

Alcohol Remains the Biggest Addiction Challenge Across Cork and Kerry as Cocaine Continues to Rise, Coolmine Reports

- **Q2 report highlights changing drug trends alongside growing demand for family support services across the South-West**

11 August 2026 – Alcohol continues to be the leading substance affecting people accessing addiction services across Cork and Kerry, but cocaine use continues to rise, according to [Coolmine Therapeutic Community's](#) latest regional report.

The Q2 2026 findings show that while alcohol remains the primary drug of choice for 53% of clients accessing South-West services, powder cocaine now accounts for almost one in four presentations (24%), reflecting a continuing shift in addiction patterns across the region. Crack cocaine remains comparatively low in the South-West at just 2% of presentations.

The report also shows continued demand for addiction treatment and recovery support across Cork and Kerry, with growing numbers of individuals and families accessing community-based services throughout the first half of the year.

While retention across South-West services remains strong, averaging 75% during Q2, Coolmine says the figures reinforce the importance of ensuring people receive ongoing support throughout their recovery journey.

Stephen Cashman Regional Services Manager of Coolmine Therapeutic Community, said: *"Alcohol continues to have a devastating impact on individuals and families across Cork and Kerry, but we are also seeing cocaine become increasingly common among those seeking treatment. These findings highlight how addiction is changing, and why services must continue to adapt to meet the needs of the communities we support."*

He added: *"Every person who comes through our doors has a unique story, and increasingly we are supporting families alongside individuals to help create lasting, sustainable recovery."*

Anita Harris, Deputy Head of Services at Coolmine Therapeutic Community, added: *"The South-West continues to have its own unique profile, with alcohol remaining the dominant presenting substance. However, the continued growth in cocaine presentations demonstrates that no community is immune to changing drug trends. Early intervention and accessible local services remain essential if we are to prevent addiction from escalating."*

She continued: *"Every day our teams work alongside people at different stages of recovery, providing practical, therapeutic and family support that help individuals rebuild their lives. The earlier someone reaches out, the greater the opportunity for positive long-term outcomes."*

Coolmine said it will continue to strengthen community-based addiction services, family supports and recovery programmes across Cork and Kerry as demand continues. For more information or support, visit www.coolmine.ie.

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About Coolmine Therapeutic Community:

Coolmine believes everyone should have the opportunity to overcome addiction and lead a fulfilled, productive life. By addressing addiction as a root cause of social exclusion, Coolmine offers a holistic approach tackling both addiction dependence and the socio-economic barriers it creates. This empowers individuals to reconnect with families, rebuild their lives, and reintegrate into their communities. For more information or support, visit www.coolmine.ie.