it's completely transformed his life. He's there every day of the week..."
(Adventure Centre Staff)

feedback is sought on as many aspects of its work as possible. Often the feedback is quite simple, and may feature as just a quote, but for the work of the BLDATF it helps to add colour and life to what we do. The budgets become more than a fund printed on a paper, it shows the impact of the funds.

➤ BLDATF invited Emily Reaper to discuss the importance of the service user voice in service delivery when she presented at the older persons' research. Emily spoke of the importance of the service user voice in particular in relation to engagement with methadone maintenance programmes.



Section 11: BLDATF Meeting Activities

11.1 Meeting schedule and frequency

The BLDATF agreed to continue with six weekly TF and Finance meetings, with the Treatment and Rehabilitation Sun group continuing at bi-monthly. Due to covid-19, 2021 was another year of a blended approach to meetings, with the TF and T&R using online format but the Finance subgroup – due to its lower numbers – remaining in person, socially distanced in line with public health guidelines. On one or two occasions in the year, where a meeting was cancelled due to low numbers, follow up was made via email with members as required.

Meeting	Frequency	No. 2021 meetings
TF meeting	6 weekly	7
Financial Monitoring and Audit Subgroup (FMA)	6 weekly	8
Treatment and Rehabilitation Subgroup (T&R)	Bi-Monthly	6

Table 11: BLDATF meeting schedule 2021.

11.2 BLDATF Membership list

Name	Organisation/Sector	Other Subgroup membership
Vincent Jackson (Chairperson)	DCC Local Elected Rep	Finance and Monitoring
Henry Harding (Secretary)	Community	Finance and Monitoring Governance Subgroup
Anne Fitzgerald	Ballyfermot Chapelized Partnership	Finance and Monitoring T&R Subgroup
Maureen Bahaouri	ETB	
Derek McDonnell	Community	
Fiona Kearney	Voluntary Rep	T&R Subgroup
Esther Wolfe	HSE Addiction Services	T&R Subgroup
Grainne Kelly	HSE Primary Care	
Saragh McGarrigle	Probation Service	
Damian Murphy	HSE Addiction Services	Finance and Monitoring
Sunniva Finlay	Voluntary Rep	T&R Subgroup
Sean Mangan	DCC	Finance and Monitoring

Table 12: BLDATF membership.



11.3 Summary of BLDATF achievements and activities in 2021

Month	Brief note on output achieved this month
January	Drugs Policy Unit covid budgets all processed, with each funded agency availing of the grant. Community Grant scheme launched in partnership with Ballyfermot Partnership. Community Addiction Studies began being delivered online due to covid restrictions. Childcare Fund finance review tender launched.
Feb	Budgets approved for International Women's Day in partnership with TDAF TIF budgets launched. TCD research resumed after hiatus due to covid 19, aiming for summer launch. Expression of Interest for counselling hours launched and approved.
March	International Women's Day 3 rd year went ahead TIFs approved. Basic MI Training organised and delivered online. Community based counselling budget processed Childcare Fund Finance Review consultant selected.
April	Community Grants launched 2019 Annual Report published on BLDATF website and submitted to DPU Intermediate MI training organised and delivered online.
May	Basic MI training organised and delivered online. Older persons research project presentation to the TF. Nitrous Oxide leaflet designed and signed off.
June	Summer Programme Budgets approved for projects. Nitrous Oxide leaflet and alcohol leaflet distributed across the community. SWAAT Research launch 24 th June.
July	Strategic Planning tender launched.
August	Older person's research report and SWAAT research report designed and printed. BLDATF 2020 annual report completed and circulated to relevant networks.
Sept	Recovery month series of events and activities across the community and in partnership with TDAF. Local library, Civic Centre and the Primary Care Centre lit up purple Green Ribbon Month went ahead with online information and leaflets and ribbons circulated around the community.
October	Care planning and case management training organised, online delivery under CAD Project. Community Addiction Studies started in-person in local youth service facility. New contract developed for CASC facilitator. Responsible serving of alcohol poster developed in partnership with D12 LDATF.
Nov	Older person's research report designed and launched 12 th November. Supported development and dissemination of a domestic abuse services and intervention guide.
Dec	Christmas programme budgets paid out for range of small community projects over Christmas and new year period. Christmas dinner budget paid out for Christmas dinner for older persons in the community. SWAAT Budget administered for development of new women's group in Ballyfermot Advance. BLDATF review tender approved and work commenced ²⁴ .

Table 13: BLDATF summary of activities in 2021.

²⁴ Strategic planning will be reported on in the next period, the tender document is provided in the appendices.



11.4 Financial Monitoring and Audit Subgroup key activities for reporting period

This group provides space for the BLDATF to process and discuss financial issues, and in collaboration with the HSE. This group review, assess and recommend tenders to the main TF, where budget recommendations are made and where funding and reallocation requests are brought for consideration.

11.4.1 Additional budgets administered by the BLDATF:

- Targeted intervention Funds
- International women's day budgets
- Community grants in partnership with BCP
- Summer programme budgets
- Community based counselling budget
- Christmas dinner budget for older persons
- Christmas programme budgets

11.4.2 Governance, administrative and operational achievements:

- New contract developed for Community Addiction Studies (CASC) facilitator.
- Strengthened procedures with regard to CASC student fees.
- All payments to projects and suppliers continued throughout pandemic.
- All returns to HSE and DPU/CDYSB on time and without issue.

11.5 Treatment and Rehabilitation Subgroup membership

Name	Organisation/Sector	Comments
Anne Fitzgerald	Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership	T&R Chair
Aidan O'Halloran	BSII (Blue Door)	
Clara Geaney	Task Force Coordinator	
Denise Joy	SWAAT Coordinator	
Esther Wolfe	HSE Addition Services	
Fiona Kearney	Familibase	Went on leave Sept 2021
Brendan Cummins	Familibase	Started October 2021
Gary Roche	Project Officer	
Gráinne Finnegan	Túsla/Regional CFSN Coordinator	
Gráinne Jennings	Matt Talbot Community Trust	
Kathy Watts	Fusion CPL	
Mick Mason	Ballyfermot Advance	
Miriam Schweigard	Túsla/Ballyfermot CFSN Coordinator	
Sunniva Finlay	Ballyfermot Star	
Wayne Martin	Job Plan	

Table 14: Treatment and Rehabilitation Subgroup membership.



11.5.1 Youth Substance Misuse Webinar

In January 2021 the Project Officer hosted the Youth Substance Misuse Webinar, which was postponed from December 2020. This piece of work stemmed from the parental substance use task group developed in 2020. The video of the webinar is available to download from the BLDATF website²⁵. This event was very well attended with over 100 people registered through Eventbrite. Speakers included:

- Denis Murray, HSE Child and Adolescent Addiction Service, who spoke about many issues including the importance of early intervention and escalation of concern when young people present with substance use issues.
- Ger O'Reilly – Ballyfermot Youth Service – Outdoor Education. Ger gave us an overview of the service covering the Ballyfermot Skatepark development and current management in collaboration with young people using the space. Ger outlined the value of outdoor activities to young people and the various ongoing activities that BYS provides in the community improving young people's mental health, building resilience and enhancing integration with the local community.
- Elaine O'Donnell – Addiction Practitioner with Ballyfermot Advance and trained youth substance misuse worker. Elaine spoke about Ballyfermot Advance Project's Outreach, educational work and the 5 Step Programme which supports families with loved ones in addiction. Elaine gave an overview of the range of services available in Advance and the work of Ballyfermot Advance with young people over the age of 16 years which involves referrals from and collaboration with local youth services.
- Kathleen Cronin – Spoke about Adolescent Community Reinforcement Approach and the collaborative mediation work carried out by Ballyfermot Star's Family Support Service.
- Mark Whelan, Brendan Cummins and Paul O'Hara of Familibase – Youth & Youth Substance Misuse Workers – Mark spoke about the work of Familibase in terms of supporting young people using substances and providing support to them for this and looking at their lives in general and other issues that they might need help with. They outlined the referral and support process in great detail including some anonymised case studies.

11.5.2 Treatment and Rehabilitation working planning and facilitated session

In February 2021, T&R had a facilitated session to look at the group and agree a broad workplan for the year. Having been through the pandemic, with still more to come, projects had endured significant adjustments in their service delivery. Projects were also supporting service users who were experiencing more complex problems as a result of covid, which added to the already significant workload for projects. In this context it was agreed to ask a facilitator to work with T&R to help the group agree a workplan for the year.

Some of the key points from the session were:

How can T&R maximize benefits for its members?

- By maintaining regular meetings,
- By observing the continuum of care in the
- By continuing to work on Information sharing protocols for case management within our community.
- Sharing our learning and considering research to inform our work.

²⁵ https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/s3vEVJqsLiDcjwMAF-1Mx504wtH3p5CNBYe7QZTVFJ195ncDiTVMfC-PUqo83SHR.us_1FpMLqr1uE_ZZ



- Revisiting the community detox initiative, work on incorporating statutory bodies, doctors
- By revisiting the current terms of reference, do they fit currently?
- The current workload within the current environment for the services and their staff
- The challenge and impact of Covid for staff and on staff
- The challenge and impact of Covid on service users and those in the community who don't access services.

How can T&R highlight the work of the projects?

- Could we benefit from Service user involvement?
- Exploring trends in treatment options locally and community substance use trends/concerns.
- Responses from a T&R perspective, what happening on the ground and using T&R member stories,
- Possible use of case studies to highlight recovery progression pathways.
- Possible use of documented evidence/outcome, qualitative & quantitative from the services.
- Need to recognize and highlight the issues for families. We need to explore how the challenge of stigma impacts families seeking support.
- Use of social media to promote our work and to reach into the community.
- The importance of this being participant led, have we an opportunity here?

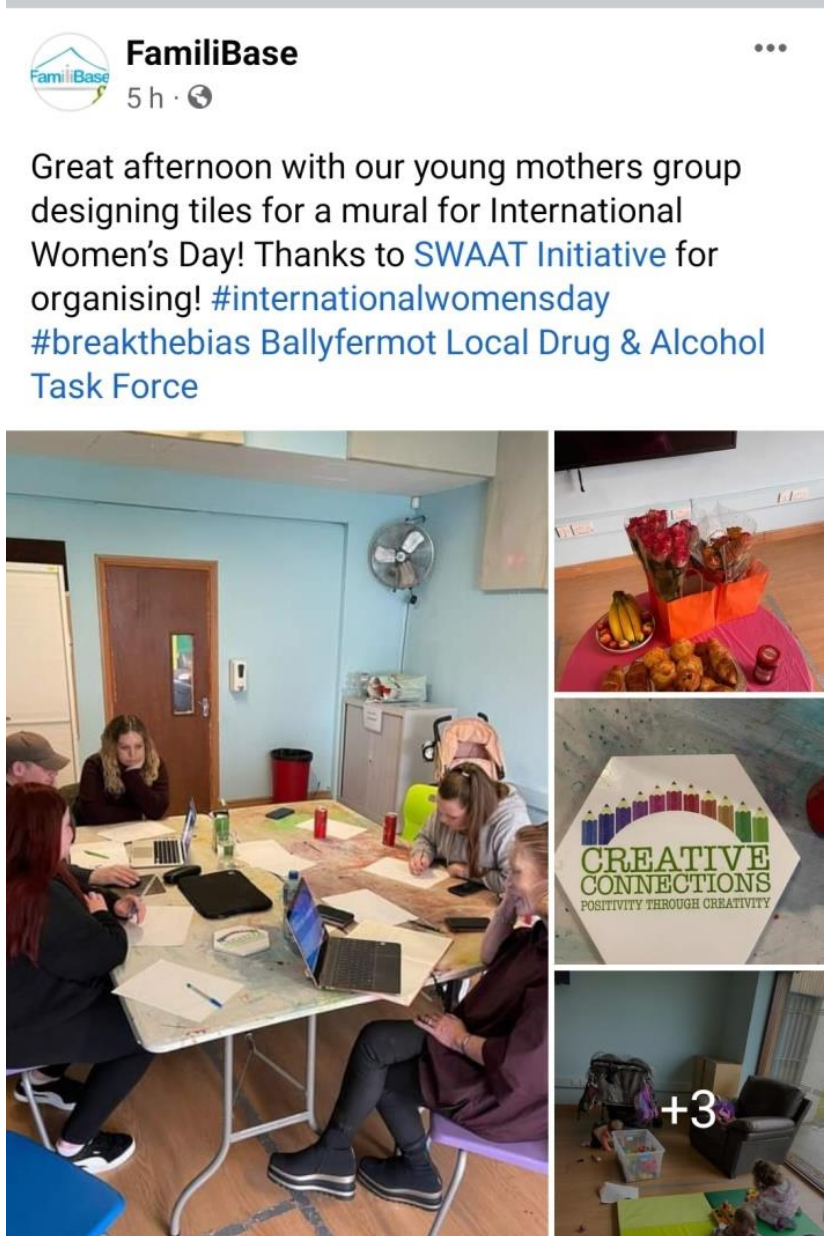


Figure 38: Example of social media celebrating the work in the projects.



Promotional & Celebratory Dates

The group agreed to retain the work on International Women’s Day, Recovery Month, Overdose Awareness Day and Green Ribbon month. Feedback on the celebratory days included the following:

- There is a commitment to get involved and it would be easier to decide who closer to the date.
- There is a stronger need for a community wide response as part of Green ribbon, in particular this year because of Covid.
- Involving Community ownership in these days should be a target of ours.
- Expand events beyond T&R group and local addiction services.
- Days could be used to raise and discuss issues such as discrimination, inequality, justice.
- Can we strategically plan and use Overdose awareness day to open conversations with local GP’s to share research and promote prescribing Naloxone.
- Hosting of events is not an option for every organisation.
- Services must be selective because of limited resources.
- Giving one person the task takes the strain of the whole organisation – having a local coordinator could help drive these days forward and may increase the success of them.
- These days are only one part of the range of work for T&R, so should not take over the space and time
- Again, our T&R meetings should remember these days are only a part of what we should focus our time and energy on.



Ballyfermot Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force

...

1 Oct 2020 • 🌐

Local services, Ballyfermot Star and Ballyfermot Advance left purple lights on last night in support of International Recovery Day.
Addiction recovery works 😊
Thanks to Denise Joy, SWAAT Coordinator for Ballyfermot & Tallaght for photos.
- SWAAT Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment



Figure 39: Recovery month being celebrated in Ballyfermot Advance and Ballyfermot Star.



Section 12: Appendices

Appendix 1: BLDATF CLG Memorandum of Arts

The following is an extract from the company's Memorandum & Articles of Association showing the Main Objects of the company, 2017.

The BLDATF is governed by the Main Object contained in its M&A, which states its aims as: The main objects for which the Company is established (the "Main Objects") are:

- i. To provide corporate governance, human resources, accounting and audit functions for the Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol BLDATF.
- ii. To ensure members of the community who wish to move from problem substance misuse have access to a range of evidence based early intervention, treatment and rehabilitation options within their community.
- iii. To provide support and information and training in relation to all aspects of addiction to drug users, their families and the wider community, through a range of awareness raising and capacity building initiative.
- iv. To work with the community and funded projects to respond to current and emerging drug related issues in the area, by developing and implementing a strategy to achieve these objectives under specified core themes.
- v. To provide an independent informed strategic response to existing and emerging issues relating to Alcohol and Drug use in Ballyfermot.

Our approach to our work is rooted in respect for our stakeholders with integrity and trust being the foundation of what we do and how we do it. We believe that our best work comes through collaboration and through the experience, expertise and creativity of our stakeholders.



Appendix 2: Expression of Interest for Counselling Hours

Dear Service / Project Manager,

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force invite you to submit an Expression of Interest to operate community based counselling hours for the Ballyfermot and Cherry Orchard Community.

Context

Ballyfermot LDATF recognise that whilst Ballyfermot is a vibrant and lively community with many great resources, Covid 19 and the restrictions associated with it, has had a considerable impact on the mental health and wellbeing of members of the Ballyfermot community. Whilst the Ballyfermot LDATF works to support its funded agencies with regard to resources to support the community, we recognise that at times additional support may be required at a community level to address additional need.

On account of a budget becoming available to the BLDATF due to changes in some of its planned activities for the year due to Covid-19, it was agreed to provide a one off budget for community based counselling hours to be made available to one service to operate a number of counselling hours for the community with a maximum budget of €6000.

The following criteria apply with regard to the funding:

- This funding is provided on a one off basis, there is no guarantee of funding for this in the future.
- This budget is for counselling/psychotherapy delivered on a one-to-one basis to people over the age of 18.
- The counselling must be delivered within good practice guidelines with regard to counsellor training and education.
- The budget must be spent by October 31st 2021.

The following criteria for applicants

1. The service must be based within the Ballyfermot LDATF region.
2. Are non-profit organisations.
3. Are a registered charity or CLG or both.
4. Have experience of operating counselling services within the local area and operate within good governance guidelines in relation to managing counselling services.

Covid-19: while the BLDATF recognises the impact of Covid on service delivery, it is hoped that in the provision of this budget that face-to-face counselling will be provided, in line with HSE Guidelines. Included in your application, please provide information with regard



Appendix 3: Targeted Intervention Fund Application 2021

Information and Application for Targeted Intervention Fund Round 6 – March 2021

Context:

Ballyfermot LDATF welcomes applications to the Targeted Intervention Fund 2021. This fund is to support interventions in the community not otherwise covered by existing services, or to strengthen the capacity of existing services. Please note: Fund criteria is subject to change.

Applications are now accepted from funded and non-TF/HSE funded agencies.

The overall budget for Targeted Intervention Funds this year is E40,000. Applications up to value of E10,000 will be considered. Please note there is guarantee of full funding for your project depending on the number of applications. This fund is for one off projects, there is no guarantee of funding in subsequent rounds of the TIF.

Criteria for the Fund:

1. Activity must impact direct service provision.
 - To be directed to substance misuse related issues.
 - To support the **needs of a group** rather than to progress individual care plans
 - Evidenced based/ informed interventions.
 - Activities can be applied across the continuum of care.
 - Programmes/activities/events must be completed by 30th November 2021.

Additional information:

- **Services with outstanding documentation from previous TIF rounds will need to submit required documentation before a new application can be processed.**
- **Services which are still running a programme with TIF funding will not be eligible to apply.**

Priorities:

- Applications from services working together on a joint project.
- Activities that take place in the evenings, weekends, and during holiday periods.
- Applicant has demonstrated clear outcomes and how they will be measured.
- Project responds to gaps in current service provision.
- Activities which address current and emerging needs within Ballyfermot LDATF: activities which address crack cocaine use; youth and family interventions to address the harms of problematic drug and alcohol use; older people in the community experiencing problematic drug and alcohol use; alcohol use; supports/activities which reach out to hard to reach groups in the community.

Things that do not fit the criteria:

- Strategic/operational plans.
- Payment for private residential treatment beds.
- This fund cannot be used for capital expenditure.

For further information please contact Clara Geaney at clara.geaney@hse.ie or 087 3309024.

How to apply:

1. Complete the attached form on pages 3 and 4.
2. Submit form to Charlene Behan at charlenebldatf1@gmail.com
Closing date for receipt of applications is 2pm on Monday 15th March.



Decision making process

- Decision making is through a subgroup nominated by the BLDATF.
- Assessment will be based on the criteria outlined on page 1.

Finances and reporting:

- Any financial support being offered will be subject to rigorous financial procedures.
- Each application is expected to be unique necessitating that they are managed by the BLDATF on an individual basis including the payment schedule.
- A separate Income and Expenditure Form as well as an outcome report is required at the end of the programme/activity.
- Please note that the BLDATF request that providers to submit service user/participant feedback as part of their outcome data.
- Projects are required to add the BLDATF logo to any promotional materials associated with the programme for which the budget was used.
- The BLDATF also welcome your feedback in relation to the funds.

Application for Targeted Intervention Fund

(Please use a separate sheet if necessary to support you application)

Name of person and lead organisation making the application:

Contact details: email _____ Ph. _____

Name of the other service(s) supporting this application and named contact within that project (if relevant):

Brief description of the activity/project for which funding is being sought:

Time period of the activity – start and finish date:

Exact amount of money being requested:

Demonstrate how this application is responding the criteria outlined on page 1:

Brief summary of the evidence supporting the proposed intervention:

Brief outline of the expected outcome and how they will be measured:



Appendix 4: Targeted Intervention Fund outcome report form

TIF Outcome report:

Please provide some feedback on your programme/initiative.

Was programme completed? Yes No
If no, why not?

Number of participants who availed of the programme

Participant demographics (gender, age profile etc)

Participant feedback (use separate sheet)

Outcomes achieved (hard)

Outcomes achieved (soft)

Any other outcomes

Any other comments/observations/feedback:



Appendix 5: BLDATF Strategic Planning and Review tender

Context and Background

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force (BLDATF) is one of 12 LDATF around Dublin, which were set up in the late 1990s to address the drug crisis of the time. LDATFs play a key role in the identification of emerging drug and alcohol trends within the local community and are responsible for developing and implementing a local strategy in line with the national strategy *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery (2017-2025)*. BLDATF support a number of organisations at a local level which provide a range of services and activities across the region. **The BLDATF recognises that the impact of problematic substance use extends beyond the individuals to communities and families, and as such we work closely with the wealth of networks within the Ballyfermot community.** In order for us to deliver on our key role in the community, it is vital that the BLDATF remains cognisant of the changes within national policy, whilst also being responsive to the strengths and needs of the community which it serves.

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force invite tenders for the following brief:

In collaboration with the BLDATF, its funded agencies and other key stakeholders, to conduct an operational review of all funded actions within the TF area and to support BLDATF to develop its strategic plan to 2025. The purpose of this review is to examine all existing funding streams within the area to ensure our services and budgets align with the needs, emerging trends and new developments within the community, and are in line with our obligations under the national drugs strategy *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery (2017-2025)*.

The scope of the tender is as follows:

A comprehensive needs/gaps analysis of services in the BLDATF area.

Profile and analysis of the BLDATF funding streams.

Using the findings from the above to identify if the programme of funding streams are:

Meeting the needs of the area.

Are aligned with the NDS *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery (2017-2025)*.

Demonstrate value for money with regard to type and level of work being undertaken.

That outputs and outcomes demonstrate the impact of the work with respect to the individuals and families being supported as well as the wider community.

Using the analysis conducted, and incorporating recent research, other BLDATF programme activities, and being cognisant of the working group and subgroup activities of the BLDATF, to engage with the BLDATF to develop its strategic plan until 2025.

To prepare recommendations for strengthening service provision within the context of identified needs, available resources, best practice guidelines and in line with the national drugs strategy *Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery 2017-2025*.

Engagement and collaboration with the BLDATF, funded agencies and other key stakeholders will be as follows:

Regular updates and consultation with the BLDATF from the outset and as required during the term of the work; consultation with project promoters; consultation with other key stakeholders as the project develops; service user input will be an expectation of this piece of work; community consultation will be an expectation of this piece of work.



Budget and timeline:

The deadline for receipt of applications is 5pm Friday 27th August 2021 to charleneblatf1@gmail.com

It is expected that the successful applicant will begin this project by mid-September 2021 with an anticipated finish of project by 30th November 2021.

The value of the tenders submitted must be inclusive of VAT and to cover the term of the contract. The price stated must be the total all-inclusive price for the duration of the tender.

The full value of this piece of work is €17,000.

Decision making procedure

All tenders received will be reviewed by a panel nominated by the BLDATF.

Shortlisted candidates may be asked to present their tender to a panel nominated by the BLDATF.

Tender assessment will be based on the following:

- Applicant's ability to demonstrate a clear understanding of the tender request.
- Applicant's ability to demonstrate an understanding of Local Drug and Alcohol Task Forces, their structure and their role within the community.
- Applicants ability to understand the role of the community and voluntary sector in supporting the local community to address the harms of problematic substance use.
- Applicant's ability to demonstrate an understanding of the national drugs strategy *Reducing Harm, Supporting Recovery 2017-2025*.
- Experience of having previously conducted similar projects.
- Quality of the tender document submitted, with clear timelines and project plan.

Other information:

- This piece of work is being funded through the Ballyfermot LDATF.
- Price increases during the term of contract will not be accepted.
- Tenderers must disclose in their submission details of any conflict of interest.

Informal enquiries to be directed to Clara Geaney Coordinator of the Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force tel: 087 3309024 email: clara.geaney@hse.ie



Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force CLG

WEBSITE: www.ballyfermotldatf.ie
Facebook: [BallyfermotLDATF.ie](https://www.facebook.com/BallyfermotLDATF)
Twitter: [@local_task](https://twitter.com/local_task)
General queries email: info@ballyfermotldatf.ie

Coordinator email: Clara.geaney@hse.ie
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Project Officer Gary Roche groche@bcpartnership.ie
Phone: 087 1486080
Administrator: charlenebldatf1@gmail.com