

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force CLG

Annual Report

2022



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This document captures the range of activities undertaken by the Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force during 2022. It's been a significantly busy year this year as the BLDATF finalised and launched its strategic plan, as well as administered a range of small grant schemes to several local groups. The BLDATF marked International Women's Day and Recovery Month again this year, alongside its stakeholders. The BLDATF also proudly continued their work on a number of cross TF projects and initiatives and embarked on a new one. The BLDATF would like to thank all their stakeholders for their support and engagement during the year.

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Summary of Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force outputs for 2022

Month	Output achieved this month
January	Responsible serving of alcohol; poster completed, and distribution begun across D12 and Ballyfermot. Trauma Informed Practice tender launched
Feb	Budgets approved for International Women's Day Targeted Intervention Fund (TIF) launched. Childcare Fund (CCF) Expression of Interest for administrator launched. Community Grant scheme in partnership with Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership (BCP) launched Budget processed for the Young Persons Support Programme being run in Familibase Crack cocaine services budget proposal developed and submitted to HSE
March	International Women's Day 4 th year went ahead TIFs approved. CCF New administrator approved Beginning of manual development for the four TF area Community Alcohol Detox project Dtalk completed
April	TIF budgets processed to projects Beginning of handover for CCF
May	Budget processed for Theraplay being coordinated through Star Summer Programme Budgets launched
June	Summer Programme Budgets approved for projects. Completion of handover of the CCF
July	Processing of budgets for summer programme Deadline for <i>Community Service Enhancement Fund</i> . Two proposals submitted by BLDATF, one for an extension of the SWAAT budget in partnership with Tallaght and one for support with outreach work to address cocaine/crack cocaine use, in partnership with D12.
August	Completion of Trauma Informed Practice training, review of budgets due to staff leaving and extension of contract to Quality Matters to include <i>Champions Training</i> to support embedding of TIP into organisations. Completion of the alcohol detox manual.
Sept	Recovery month went ahead. Event held in the Civic Centre to celebrate recovery, event involved projects and included local band playing and lunch. Event made it to the local paper providing some positive coverage about recovery locally. Civic Centre and the Primary Care Centre lit up purple Green Ribbon Month went ahead. Annual report for 2021 written, designed, and printed. Community Addiction Studies course started.
October	Calendar and service information leaflet developed and distributed across the community. Christmas Programme Budgets launched across the community. Development and sign off the <i>BLDATF Strategic Plan</i> report.
Nov	Launch of the <i>Make the Change</i> alcohol detox manual. Christmas programme budgets approved.
Dec	Christmas programme budgets paid out for range of small community projects over Christmas and new year period. Launch of the <i>BLDATF Strategic Plan</i>

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 fulfil its role. The company's Memorandum of Arts is provided in Appendix 1. In December



FIGURE 1: BLDATF NEW LOGO COLOURWAY

2022, BLDATF formally signed off on a new logo. It was agreed to retain the original image, but with a new colourway incorporating green for Green Ribbon Month and purple for International Women's Day and Recovery Month.

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

1.3 Ballyfermot LDATF Company Structure

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

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.

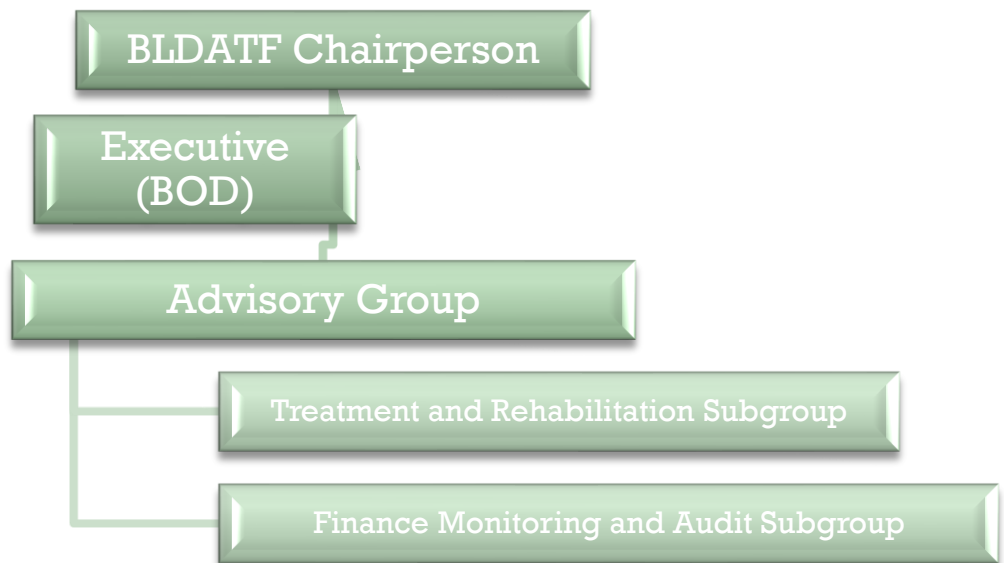


FIGURE 2: BLDATF COMPANY STRUCTURE

- Treatment and Rehabilitation
- Financial Monitoring and Audit
- Governance

1.5 Governance

2022 was BLDATF 5th year as a CLG, during this time the BLDATF has undertaken various activities to strengthen and support its governance structures. Highlighted in bold below are the activities relating specifically to 2022.

- 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.
- In 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
- In 2021, the BLDATF undertook a full project review and strategic planning process.
- **In 2022 the BLDATF used the recommendations from this review to run an expression of interest process for the administration of the Childcare Fund.**
- **In 2022 the BLDATF launched their strategic plan.**

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

1.6 Employees

BLDATF has one direct employee:

- Financial and Operational Administrator, who is managed by the company directors.

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.

In November 2022, after nearly four years as the Project Officer, Gary Roche finished with the BLDATF to move to alternative employment. BLDATF welcome Gary's expertise and input during his time as the Project Officer and wish him well in his new position where he will no doubt be as asset. Recruitment for a replacement for Gary is expected in Q1 of 2023.

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	March 2019 to Nov 2022	F/T	HSE 5 (BCP ⁴ equivalent)

1.7 Reporting Arrangements

- The Administrator reports to the Chairperson of the BLDATF, which may be varied to take in to account any changing needs of the company. The Administrator's day-to-day work is 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 BLDATF 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: CHERRY ORCHARD EQUINE CENTRE LIT UP PURPLE FOR RECOVERY MONTH

⁴ Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership

Section 2: Overview of funded initiatives

2.1 Agency summaries

Ballyfermot Advance



Ballyfermot Advance Project is a low threshold drug and alcohol service working with individuals and family members affected by substance misuse. Our service is open to all people in Dublin 10 and surrounding areas. Ballyfermot Advance Project was established in 2003, the focus of the service is to provide low threshold supports and engagement with the most hard-to-reach people using drugs and alcohol, as well as provide support to concerned persons. We do this by providing a safe, therapeutic environment offering the latest in evidence-based care for our service users and their families and to offer a professional, client-centred and high-quality addiction service that is welcoming, inclusive and accessible for everyone affected by drug and alcohol related issues in the catchment area.

Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership



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.

Blue Door



Blue Door is a crisis intervention community development project working with people over 18 who experience or engage in harmful behaviour; this includes community intimidation, domestic violence, drug-related harmful behaviour, self-harm, and suicide ideation. We also support people with housing and homelessness, mental health, and poverty issues. The project offers one-to-one support with the aim of strengthening people's coping mechanisms and capability to resolve issues; and groupwork that develops people's peer connections in their community and increases educational attainment. Blue Door operates an in-house counselling service and collaborates on a number of community-based inter-agency networks; actively referring to other services and advocating on behalf of service users.

Ballyfermot Star



Ballyfermot STAR CLG services span the continuum of care, serving the needs of people who are actively in drug addiction as well as those in recovery. The service also caters to the needs of people who use drugs, alcohol, or have a problem with gambling, family members and children whose parents use substances. Ballyfermot Star works from a strengths-based perspective, working to build the individual, family and community resilience. Realt Beag Child & Family Centre provide early years education for 26 children from babies to school age. Realt Na Clann Family Support supports family members affected by substance use. Realt Solas provides a first point of entry to people who want to address their substance use. Realt Nua is the Drugs Rehabilitation Education & Training Programme of Ballyfermot STAR that's caters to up to 30 adults in rehabilitation.

Ballyfermot Youth Service





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.

FamiliBase



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 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>Fusion CPL</p> 	<p>FusionCPL is a Community Addiction Project in Cherry Orchard, providing addiction support for all genders who are aged eighteen and over and reside in either Ballyfermot, Palmerstown or Chapelizod. FusionCPL has two integral parts to it; The first is the community side where we support people from the area who are drug free or stable, the second part is Community Prison Links Service which provides support to those from the area who are in custody. Supports we offer Keyworking, counselling holistic therapies and group work. We offer Rehabilitative Community Employment places through independent CE projects in the community. We also offer the Reach Out project which is a family communications programme for families with a parent in prison.</p>
<p>Matt Talbot</p> 	<p>Matt Talbot Community Trust supports adults in recovery from addiction and in the criminal justice system within a drug-free community education programme. We work in an outcome-focused, person-centric, strengths-based approach that encourages the development of critical thinking, problem-solving, and collaboration skills. There is a strong emphasis on digital literacy. This is embedded into our educational model of Project Based Learning. We work to promote lifelong learning, build soft skills, and open up opportunities for each participant to become leaders in their communities through our Life Coaching training and peer coaching circles. Three Strand Approach of: Employability; Wellness; Project-Based Learning which are all linked to Active Citizenship</p>

2.2 Changes to funded organisations in 2022

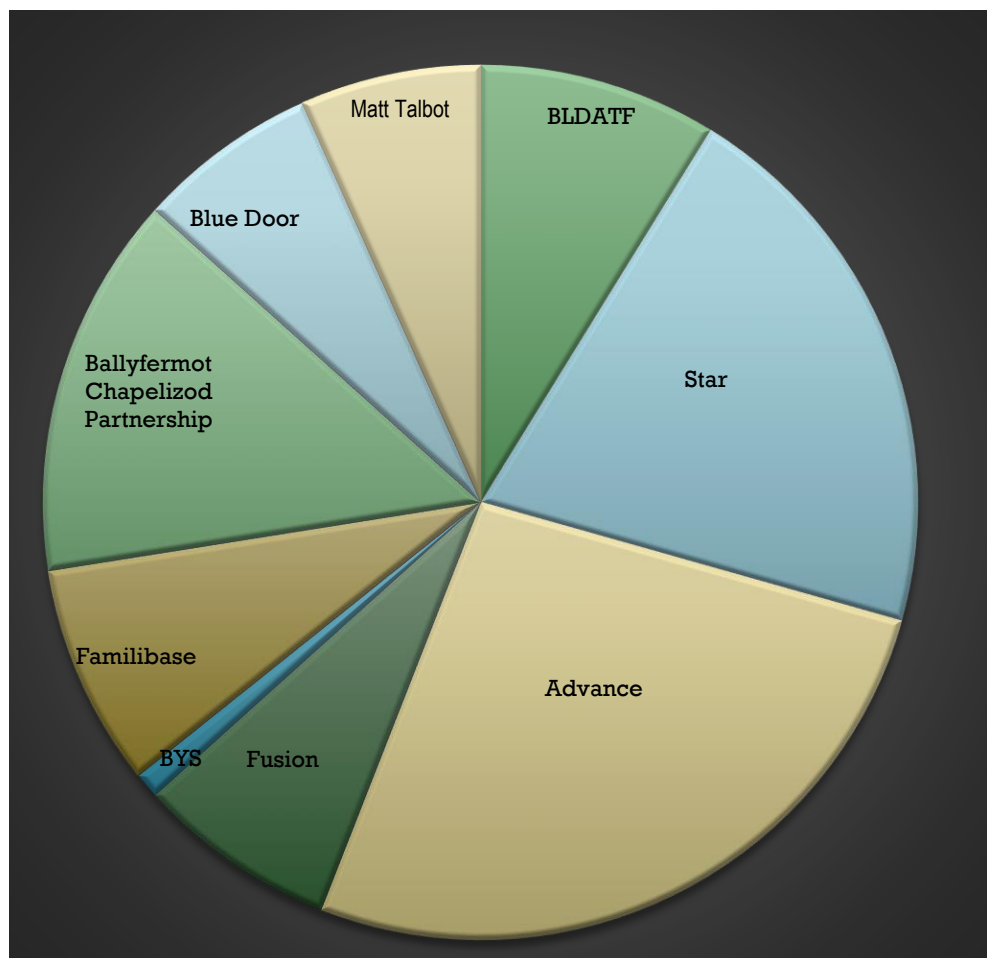


CHART 1: BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING ACROSS THE BLDATF AREA

overall allocation to over €200,000 meaning they moved from a Grant Aided project to a Service Level Agreement. This process was smooth and without issue.

In 2022 based on the recommendations from the strategic planning and review process, BLDATF agreed to run an Expression of Interest (EOI) process to local organisations to administer the Childcare Fund on behalf of the BLDATF. The EOI is provided in Appendix 2. BLDATF asked Tusla colleagues to support with the process to ensure that the EOI was adequate to ensure that the safeguarding of the children benefiting from the fund was paramount. In April 2022 BLDATF awarded the fund to Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership and the handover process begun in May 2022. BLDATF would like to thank Familibase for their administration of the fund since 2017 and welcomed their support in the handover process. The addition of the Childcare Fund to the Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership increased their

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)⁸ treatment data for all services inputting into the system in the area. The 2022 data indicates a total of 554 individuals who were assessed or treated in services in Ballyfermot, with the inclusion of in-prison treatment which amounts to a total of 110 people (19%) of the total number. 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)⁹. Clients who attend needle-exchange services only 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

2022 witnessed another increase in the number of people assessed or treated in services in Ballyfermot. There was an overall 18% increase in the number of treated cases in 2022 (shown in yellow) compared to 2021. The trajectory of the graph is largely the same in 2022 as in 2021, with the exception of the 50+ age group where we witnessed a steep rise in 2022 in this age category accessing supports compared to 2021.

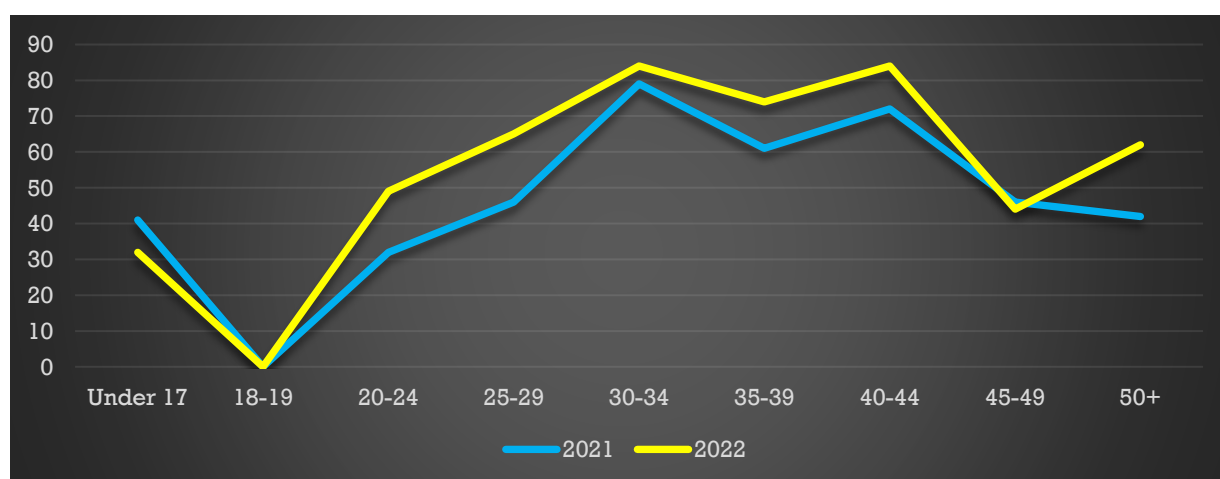


CHART 2: AGE BREAKDOWN OF PEOPLE WHO ACCESSED OR WHO WERE TREATED IN SERVICES IN BLDATF AREA

⁸ https://www.drugsandalcohol.ie/26858/1/Master_NDTRS_2019_protocol_hard-copy_V5.pdf

⁹ Health Research board (2022) *HRB Drug Task Force Area Reports: Ballyfermot Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force 2021* Health Research Board

3.2 Gender of Service Users

When examining the statistics at first glance, the data indicates that in 2022 35% (a drop of 5% from 2021) of service users were female, showing a reduction of 5% on the previous year. However, as this data refers to in-prisons treatment and that no female prisoners are held within the treatment area, we can re-examine the data to show that 45% of those who were assessed or treated for services in the Ballyfermot region were female. This demonstrates the trend of women accessing services in greater numbers in nearly equal measure to men in this community can - in part at least - be attributed to the significant efforts made by both the BLDATF, the projects they work with and other stakeholders, in engaging women and supporting them to come forward. The number of people who defined as non-binary was less than 5.

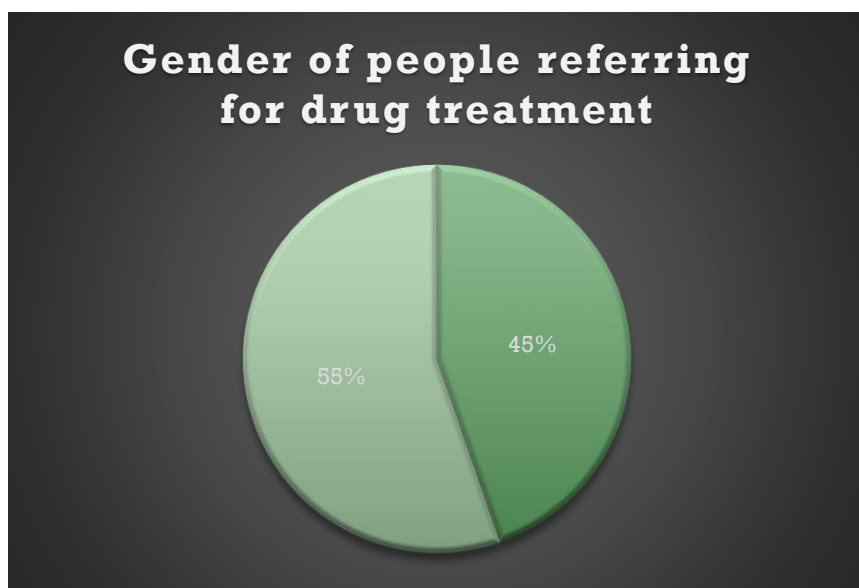


CHART 3: GENDER OF PEOPLE WHO WERE ASSESSED OR TREATED IN BLDATF AREA

3.3 Drug of choice

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. In response to the reported increase in cocaine use, both powder and crack cocaine, Ballyfermot LDATF partnered up with D12 LDATF to develop the CHRIS (Cocaine Harm Reduction and Intervention service). Local services state that it can be challenging to engage with crack cocaine users. Local projects do what they can to engage will hard to reach groups, however not all projects will have the capacity, infrastructure or resources to do the type of targeted outreach that is required. Therefore, the CHRIS project will use an assertive outreach model to engage with the harder to reach people in the community, provide brief interventions and more comprehensive intervention as needed.

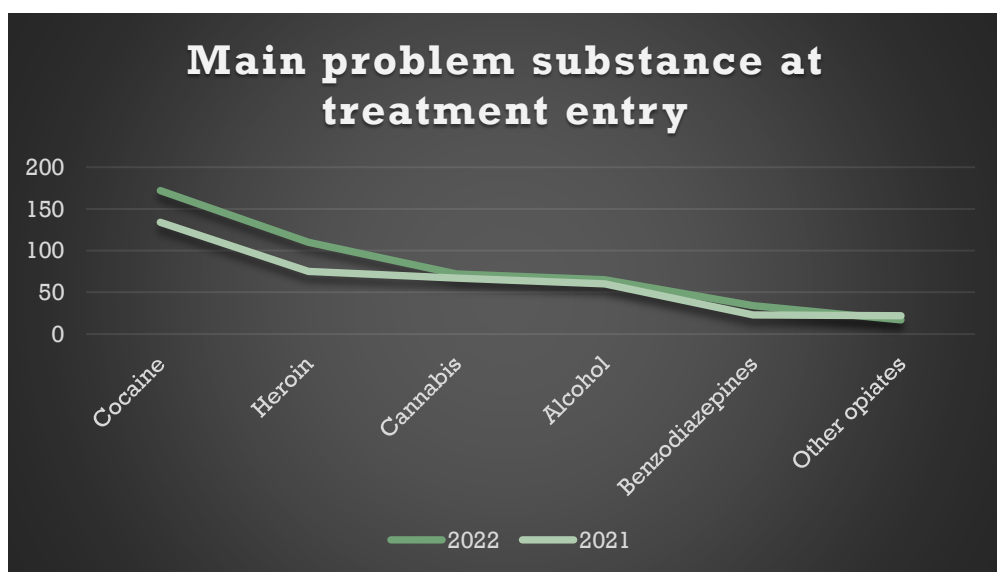


CHART 4: MAIN PROBLEM SUBSTANCE REPORTED AT TREATMENT ENTRY

Of those people assessed or treated in 2022, 53% said they had more than one problem substance. The most commonly reported secondary substance was cocaine, followed by heroin and cannabis. Poly drug use is well established, so secondary substance use is not a new phenomenon. Notwithstanding, the risks associated with mixing substances are great, and therefore the importance of keyworking and brief interventions around this cannot be underestimated.

3.4 Employment status

The majority of people who were assessed or treated for services in 2022 were unemployed, however a not insignificant amount of people were in employment when they accessed services. This demonstrates that poverty or lack of employment is not the only pre-cursor to problematic drug and alcohol use.

The fact that people in employment are accessing services is also testament to the services' capacity to respond to people with a variety of personal circumstances. Services offer out of hours appointments as well as outreach, all of which help to alleviate the barriers for people accessing services.

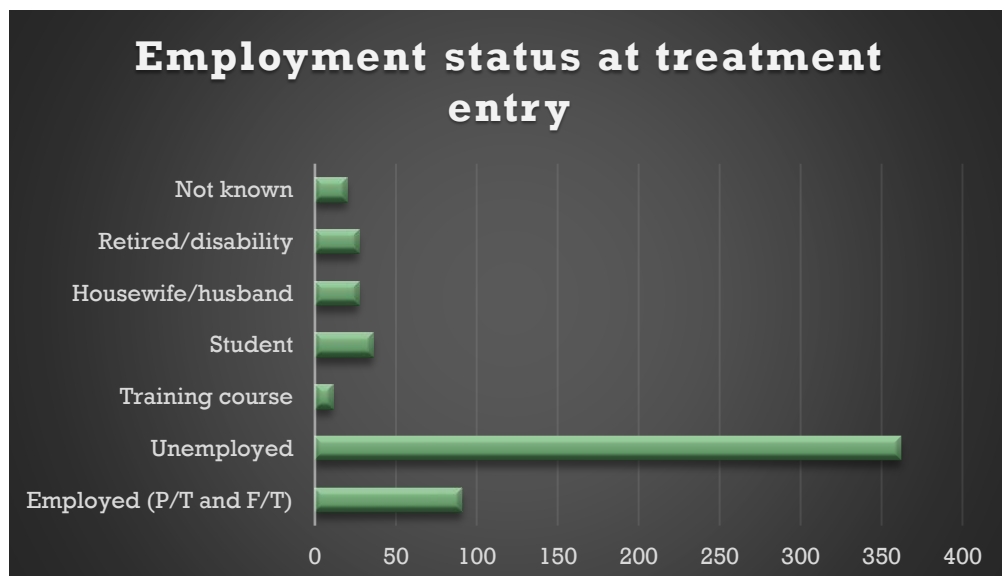


CHART 5: EMPLOYMENT STATUS UPON TREATMENT ENTRY

3.5 Educational Status Upon Treatment Entry

The chart below shows the breakdown of educational status upon treatment entry for all people assessed or treated in the reporting period, comparing 2022 with data from 2021. The data highlights that although early school leaving is without a doubt a risk factor to problematic substance use, it is not the only factor at play, and individual circumstances and other issues will always have a bearing on someone's drug and alcohol use.

There was an overall increase in the numbers accessing services in 2022 compared with 2021, this to be expected as access to services was impeded by the Covid 19 pandemic and the associated restrictions, which continued into early 2021. Despite all the services being operational, access to them was hampered and numbers did go down during the pandemic. Notwithstanding this, the data indicates that the trajectory is largely the same with most people having completed Junior Certificate.

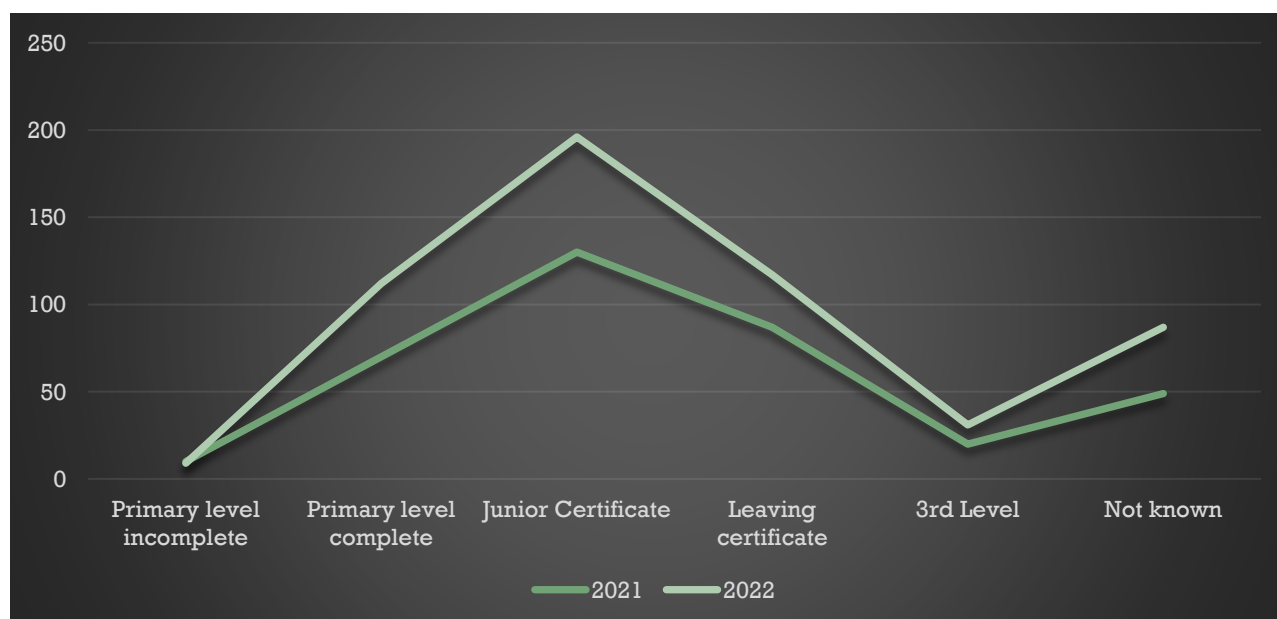


CHART 6: EDUCATIONAL STATUS UPON TREATMENT ENTRY, 2021 AND 2022

3.6 Living arrangements for those assessed or treated in 2022

As with 2021, 86% of those treated or assessed in the BLDATF area reported living in stable accommodation, just 9% of those assessed or treated in the area reported being homeless. However, it must be noted that 110 of the individuals recorded were assessed or treated in a prison setting, which may account for some of the homeless people in the region.

The majority of service users were living with parents or family. A large proportion of those assessed or treated (48%) are living with their children aged 0-17 years old. The fact that such a significant amount of people are also living with their parents/family, is indicative of a

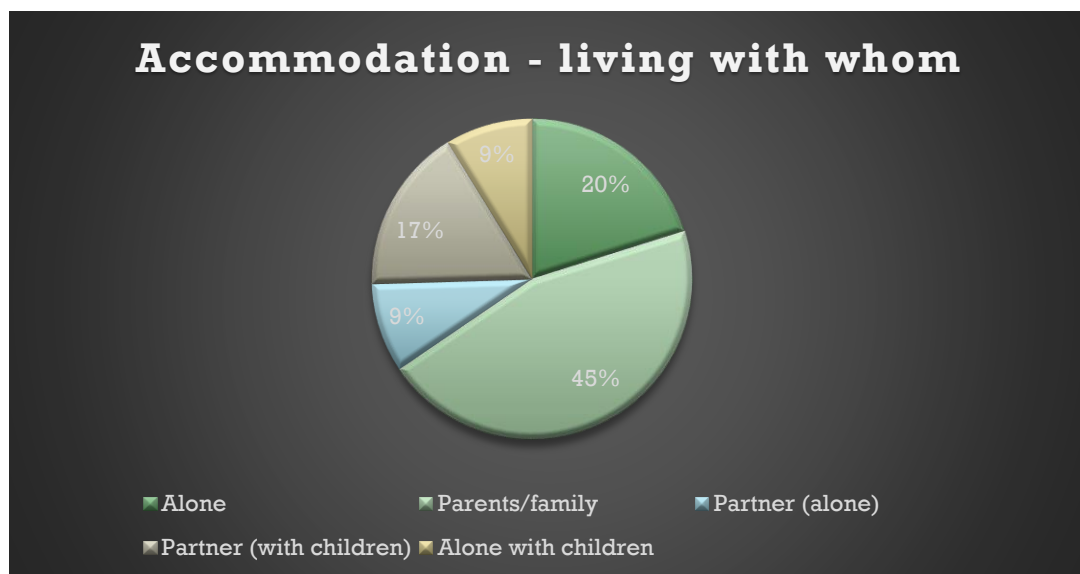


CHART 7: LIVING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PEOPLE AT TREATMENT ENTRY

complex housing situation in the area, which has been highlighted before in previous years. Whilst homelessness may be low, the potential for cramped and complicated housing arrangements is high. Notwithstanding, the availability of extended family in close proximity could also be regarded as a protective factor.

3.7 Source of referral

The below chart shows the source of referrals for people assessed or treated in the reporting period. This data is important as it helps the BLDATF plan in relation to promotions and networking events.

Referrals to services are a complex matter as the best outcomes are achieved if an individual makes their own decision to access services. Notwithstanding, there are barriers for people accessing

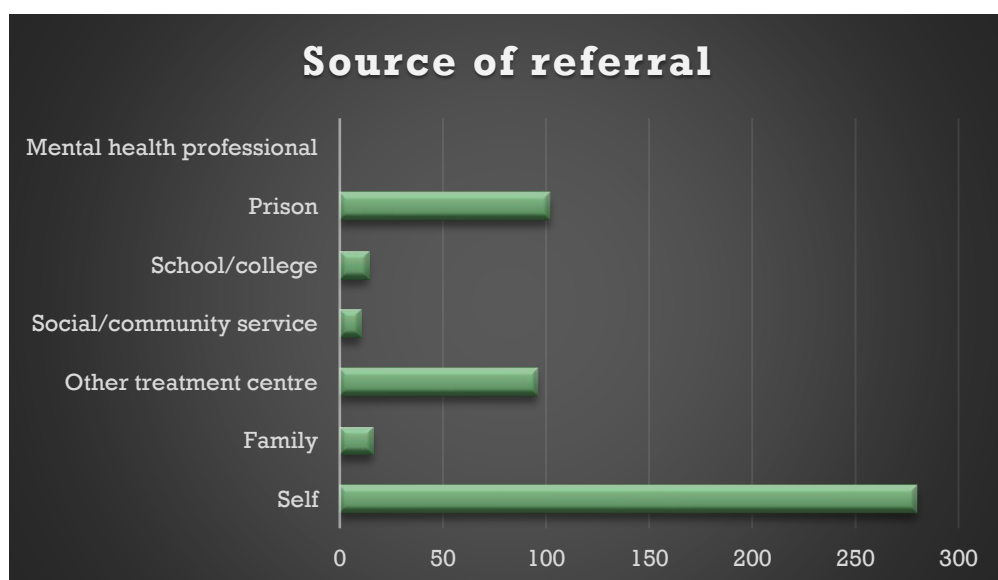


CHART 8: SOURCES OF REFERRAL IN 2022

services, and a referral from another agency can be a great support to someone looking to make changes to their drug and alcohol use. It would be good to see an increase in the number of people referred by GPs. There were some, but when the figure is less than five it is not recorded. On account of the increased outreach supports available in Ballyfermot as a result of the successful application for the CHRIS Project, we would also expect to see an increase in the number of people referred to services by an outreach worker in 2023.

3.8 Children identified in the NDTRS data

The NDTRS captures data on the number of the children of people who are assessed or treated within any given year. There is a strong link between domestic violence, trauma and mental health issues in families who are impacted by drug and alcohol use¹⁰. Because of this, it is important that children who may be impacted by drug and alcohol use in the family are identified early so that appropriate responses can be made.

In families impacted by drug and alcohol use, the consequences can be significant for children living in families with these challenges. By asking about children, services are offering an opportunity for appropriate interventions and support using a whole family approach, which are likely to result in better outcomes for families and for children¹¹. Ballyfermot has a good track record in robust locally and nationally informed strategies to intervene appropriately and sensitively with parents the adult services meet. Nonetheless, many service users do not access support until their children are over the age of five, meaning that there are many children who may be living with significant family challenges, with whom no service has had contact.

49% of service users had no children under the age of 18 living with them. Of those who had children under the age of 18, 28% had children aged between 5-17 living with them, whereas just 9% had children under 5 living with them. A far greater number of children aged 5-17 are living in care where under 5s tend to be less likely in care (2% compared with 11%). What is most striking about this data is that there are a small children living with their parent who has yet to access support for their drug or alcohol use.

The purpose of gleaning this information at assessment is to help inform keyworkers of the living and personal circumstances of the service user, to better help them develop a care plan and to intervene appropriately where children may be impacted.

It is worth noting that this data takes in 110 individuals who were treated or assessed in prison, where of course their children under the age of 18 would not be residing.

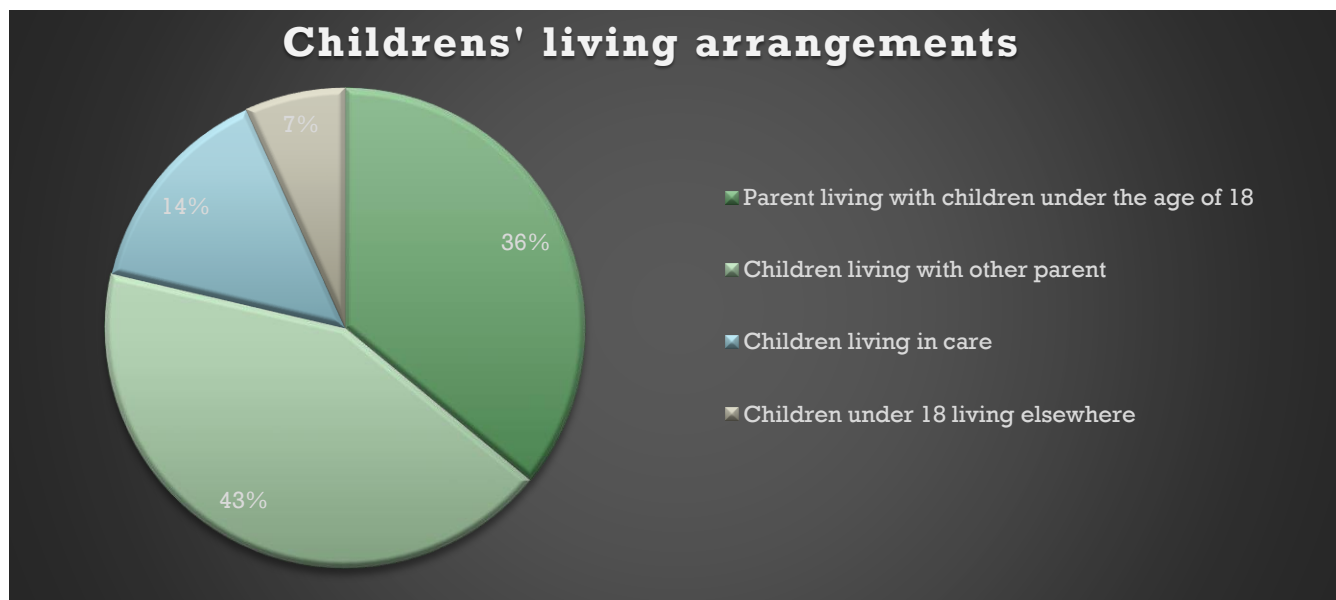


CHART 9: CHILDRENS' LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

¹⁰ Tusla Hidden Harm Strategic Statement (2018) available at:
<https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/StrategicGuide.pdf>

¹¹ Tusla Hidden Harm Strategic Statement (2018) available at:
<https://www.tusla.ie/uploads/content/StrategicGuide.pdf>

Section 4: Targeted Intervention Funds

Feedback on the Targeted Intervention Funds (TIFs) during the 2021 strategic review work was positive. The recommendation was to continue to offer the TIFs, alongside the other small grant schemes when funds are available.

Applications were invited for the TIFs in March 2022 with payments going out in April 2022. The decision-making procedure for these funds remained that the Finance Subgroup processed all applications, with recommendations brought to the main TF meeting for comment and approval. The application form and criteria are provided in Appendix 3.

As with previous rounds of TIFs, the fund was used to support initiatives not otherwise covered by existing services. Applications were

accepted from TF funded and non-funded agencies. The overall projected budget for TIF this year was €42,000 with the maximum award being €10,000. However, on this occasion the BLDATF were able to supplement the TIF budget with an incoming underspend from the Childcare Fund, which enhanced the overall spend on the TIFs for 2022 to €48,729.

As with previous years, awards could only be offered to applicants who had completed previous rounds of TIFs. BLDATF welcomed feedback from the projects funded in December 2022.

Where appropriate, photographs are provided by the project running the funded activity to showcase the work. BLDATF welcome these images as they bring the work to life. The images provided here are from across the TIFs awarded.



FIGURE 4: TARGETED INTERVENTION FUNDS INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION 2022



FIGURE 5: TARGETED INTERVENTION FUNDS 2022

4.1 Targeted Intervention Funds Awarded

Project(s)	Fund name	Purpose of budget	Amount awarded
Advance	Health initiative	To fund a health programme to support long-term drug user improve their physical health and well-being.	€7,000
Blue Door	Adult counselling	To fund in-house counselling for Blue Door clients (18+ only).	€7,000
BYS	Outreach worker and funds toward youth activities	To fund part time outreach hours for the skate park and provide funds towards sessional music and arts instructors for youth summer programmes.	€8,000
Candle	Therapeutic Space	To provide funding towards drama therapy and counselling for young people attending Candle.	€7,500
Cherry Orchard Family Resource Centre	Adult counselling	To provide immediate and affordable community-based counselling to adults living in the Cherry Orchard area.	€7,000
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.	€8,500
Matt Talbot	Reach out collaborative well-being programme	Fund an inter-agency wellness event with activities to help improve well-being. A project-based learning approach is employed in the planning and running of the events.	€3730
Total awarded:			€48,730

MY ROLE IN THE RECONNECT PROJECT WAS PROJECT MANAGER. IT GAVE ME RESPONSIBILITY AND ALSO THE CHANCE TO COMMUNICATE WITH OTHER ORGANISATIONS I GAINED CONFIDENCE IN MYSELF, COMMUNICATING WITH OTHER TEAMS AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS USING THINGS LIKE GOOGLE DRIVE TO SHARE INFORMATION IT WAS A GREAT EXPERIENCE AND PROJECT TO BE PART OF, ESPECIALLY FOR OUR GROUP

SHANE MATT TALBOT COMMUNITY TRUST – PROJECT

4.2 Targeted Intervention Fund Project Outcomes

<i>Project</i>	<i>Outcomes achieved.</i>	<i>Participant feedback</i>
<i>Advance Health Initiative</i>	This project was extended for a few weeks as it incorporated a research element with the support of Trinity College. 35 participants took part in the Irish Heart Foundation health Checks; 25 participants in the Hepatitis C Project and 40 participants in the health initiative (research) element. There were roughly the same number of women as men and the age profile 23-66 years. The project identified a number of health issues for which people were referred to St James' and Mater hospitals for follow up. Of those engaging with the health initiative, they engaged in a twice weekly fitness programme and a community walk each Friday. Participants had an overall improvement in their understanding of their health and increased their physical activity, resulting in better mental health.	<p>"I love the keep fit classes. They are great fun"</p> <p>"[trainer] really keeps you on your toes"</p> <p>"I love the dancing bit, it's a great laugh"</p>
<i>FamiliBase (in partnership with Advance and Fusion) Family counselling</i>	8 families (23 participants) availed of the service with a total of 93 sessions provided. 3 families closed off their sessions due to positive outcomes achieved. All families experienced increased school attendance for their children. The sessions have helped parents understand why their children react the way that they do. The children have also been given the opportunity for alternative coping mechanisms as sessions. 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. The healing from family trauma is evident through the outcomes for families.	<i>"I needed someone to tell me it's wrong. Up to now I was told I'm a psycho, weirdo need to get my head checked. I couldn't have dealt with it on my own, I needed someone to tell me I'm the opposite of what my family were telling me. It helped me deal with a lot. I kind of have it now, that it's their problem. Me having anxiety is not the end of the world"</i>
<i>Ballyfermot Youth Service</i>	272 individual young people availed of the activity. 56% female and 44% male with the majority of participants in the 13-15 year age bracket. As a result of this piece of work the skatepark is a very positive resource in the local area, with a reduction in anti-social behaviour. The space is now a safe area for families and young people. As a result of the fund, there is significant increase in the number of young people accessing the skatepark and extra activities could be put on for those at the park. The skatepark has a youth committee now and a clean-up crew, all this lends itself to supporting young people into adulthood and into positive relationships with the council and other bodies. Young people reported an improved sense of belonging and a positive relationship with the local environment. With the budget BYS were able to recruit two part-time music and outdoor activities instructors.	<i>"hopefully there will be more BMX riders and skateboarders down"</i>
<i>Blue Door</i>	Total of 27 clients were looked after, 25 of whom were female. 10 of the clients were supported with referral to other services. Each client was able to make changes to their behaviour which resulted in generally improvements in their well-being. The service is provided in a trusted familiar setting in Blue Door, so those availing of the counselling feel supported.	<i>As with previous years, the feedback about the service was positive; it was noted that access to this counselling was of significant benefit as it was quicker to access than counselling through referral from GPs.</i>

<i>Candle</i>	A total of 12 participants engaged in the counselling support. Each participant availed of 12-13 weekly session. There were 2 females and the remaining 9 were male with most aged 14-18 years old. The young people as a result of the counselling were better able to focus and participate in their education. Participants also showed improvements in their eating, sleeping and self-care patterns	<i>Participants demonstrated greater self confidence and self awareness and were better equipped to build health relationships.</i>
<i>Star</i>	8 women accessed of the crack cocaine support group. All the women reported a stabilisation in their drug use. The women showed increased parenting skills, including better communication with their teenage children and greater ability to bring their children to school. They said they are keeping their homes better. The women were also able to manage their drug debts better and a reduction in sexual exploitation. the women also began looking at their next step options, including accessing the CE scheme in Star.	<i>The women developed strong peer relationships with one another.</i>
<i>Matt Talbot</i>	100 participants and participants came from a variety of services. The activities were based on a project learning approach and so participants learned skills in risk management, event management, budgeting and digital literacy. Participants showed increased critical thinking, communication, analysis. Participants greatly enjoyed their day of wellness, getting out of the city and connecting with nature.	<i>"My role in the project was on the health and safety team. I thought it was great to be able to work with the other members and meet new people. I enjoyed making the people that came up to visit us happy., making sure they leave with a smile of their faces. I learned team working skills, organisation skills and how to do risk assessments" Luke MTCT</i>
<i>Cherry Orchard Family Resource Centre</i>	36 people availed of counselling, 30 female and six male. There were high level of suicide ideation reported but no loss of life during the reporting period. Clients were supported with onward referral to a range of services including domestic violence services, rape crisis centre, free legal aid, drug treatment services and homeless/housing services.	<i>The funding was essential for operation of these counselling hours and clients benefited from a flexible approach to accessing counselling, but in the main a full return to in-person counselling was achieved.</i>



Section 5: Small Grants Schemes

5.1 Community Grants

Ballyfermot LDATF fund small community projects in the community to strengthen the community capacity to minimize the impact of problematic drug and alcohol use. In 2022 the BLDATF agreed to retain the criteria used in previous years and to also continue with the support of Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership (BCP) for the administration and promotion of the grants. The maximum overall budget available in 2022 for these grants was €10,000. Each application could be awarded a maximum of €2000. As with previous years, 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.

5.1.1 Community Grants awarded

Organisation	Amount	Purpose
Ballyfermot DLS GAA Club	€1,400.00	Inclusive Open Day for Children with additional need
Gurteen Youth Service	€1,400.00	Provision of Sports Vouchers for children and young people to use the facilities provided at the Ballyfermot Sports Complex
Dublin Circus Project	€1,700.00	Training for children and young people with autism.
Future Ballers Football Academy	€1,000.00	Coach/parent education, equipment to perform academy activities, certificates, medals, trophies rental costs and special guests to talk to participants about the importance of sport when growing up
Ballyfermot Men's Shed	€1,400.00	To make benches, flowerpots, planters, bug hotels, for the community
Basement Productions	€1,750.00	Equipment for new film production in April/May 2022.
Cherry Orchard Running Club	€1,350.00	Junior Parkrun project for children in the community that run 2km every Sunday morning.
Total awarded	€10,000	

5.2 Summer programme budgets

Based on the positive feedback on this and the other small grant schemes as part of the strategic review process, In 2022 BLDATF retained the Summer Programme Budget. As with the previous year, applications were welcomed 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. All applications were made aware that these are one off budgets with no guarantee of future funding.

FIGURE 6: YOUNG PEOPLE BENEFITTING FROM THE SUMMER PROGRAMME BUDGETS 2022



5.2.1 Summer Programme Budgets awarded.

Organisation	Amount	Purpose
Ballyfermot DLS GAA Club	€1,300	Funding towards the GAA Summer Camp
Gurteen Youth Service	€1,300	Funding to purchase equipment for the youth club.
Equine	€1,300	Funding for day trips for families
Ballyfermot Youth Service	€1,300	Funding for day trips for young people over the summer
St John's Ambulance	€1,300	Funding for summer programme for cadet division.
Ballyfermot Advance Project	€1,300	Day trips
St Ultans	€1,300	Funding for summer programme
Star	€1,300	Family day trip to county Louth
Familibase	€1,300	Day trips for up to 60 young people
Total awarded	€11,700	

5.3 Christmas programme budget

In November 2022, 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. Each project was awarded €500.



FIGURE 7: PANTO 2022

Project	Description
Familibase	Christmas trips for young people to go to the pantomime
Ballyfermot De La Salle GAA	Family Christmas fun day.
Cherry Orchard Family Resource Centre	Family cinema trips
Basement Productions	Funding towards pantomime play
Ballyfermot Youth Service	2x residential trips for young people over Christmas period
St Johns Ambulance	Supporting young people to do charity work over Christmas period
Ballyfermot STAR	Family trip to pantomime
Gurteen Youth Club	Winter Solstice Christmas Party/ Barbeque for 60 youth people
TOTAL AWARDED	€4000

Section 6 – Additional Budgets

6.1 Community Alcohol Detox Project

The Community Alcohol Detox project was established to cover Ballyfermot, Canal Communities, Dublin 12 and the South Inner City. This budget was provided as part of the *Strand 2* funding initiatives which were awarded in 2019. 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 partnership with the HSE Addiction Services, Primary Care and Community General Practitioners. The funding for this project ceases in 2023.



FIGURE 8: LAUNCH OF THE MAKE THE CHANGE RESOURCES IN THE MANSION HOUSE

The training provided by this project was Motivational Interviewing and Care Planning, Keyworking and Case Management training, all designed to enhance the implementation of the National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework.

In November 2022 the project launched its flagship piece of work the Make the Change ¹²manual and online resources. The manual was developed out of the work completed in 2021-2022 on an alcohol detox framework. The design of the manual was such that it could be used by individuals seeking to make their own changes, but also by family members who might be concerned about a loved one's alcohol use or by project workers who can use the reflective questions at the end of each chapter to guide group and individual work.

Key messages in the manual were that people are encouraged to seek the advice of their GP before initiating detox. Family members can use it to enhance their understanding of how to support their loved ones, including a supportive piece around the impact on children. Stakeholders for this project included the TF funded agencies and some of the other local services and the project was endorsed by Dr Eamonn Keenan, National Clinical Lead for Addiction Services.

Copies of the document were widely circulated across the community. Towards the end of 2022, colleagues in the UK have shown an interest in using the material, and the document has been well received by GPs in the local area and beyond.



FIGURE 9: MAKE THE CHANGE MANUAL COVER

“ www.makethechange.ie ”



6.2 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, and she finished in her role in August 2022. The Steering Committee and the BLDATF would like to commend Denise for her work on this project. It has been an important and successful mission under the 12 strategic health initiatives funded in 2019. SWAAT adequately highlighted the importance of looking at women as a distinct group in terms of drug and alcohol treatment services. The project will be reviewed in 2023.

6.2.1 SWAAT International Women's Day

The SWAAT Project funding finishes in 2023, but in 2022 ran again with International Women's Day events. BLDATF has been celebrating International Women's Day since 2017. In 2022, a similar format to previous years was employed, with local projects running events, which were part funded by the BLDATF. In addition, t-shirts were distributed amongst projects and a range of pamphlets, reports and information for the community. Once again, the feedback about International Women's Day was positive. It was a good opportunity to get written materials into the community whilst at the same time linking up with an important global event. There was a strong inter-agency element to IWD this year, with several organisations from right across the community getting involved. BLDATF would like to thank all those who got involved this year and for their ongoing enthusiasm for International Women's week. BLDATF will continue to celebrate International Women's Day even after funding for the SWAAT Project is exhausted.

6.2.2 Trauma Informed Practice

With the remaining budget from the outgoing SWAAT Coordinator, the SWAAT Steering Group agreed to extend the scope of the Trauma Informed Practice training which was tendered for at the end of 2021. In 2022 Quality Matters won the tender for the Trauma Informed Practice training, which mean that training was to be provided across all organisations in the Ballyfermot and Tallaght LDATF areas. An extension to the initial

tender brief was agreed which would strengthen the embedding of the training by also offering Trauma Informed Practice Champions

Training. This meant that in addition to the original objectives of providing training, plans would be made towards how to support organisation apply the trauma informed approach within their organisations and

their work. This work is on-going 2023, with the BLDATF T&R

Subgroup exploring Trauma Informed Practice as part of their interagency discussions.



FIGURE 10: INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2022 FLYER

into

6.3 CHRIS PROJECT

6.3.1 Community Service Enhancement Fund Context

In summer 2022, the Minister for State for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Frank Feighan TD, has created a €2 million fund to enhance community-based drug and alcohol services - the Community Services Enhancement Fund (CSEF).

CSEF supports the strategic priority to enhance access to and delivery of drug and alcohol services in the community, under the National Drugs Strategy for 2021-2025. It also meets the Programme for Government commitment to support drug and alcohol task forces in identifying local needs in communities and in providing targeted initiatives to address drug and alcohol use. The fund adopts a population-based resource allocation model, as set out in the Sláintecare Implementation Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2023. It also supports the provision of enhanced healthcare in the community.

Key Sláintecare reform objectives underpinning the CSEF: Enhanced community care. This is focused on the integration of the delivery of health and social care services in the community based on identified needs; Population-based resource allocation model across CHOs; addressing inequalities in line with the Healthy Communities programme and inclusion health initiatives.

CHOs have devolved responsibility for allocating funding within their areas. Funding can be used to establish new drug and alcohol services and or enhance existing ones where the need for same has been identified. In establishing drug and alcohol services each CHO should allocate funding based on prioritised need.

6.3.2 Funding Application

Following communications regarding the Community Service Enhancement Fund (CSEF) in June 2022, where the Health Service Executive (HSE) Addiction Services in CHO7 invited submissions for funding to enhance access to, and the delivery of, drug and alcohol services, this submission is a joint submission between D12 LDATF and Ballyfermot LDATF. In line with the guidance document, the expected outcome from this initiative is improved health outcomes for people who use drugs and alcohol,

It is sited in this proposal that the project will have a wide reach into the community working out of hours and in creative ways to target support where it is needed; the workers will have a robust relationship with the community drug projects and a synergy would occur having maximum beneficial outcomes for those hard to reach complex drug users in both areas. D12LDATF and BLDATF have integrated service user and community feedback into the proposal as well as an outcome measurement framework to support the review of the project and to inform its development going forward. The proposed name for this project is the Cocaine Harm Reduction and Intervention Service (CHRIS).

The proposal also recommends a communications and networking aspect to the work to help reach the wider community with regard to harm reduction information relating to the use of cocaine and crack cocaine. The networking element with other organisations aims to help reduce the stigma associated with crack cocaine use and to strengthen professional's capacity to support people to manage the complex issues which may arise as a result of cocaine and/or crack cocaine use. the proposal includes also a training element to strengthen local services' capacity to respond to cocaine use. The proposal recognises that there are differing needs arising for drug users and as such the hard-to-reach drug users in the community will be targeted as well as those in the community for whom cocaine is an issue but may not ordinarily make contact with local community-based drug and alcohol support services.

6.3.3 Evidence of need

The Ballyfermot and Dublin 12 Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force were established in 1997 to facilitate a more effective response to the drug problem in both areas. In line with the Government's drugs policy the aim of Task Forces is to provide an integrated response to the problems posed by drugs and alcohol misuse. The key objectives of both task forces are in line with government policy which includes creating and maintaining an up-to-date overview on the nature and extent of drug use and misuse and the services available in the area/region through the gathering of all relevant information from the organisations and services involved. Both task forces through their sub groups have been made aware of cocaine and 'crack cocaine' in the area. Community projects are seeing people present that have moved from nasal cocaine to crack cocaine with both

areas reported a presence in the community and cocaine being spoken about more with current service users. The combined population of Ballyfermot and D12 LDATF areas is 78,000.

In the BLDATF Annual report for 2020¹³ cocaine is reported by services as main problem substance for people referring for support has been steadily increasing each year since 2015. Cocaine is currently the 2nd most common secondary substance. Additionally internal data from a local service indicates that twice the number of crack pipes were distributed in 2021 than in 2020; these pipes are distributed as part of the services' out of hours outreach service as well as their in-house harm reduction service. Another internal report from Ballyfermot which was presented to the BLDATF as part of an overview presentation to the BLDATF on the women's crack cocaine group in Ballyfermot Advance, indicated also the on-going need for support for this group. It was evident through this internal report that it is only through such initiatives that we can actually reach those using crack cocaine; the 18 women engaged with the programme had been accessing the exchange only, but through slow and steady engagement these women joined the group and completed the full programme. All women reported how they were alarmed by how quickly crack cocaine impacted their lives. The Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment¹⁴ study indicated that people with a problematic crack issue will often have other problem substances, namely opiates and benzodiazepine.

The D12 LDATF Annual Report for 2020¹⁵ notes that that cocaine use is the third highest reason for referrals at 23% and that frontline staff. Frontline staff in D12 have identified cocaine/crack use as one of the main drugs being used in the area across all age groups. The HSE outreach worker has increased his distribution of crack pipes and works in collaboration with Harm Reduction Worker.

The SWAAT research (ibid) commissioned by Ballyfermot and Tallaght LDATFs in 2021 indicated a few key findings in relation to crack. Crack cocaine was named as one of the problem substance reported by women entering services by all projects and that women report using sexual exchange to buy crack with women being particularly vulnerable to sexual assault to pay for drug debts. The report showed that women were vulnerable to their homes being used to buy/sell crack and that a pro-active low-threshold support service is required to support women who use crack. The Suicide Prevention and Community Engagement research report¹⁶ showed that in relation to suicide that the *come down* period from cocaine can often be a high risk time for suicide and again that a specific outreach programme be developed which reaches people who may be hidden in the community and not accessing the support they may need. When exploring the issues impacting women, the needs of children will also often come to the fore and as such early intervention and using creative ways to target support where it is needed is likely to result in better outcomes than purely service publicity alone.

In relation to older drug users, Dublin 12 are currently commissioning research into the specific needs of this group of service users. The BLDATF recent research report *It's like we're the forgotten*¹⁷ made a number of key findings in relation to cocaine use amongst older drug users in the community. Covid saw more people using crack who had not used it previously and for some they are previous intravenous heroin users now using crack cocaine hiding it from adult children living in the household, this group is not mobile, do not access services. The risks to health status for older cocaine and crack cocaine users are higher given their age as substance users are more likely to experience poorer health and psychosocial outcomes. The report also highlighted the issues for older people in their 50s who are nasal cocaine users, this tends to be more hidden drug use amongst a population who may not ordinarily seek support from community based drug and alcohol services. Again the report highlights the benefits of a targeted a unique outreach programme including out of hours services to accommodate those who are working.

¹³ Available at: https://ballyfermotldatf.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/2020_annual_report_final.pdf

¹⁴ Available at: https://ballyfermotldatf.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SWAAT_Research_2021_v3.pdf

¹⁵ Available at: <https://d12ldatf.ie/reports/>

¹⁶ Available at: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/4/mental-health-services/connecting-for-life/publications/rapid-assessment-report.pdf>

¹⁷ Available at: https://ballyfermotldatf.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Final_report_Its-like-were-the-forgotten-BLDATF_for_distribution.pdf

6.3.4 CHRIS update to end of year

In November BLDATF and D12 LDATF ran an Expression of Interest process across all TF funded projects in both D12 and 'Ballyfermot LDATF areas. The EOI form was developed using a template from previous similar processes. This was sent out to projects and a three-week window was offered for applications. A panel made up of the BLDATF and D12 LDATF Coordinator plus HSE Outreach lead reviewed applications. Ballyfermot Advance were the only applicant, but based on their submission and that outreach is very much within their work schedule, they were awarded the budget. As the budget awarded was less than applied for a new financial profile for the budget was developed in partnership with Ballyfermot Advance. The full allocation was €40,000 per year for three years (€120,000 total). It was agreed that this be provided over a two-year period, so €60,000 per year to employ two part-time Assertive Outreach Workers per year.

In Q4 of 2022, the CHRIS Steering Group was formed made up of the D12 Coordinator, BLDATF Coordinator, HSE Outreach Lead and Manager from Ballyfermot Advance. The Terms of Reference for the group were developed and a bi-monthly schedule of meetings for the year scheduled. It was agreed to launch the job advertisement in December 2022, we agreed the panel and interview dates were set for January 2023.

Section 7: Community Engagement

7.1 Recovery Month

2022 was the third year that BLDATF celebrated International Recovery Day. Unfortunately, due to bad weather the walk planned for the 30th September in Le Fanu Park in Ballyfermot was cancelled. However, an event was held in the Civic Centre. All projects were invited to put up an information stand, food was provided, and people were invited from the projects and the wider community. The band *Hot Mess* played. *Hot Mess* are a local band supported through Familibase. BLDATF also



FIGURE 11: HOT MESS PERFORMING AT RECOVERY MONTH 2022

featured in the local newspaper for Recovery Month. BLDATF welcome the support of the projects in promoting this important event. As with 2021, BLDATF developed some promotional materials for Recovery Month which was distributed around the community in September. Also, again this year the Primary Care Centre and the Civic Centre lit up purple to mark the event.



FIGURE 12: BALLYFERMOT CIVIC CENTRE LIT UP FOR RECOVERY MONTH

7.2 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. This year a total of 18 graduated from the course. This course was run throughout the Covid-19 pandemic and its ensuing restrictions, therefore completion of the course using a blended approach would have been a challenge for all involved, and the graduates should be commended on their efforts.

The graduation was held in person. 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. Each graduate was given a gift voucher to celebrate their achievement. One of the graduates was also invited to speak about her experience of the course, at the launch of the Strategic Plan in December 2022. There were 18 graduates for this year, coming from a range of services as well as members of the local community. Some of this year's graduates have used the course as a step towards further education in the field, with some going on to the level 7 Diploma in Drug and Alcohol Studies, through University of Limerick and run by HSE Addiction Services.



FIGURE 13: COMMUNITY ADDICTION STUDIES GRADUATION EVENT

7.3 Dtalk 2022 and print materials.

Another edition of dTalk was produced this year. This year's edition captured the activities of 2021. We highlighted the *Shine a Light* campaign for recovery Month in 2021 and included the executive summaries of both the older persons research, as well as the SWAAT project research. Public health information on cocaine and crack cocaine as well as Nitrous Oxide were included. We included a celebration of the Community Addiction Studies graduates from 2021 and information on suicide prevention. BLDATF also included helpful information on services and supports for young people in the area.

The magazine continues to be an important means to inform the community on the work of the BLDATF. Tangible, materials are important, as they can be used for information stands to promote the work as well as share important pieces of information with the wider community, particularly those who may not be accessing the BLDATF website or Facebook page.

For international Women's Day 2022 a range of print materials were distributed amongst the various events, the same with Recovery Month. For Recovery Month 2022, a small information leaflet was produced which had key dates for the calendar 2022/2023 as well as service contract information. These small wallet sized leaflets were used at a variety of events and information stands throughout 2022 and into 2023 (the leaflet features on the table of the CASC graduates on the previous page).

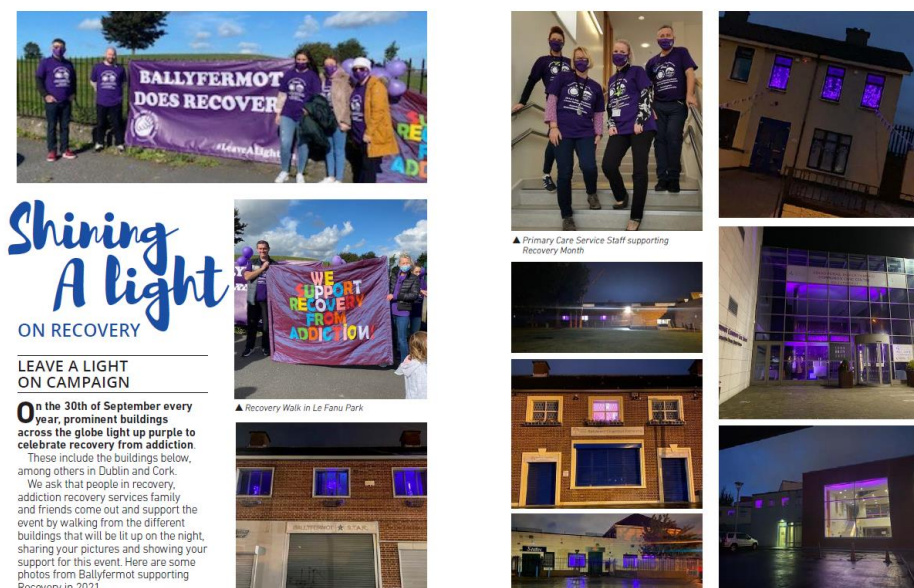


FIGURE 14: RECOVERY MONTH FEATURE IN DTALK 2022

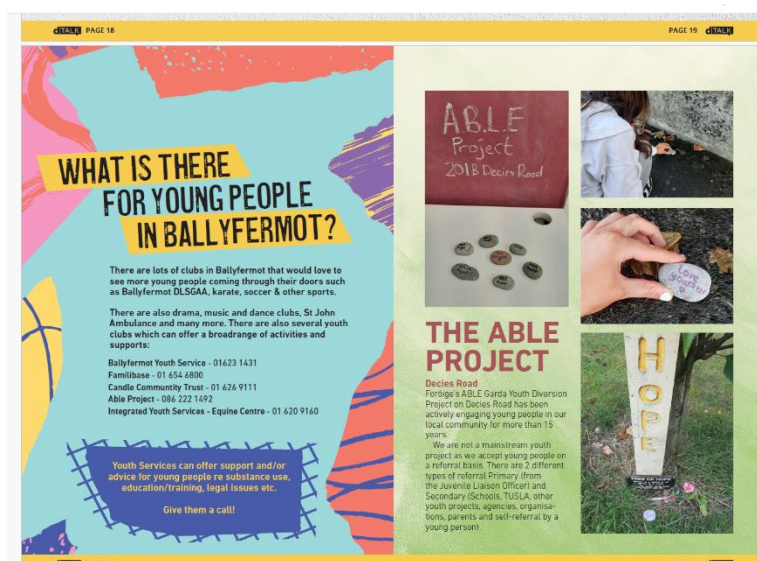


FIGURE 15: YOUNG PEOPLE SUPPORTS INFORMATION

7.4 Launch of the BLDATF Strategic Plan

In December 2022, BLDATF launched their Strategic Plan. An event was held in the Civic Centre on the 2nd December. All projects were invited to have a stand at the event and the wider community was given the opportunity to come along to get a copy of the plan and to hear more about the BLDATF. Overall this was a successful event, albeit with low attendance. It was felt that perhaps holding the event in December may have impeded people's ability to attend. Notwithstanding, the report was launched and the event was used to say goodbye to a long standing manager in the community Sunniva Finlay from Ballyfermot Star, who has worked in this community for over two decades, at the forefront of the response to problematic drug and alcohol use in Ballyfermot Star.



FIGURE 16: COMMUNITY ADDICTION STUDIES GRADUATE SPEAKING AT THE BLDATF STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH IN DECEMBER 2022.

Section 8: The BLDATF Strategic Plan

8.1 BLDATF Vision and Mission Statement

In developing the BLDATF Strategic Plan, it was agreed to adopt the vision and values of the National Drugs Strategic *Reducing Harm Supporting Recovery 2017-2025*¹⁸.

Vision

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

Aim/Mission Statement

The aim of the BLDATF is to support and build on the successful partnership between statutory, community and voluntary sectors, to coordinate the implementation of the National Drugs Strategy in the context of the needs of the BLDATF area. This will be achieved through a series of objectives to meet the goals as set out in the National Drugs Strategy.

To realise this vision and mission, five strategic goals have been identified:

1. Promote and protect health and well-being.
2. Minimise the harms caused by the use and misuse of substances and promote rehabilitation and recovery!
3. Address the harms of drug markets and reduce access to drugs for harmful use.
4. Support the participation of individuals, families and communities.
5. Develop sound and comprehensive evidence-informed policies and action.



**Ballyfermot Local
Drug and Alcohol Task
Force Strategic Plan**

2022 - 2025

¹⁸ Available at http://www.drugs.ie/downloadDocs/2017/ReducingHarmSupportingRecovery2017_2025.pdf

8.2 Connecting BLDATF activities with the National Drugs Strategy

The following table provides a brief summary of the activities of the BLDATF and to which goal of the National Drugs Strategy they fall into.

National Drug Strategy Goal	BLDATF Activity
Goal 1: Promote and Protect Health and Well-being.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health promotion activities incorporated as part of International Women's Week • Health promotion was supported through Targeted Intervention Funds • All funded activities have health promotion/harm reduction/health literacy in their work • All adult services who through work come into contact with young people are engaged in an inter-agency approach to making appropriate referrals as needed • Summer programmes as well as some of the targeted intervention funds operate at a youth prevention level. • The small grant schemes also provide a health promotion/sport opportunity for many members of the community • By enhancing our reach to parents who are experiencing problematic drug and alcohol use, all projects use the opportunity to support early intervention for children and young people living in families impacted by drug and alcohol use. • Information sharing regarding harm reduction across agencies and across the wider community.
Goal 2: Minimise the harms caused by use and misuse of substances and promote rehabilitation and recovery.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BLDATF promotes and supports local case management and referral protocols which are informed by the National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework¹⁹ • High risk drug users with complex needs are targeted through the out of hours model funded through the CHRIS Project and which is part of the work of one of the funded agencies who operate a drop-in and outreach service. • BLDATF activities relating to information provision and consultations on a community/universal scale capture people who may not be coming into contact with services but are considering addressing their drug/alcohol – in particular the <i>Make the Change</i> resources.
Goal 3: Address the harms of drugs markets and reduce access to drugs for harmful use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BLDATF fosters strong relationships with An Garda Síochána through engagement with the Local Policing Forum and the Joint Policing Forum. This involves feedback about the activities of the BLDATF, but also offers opportunity to share information and in particular the local policing level, the experiences and feedback from the community are heard.
Goal 4: support participation of individuals, families and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The small grant schemes operate to strengthen the local community capacity and resilience, • Service user is an integral part of the feedback required from the various grant schemes. • All funded agencies endorse strong service user involvement strategies. • Community engagement and feedback is also through the networks in the BLDATF area.
Goal 5: Develop sound and comprehensive evidence informed policies and actions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The BLDATF use research to guide the work they embark on. The SWAAT Research and the Older Persons' Research reports were both incorporated into the BLDATF Strategic Plan. • The Older Persons Research also informed the criteria for the Christmas Programme budgets, to target the isolation felt by older people in the community.

¹⁹ Available at: <http://www.drugs.ie/NDRICdocs/ndrframework.pdf>

Section 9: BLDATF Meeting Details

9.1 Meeting schedule and frequency

The BLDATF agreed to continue with six weekly Task Force and Finance Subgroup meetings, with the Treatment and Rehabilitation Sub-group continuing at bi-monthly. On one or two occasions in the year, where a meeting was cancelled due to low numbers or other circumstances, follow-up was made via email with members as required. Some changes occurred in 2022 with membership. Wayne Martin from Job Plan was successful in securing employment elsewhere, BLDATF thank Wayne for his contribution to the Treatment and Rehabilitation Subgroup over the last number of years. Wayne was replaced by Martin Nugent, who oversees the rebranded *Careers Edge* programme in the Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership. Sunniva Finlay finished up with Ballyfermot Star at the end of 2022 and will be replaced at the BLDATF.

Meeting	Frequency	No. 2022 meetings
Main BLDATF	6 weekly	7
Financial Monitoring and Audit Subgroup (FMA)	6 weekly	7
Treatment and Rehabilitation Subgroup (T&R)	Bi-Monthly	6

9.2 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 Chapelizod Partnership	Finance and Monitoring T&R Subgroup
David Leonard	An Garda Siochana	
Maureen Bahaouri	Education Training Board	
Mick Mason	Voluntary Rep	T&R Subgroup
Sunniva Finlay	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

9.3 Finance Monitoring and Audit Subgroup 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 Chapelizod Partnership	Finance and Monitoring T&R Subgroup
Damian Murphy	HSE Addiction Services	Finance and Monitoring
Sean Mangan	DCC	Finance and Monitoring

9.4 Treatment and Rehabilitation Subgroup membership

Name	Organisation/Sector	Comments
Anne Fitzgerald	Ballyfermot Chapelizod Partnership	T&R Chair
Aidan O'Halloran	Blue Door	
Brendan Cummins	Familibase	
Clara Geaney	Task Force Coordinator	
Denise Joy	SWAAT Coordinator	Finished August 2022
Eoin O'Doherty	Ballyfermot Star	
Esther Wolfe	HSE Addition Services	
Fiona Kearney	Familibase	Returned November 2022
Gary Roche	Project Officer	
Gráinne Finnegan	Túsla/Regional CFSN Coordinator	
Gráinne Jennings	Matt Talbot Community Trust	
Kathy Watts	Fusion CPL	
Martin Nugent	Career's Edge (BCP Jobplan rebranded)	
Mick Mason	Ballyfermot Advance	
Sunniva Finlay	Ballyfermot Star	
Wayne Martin	Job Plan	Finished June 2022



FIGURE 17: BLDATF CHAIRPERSON COUNCILLOR VINCENT JACKSON SPEAKING AT THE BLDATF STRATEGIC PLAN LAUNCH IN DECEMBER 2022

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 Administration of the Childcare Fund

Dear Service / Project Manager,

Ballyfermot Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force (BLDATF) welcome submissions of Expressions of Interest to administer the Childcare Fund on behalf of the BLDATF.

Context

BLDATF is one of 12 LDATFs 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).

As a locally based multi-agency/multi-disciplinary board, BLDATF supports a number of organisations within the community to provide a range of services and activities across the region. One of the funding streams within the BLDATF budgets is the Childcare Fund. This budget provides funding for childcare places within childcare settings to support parents accessing support for problematic drug and alcohol use.

The Childcare Fund (CCF) is an initiative of the Ballyfermot Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force (BLDATF) and was developed in response to a need identified in 2002 that the lack of access to quality and affordable childcare was a barrier for parents with substance misuse issues to access programmes through the continuum of care including treatment, rehabilitation and re-integration. Recent research commissioned by the BLDATF in partnership with Tallaght DTF has indicated that childcare remains a barrier for women seeking support for problematic drug and alcohol use²⁰. The Childcare Fund sits as part of the framework of services and activities funded through the BLDATF, which are designed to address the range of challenges faced by individuals, families and the community impacted by problematic drug and alcohol use.

The Childcare Fund (with an allocation of €152,000 per annum) was administered by one TF funded agency between 2004 and 2017, at which point it was put out to competitive tender and has since 2017 been administered by another one of the BLDATF-funded projects. It was agreed by the BLDATF to put the fund out again to competitive tender in early 2022 with a view to transition to the new administrator by the end of June 2022.

In order to maximise its effectiveness and its reach, the budget requires robust financial procedures. In addition to this, the administrator will need an understanding of the existing childcare schemes under the National Childcare Scheme (NCS), so as to ensure no duplication of funding/. BLDATF recommend this in order to maximise the impact of the local budget for the benefit of individuals accessing drug and alcohol rehabilitation services and their children. In light of recommendations made by the consultants who conducted a strategic project review on behalf of the BLDATF, the administrator of the fund cannot also be a recipient, that is, a childcare provider themselves.

The following criteria for applicants

The organisation must:

²⁰ Ivers, Jo-Hanna *et al* (2021) Supporting Women to Access Appropriate Treatment Study [available at: https://ballyfermotldatf.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/SWAAT_Research_2021_v3.pdf]

Be based within the Ballyfermot LDATF region.

Have an existing HSE service arrangement.

Are non-profit organisations.

Are a registered charity or CLG or both.

Have experience of operating similar funds or can demonstrate capacity to manage a fund of this nature.

The following criteria apply with regard to the funding:

This is a hosting arrangement with reporting and funding agreements in place which are unique to the fund, which will be signed off from the outset as part of an MOU between the administrator and the BLDATF.

This is not to augment or provide additionality to the projects current budget.

BLDATF recognise the significant administrative demands of running such a budget and as such commit to allocating a portion of the fund towards staffing costs, to be approved at contract stage.

This fund is for an initial 4 year period subject to annual review and monitoring under the HSE service level agreement and in conjunction with the BLDATF.

Expression of Interest process:

Please complete the following template and provide a letter from your Board of Management to confirm the Expression of Interest.

Assessment and decision on the successful applicant will be made by a panel nominated by the BLDATF.

In line with good governance, a Memorandum of Understanding will be drawn up with the successful organisation which details the funding and reporting requirements.

If you wish to submit additional supporting documentation, please do so and state why it is relevant to the submission.

Please be advised supporting documents may be requested for due diligence purposes.

Please note this budget is subject to review on an annual basis or as required by the BLDATF.

Appendix 3: Targeted Intervention Fund Application 2022

Context:

Ballyfermot LDATF welcomes applications to the Targeted Intervention Fund 2022. 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 €42,000. Applications up to value of €10,000 will be considered. Please note there is no guarantee of full funding for your project. 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.
2. To be directed towards reducing the impact of problematic drug and alcohol use.
3. This budget is not for the use towards the progress individual care plans
4. Evidenced based/ informed interventions.
5. Activities can be applied across the continuum of care.
6. Programmes/activities/events must be completed by 30th November 2022.

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 as identified in our recently completed Strategic Planning document, therefore activities which address problematic crack cocaine use; youth and family interventions; supports for older people in the community experiencing problematic drug and alcohol use; activities which strengthen engagement with 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.

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 service user/participant feedback is provided 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.

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 International Women's Day full schedule of events

#EmbraceEquity #IWD2023 #Internationalwomensday				
Organisation	Date and time	Event	Location	Contact for more information
The Holistic Hub	6th March 7.30 pm	Mediation and Mindfulness Class (all proceeds go to Saoirse – Domestic Violence Service)	Orchard Community Centre, 10 Cherry Orchard Grove	Holistic Hub – Paula Mobile : 085 760 9439 Email: Thereikihub@gmail.com
The Holistic Hub	7th March 11am- 5pm	15-Minute Express Treatments (all proceeds go to Saoirse – Domestic Violence Service)	Orchard Community Centre, 10 Cherry Orchard Grove	Holistic Hub – Paula Mobile : 085 760 9439 Email: Thereikihub@gmail.com
Advance	Wednesday 8th March 10am-4pm Holistic Therapy Thursday 9th March 2pm-4pm Bingo	Holistic therapy, bingo and Marie Keating Foundation providing health screening.	Ballyfermot Advance Project, Le Fanu Road	Niamh Clancy Tel: 01-6238001 Mobile: 089 217 0695 Email: nclancy@ballyfermotadvance.ie
Ballyfermot Youth Service	8th March 4.30pm to 7.30pm	Opportunity to discuss important issues for young people in the community followed by Yoga, Zumba, meditation and live music	Ballyfermot Library	Denise Ryan Mobile: 085 2073435 Email: denise@ballyfermotys.ie
Blue Door/The Equine	8th March 10am-1pm morning session 5pm-7pm Evening session	Morning session for adults including breakfast, massage, jewellery making and fitness class Evening session for young people including fitness and food!	Cherry Orchard Equine Centre	Kim O'Connell Mobile: 0851262147 Email: kim@cherryorchard.ie
Star	Wednesday 8th and Friday 10th March 10am-1pm	Drop in yoga and holistic therapy work shops	Realt Nua, Unit 36A Lavery Avenue, Park West	Eoin O Doherty Mobile: 0876549437 Email: eoinodoherty@ballyfermotstar.ie
Ballyfermot Chapelized Partnership	8th March 6.30 pm – 8.30pm	Screening Davina McCall: Sex, Myths and The Menopause The first in a series of events to help women in Cherry Orchard see how Menopause affects us all. The documentary dispels any myths surrounding menopause and the truth about HRT (Hormone Replacement Therapy).	Orchard Community Centre, 10 Cherry Orchard Grove	Carol Finlay Mobile: 087 720 3435 Email: cfinlay@bcpartnership.ie
Ballyfermot Chapelized Partnership	9th March 10 am – 11.30 am	Women in Business Celebrate International Women's Day at the Women in Business Networking Day in the Ballyfermot Civic Centre. Hear from some amazing entrepreneurs and enjoy some exceptionally tasty treats!	Ballyfermot Civic Centre	David O'Connell Mobile: 087-6413787 Email: doconnell@bcpartnership.ie
Fusion	Friday 10th March 9am-1pm	Open day for all women in the whole community, including information on health, mini-holistic therapy sessions and the Irish heart mobile health unit joining us on the day to do pulse and Blood Pressure checks and Saoirse Domestic Violence Services will be there too.	Fusion , Cherry Orchard Health Centre	Marie Moylan Tel: 01 623 1499 Mobile: 086 810 0770 Email: Marie@fusioncpl.ie
SPACE (Suicide Prevention and Community Engagement)	Friday 10th March 1pm – 3pm	Safe TALK Launch of the promotional video. Promoting the importance of community members and groups in participating in Safe TALK training. Event is open to all and will include guest speakers, lunch and a mini-health fair.	Ballyfermot Civic Centre	Shane Hogan Mobile: 087-1183444 Email: shogan@bcpartnership.ie
Familibase	Saturday 11th March Yoga 12-1 pm (limited places) Music from 1 pm	Yoga & Mindfulness followed by lunchtime event with live music & spoken word from local young people open to all!	Familibase, Blackditch Road	David McGovern Mobile: 0873387527 Email: David.McGovern@familibase.ie

Appendix 6 Responsible serving of alcohol poster

What is your role as a Responsible Server?



ASK YOURSELF

- Do I understand my obligations under the Intoxicating Liquor Acts when serving Alcohol?
- Have I received training in handling difficult people & situations?
- Am I serving in the permitted hours?

It is against the law to sell alcohol to anyone under the age of 18

Have you checked age verification?



Preventing and Managing Drunkenness

At point of entry and – when serving drinks



THINK

- What types of drinks being ordered, the rate at which they are being ordered and by whom. Remember it's your responsibility to refuse serving if the person is intoxicated
- Offering alternatives – is water available?

MANAGING DIFFICULT SITUATIONS



Drink Driving

- Let drivers know the alternatives available to them.
- Leave taxi company numbers on display on the premises.



Intoxicated Customers

- When dealing with an intoxicated customer, courtesy, tact, respect and friendliness will help diffuse any potentially volatile situations.

For more information visit:

www.askaboutalcohol.ie
www.hse.ie
www.drugs.ie

www.ballyfermotldatf.ie
www.D12LDATF.ie
www.icann.org







FIGURE 18: BLDATF LOGO GOES RAINBOW EACH JUNE FOR PRIDE MONTH



FIGURE 19: BALLYFERMOT PRIMARY CARE CENTRE LIT UP PURPLE FOR RECOVERY MONTH 2022