

**Northwest Regional Drugs Task Force
Charter House
Old Market Street
Sligo**

Strategic Plan 2005 -2008

June 2005

Table of Contents

<u>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</u>	V
<u>1.0 BACKGROUND</u>	1
1.1 NATIONAL DRUGS STRATEGY	1
1.2 REGIONAL DRUGS TASK FORCES	2
1.3 NORTH WEST REGIONAL DRUGS TASK FORCE	3
<u>2.0 METHODOLOGY</u>	4
2.1 STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS	5
2.1.1 CONSULTATION	5
2.1.2 PLANNING WORKSHOPS	5
<u>3.0 STRATEGY PLAN AIMS AND OBJECTIVES</u>	7
3.1 AIM	7
3.2 OBJECTIVES	7
3.2.1 AWARENESS	7
3.2.2 CO-ORDINATION	8
3.2.3 COMMUNICATION	8
3.2.4 DIRECT ACTIONS	8
3.2.5 ADVOCACY	8
<u>4.0 NORTH WEST REGION</u>	9
4.1 THE REGION	9
4.2 POPULATION	10
4.2.1 COUNTY DONEGAL	11
4.2.2 COUNTY SLIGO	12
4.2.3 COUNTY LEITRIM	12
4.2.4 COUNTY CAVAN	12
4.3 RURAL/ URBAN DIVIDE	13
4.4 EXISTING SERVICES	13
4.4.1 EDUCATION & PREVENTION	14

4.4.2	TREATMENT & REHABILITATION	14
4.4.3	SUPPLY REDUCTION	14
5.0	<u>DRUG USE IN THE NORTH WEST</u>	15
5.1	NACD AND DAIRU STATISTICS	15
5.2	DRUG OFFENCES	18
5.3	UNDER-AGE DRINKING	20
5.4	STATUTORY BODIES AND REPRESENTATIVES OF GROUPS & AGENCIES	21
6.0	<u>ACTION PLAN</u>	22
6.1	NEEDS OF THE NORTH WEST	22
6.2	REMIT OF THE NWRDTF	23
6.3	AIMS AND OBJECTIVES	23
6.4	ACTION PLAN FORMAT	24
	<u>OPERATIONAL ACTIONS</u>	25
	<u>AWARENESS</u>	27
	<u>CO-ORDINATION</u>	30
	<u>DIRECT ACTIONS</u>	32
	<u>ADVOCACY</u>	34
7.0	<u>BUDGET</u>	38
APPENDICES		
Appendix I NWRDTF MEMBERS		
Appendix II ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE		
Appendix III OPERATIONAL ISSUES		
Appendix IV LIST OF REFERENCES		
Appendix V PROPOSED RESPONSES		

List of Figures

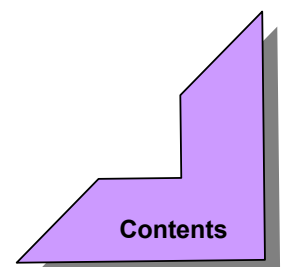
Figure 1 Health Service Executive Areas 9

List of Tables

Table 1 Population Statistics..... 10

List of Charts

Chart 1 Population of counties as % of total population in NW 10
Chart 2 2002 Population of the Region by Age Group and County 11
Chart 3 Last year prevalence of illegal drugs for Health Boards and WHSSB 16
Chart 4 Last year prevalence itemised by types of drugs 16
Chart 5 Last year prevalence in NWHB vs. Nationally 17
Chart 6 Drug Offences in Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim 2002 18
Chart 7 Drug Offences for Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim vs. National in 2002..... 19
Chart 8 Drug offences for Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim for 2003..... 19
Chart 9 Drug Offences for Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim vs. National 2003 20
Chart 10 Drinking alcohol in past month (10-17 year olds, 2003) 20



Foreword

In the North West, as in other regions of Ireland, rural and urban communities are encountering a range of problems associated with increasing levels of illicit drug use and underage drinking. While the level of drug prevalence currently found in the North West is relatively low, when compared to eastern areas, the negative impact on families and communities is significant due to the disproportionate effects of long-term unemployment, lack of access to services and resources, rural isolation, and other factors specific to the region. The challenge for communities in the North West is in identifying responses to these problems that are appropriate to their specific needs and in coordinating the effective local delivery of these responses.

Despite low drug prevalence levels, we must not be complacent in how we respond to the problems of illicit drug use and underage drinking and, instead, must strive to work together in further reducing their impact on the individual, family and the community. This three-year Regional Drug Task Force Strategy Plan, the first for the North West, outlines the range of specific actions agreed by the Task Force as being appropriate and realistic responses to local problems. Tailored to the specific needs of the communities in the North West, these actions form the framework and foundation for greater coordination amongst all involved in the delivery of services and resources.

The Strategy Plan, which has the full support of the Task Force and its partnering agencies, has implications for all residents of the region as it calls for the strengthening of cooperation and partnership between all bodies with responsibility for addressing illicit drug use and underage drinking. This includes schools, local authorities, enforcement agencies, voluntary organisations, community groups, families and the general public, all of whom have a vital role to play in the implementation of this plan during the period 2005 - 2008.

I would like to commend the members of the Task Force, especially our Interim Coordinator Patricia Garland, and others involved, for their support and contributions towards the development of this Strategy Plan, which provides both a realistic and workable foundation for future actions and initiatives. The primary aim of this Plan is not just to maintain low drug prevalence levels but to further reduce these through education and prevention in particular. Only by committing ourselves to proactively responding to these problems, in a coordinated manner, can we realistically hope to attain this goal. We owe this to our communities and, more importantly, to those most affected by illicit drug use and underage drinking in the North West.

Loman Conway
Chairperson

Executive Summary

Under the National Drugs Strategy 2001 - 2008, Regional Drug Task Forces have been established throughout Ireland to provide responses to illicit drug use and underage drinking problems at a local level. Each Task Force is comprised of representatives of governmental agencies, local authorities, community and voluntary groups, and others with an interest in or responsibility for these problem areas. Their primary role is to ensure a coordinated response in addressing illicit drug use and underage drinking within their respective regions and to develop appropriate responses to local needs.

Established in 2003, the North West Regional Drug Task Force has a remit for the North West region including all of Counties Donegal, Sligo and Leitrim, and the northwestern portion of County Cavan. Extending from the Inishowen Peninsula to the Leitrim-Longford border, the region is characterised by its dispersed population, high dependency age profile, proximity to the border with Northern Ireland and the disproportionate effects of long-term unemployment, rural isolation and lack of access to services.

Arising from extensive consultative work and a series of group workshops and review sessions, the Strategy Plan 2005 - 2008 provides insight into the severity of the problems facing the region, identifies gaps in currently available services, and provides an action plan for future responses.

At the present time, according to available data and consultation with representatives of statutory bodies, agencies and groups, the North West experiences relatively low drug prevalence levels. Cannabis and ecstasy are the most prominently used illicit drugs in the region, and underage drinking is a major concern for all communities, both rural and urban. This low prevalence level, however, is under increasing pressure due to the proximity and influence of Derry city and, according to An Garda Síochána, of a growing illicit drugs supply network. Furthermore poly-drug use,

combined with alcohol misuse is increasingly prominent among young people.

*This three-year Plan provides for a range of specific, activity-based responses to be undertaken by the North West Regional Drug Task Force and its constituent members in addressing the existing and developing problems facing the region. Organised under the Strategic Objective headings of the Plan, and agreed by key stakeholders, these responses include actions dealing specifically with the areas of **Awareness, Coordination, Communication, Operations, Direct Actions, and Advocacy.***

Emphasising the key role to be played by the community and voluntary sectors in responding to the problems of illicit drug use and underage drinking, many of these actions are specifically directed at assisting such bodies in delivering appropriate, evidence-based responses to local problems. Particular focus is placed upon ensuring that the needs of rural communities are addressed, as the effects of illicit drug use and underage drinking upon these communities have not been recognised in the past.

The Task Force, as the coordinating body for the region, provides the key to the successful implementation of this Plan to address the problems encountered by individuals and communities in the North West as a result of illicit drug use and underage drinking. With appropriate funding, this Plan provides the framework for the successful coordination of regional activities and the effective implementation of appropriate and innovative responses to local problems in the area for the next three years.

1.0 Background

In late 2004, the North West Regional Drugs Task Force (NWRDTF), a multi-agency body established under the National Drugs Strategy (NDS) undertook the development of a three-year strategy plan for dealing with illicit drug use and underage drinking in the North West.

This document, which reflects the work of the Task Force over a five-month period beginning in January 2005, provides the framework and direction for future activities and initiatives relating to illicit drug use and underage drinking in the Task Force's area of responsibility.

1.1 National Drugs Strategy

The Overall Strategic Objective of the National Drugs Strategy 2001 - 2008 'Building on Experience' is...

"...to significantly reduce the harm caused to individuals and society by the misuse of drugs through a concerted focus on supply reduction, prevention, treatment and research"

The document states that the Strategic Aims of the NDS are to:

- ❑ Reduce availability of illicit drugs
- ❑ Promote throughout society a greater awareness, understanding and clarity of the dangers of drug misuse
- ❑ Enable people with drug misuse problems to access treatment and other supports in order to re-integrate into society
- ❑ Reduce the risk behaviour associated with drug misuse
- ❑ Reduce the harm caused by drug misuse to individuals, families and communities
- ❑ Have valid, timely and comparable data on the extent and nature of drug misuse in Ireland
- ❑ Strengthen existing partnerships in and with communities and build new partnerships to tackle problems of drug misuse

1.2 Regional Drugs Task Forces

Recognising the successes of the Local Drugs Task Forces in dealing with drug misuse issues in inner city communities, the NDS called for the establishment of ten Regional Drug Task Forces throughout the country to incorporate and expand the work of the Regional Drug Co-ordinating Committees, which existed, at that stage, in each Health Board Area.

Reporting to the National Drugs Strategy Team (NDST), responsible for monitoring and overall management of the Task Forces, the Terms of Reference for the Regional Drug Task Forces are as follows:

- ❑ To ensure the development of a coordinated and integrated response to illicit drug use in the region.
- ❑ To create and maintain an up-to-date database of the nature and extent of illicit drug use in the region and provide information on drug-related services and resources in the region.
- ❑ To identify and address gaps in service provision, having regard to evidence available on the extent and specific location of illicit drug use in the region.
- ❑ To prepare a development plan to respond to regional drug issues, for assessment by the NDST and approval by the joint NDST-IDG (Inter-Departmental Group).
- ❑ To develop regionally relevant policy proposals in consultation with the NDST.
- ❑ To provide information and regular reports to the NDST in the format and frequency requested by the Team.

Under the original terms of the NDS, each Task Force is, in addition to a Regional Co-ordinator, to include local representatives of the following sectors:

- Local Authority
- Vocational Education Committee
- Health Service Executive
- Department of Education and Science
- Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs¹
- An Garda Síochána
- Probation and Welfare Service
- FÁS
- Revenue Commissioners - Customs and Excise Division
- Voluntary Sector
- Community Sector
- Public Representatives
- Area Based Partnership

1.3 North West Regional Drugs Task Force

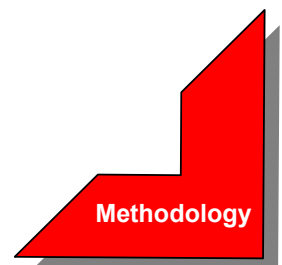
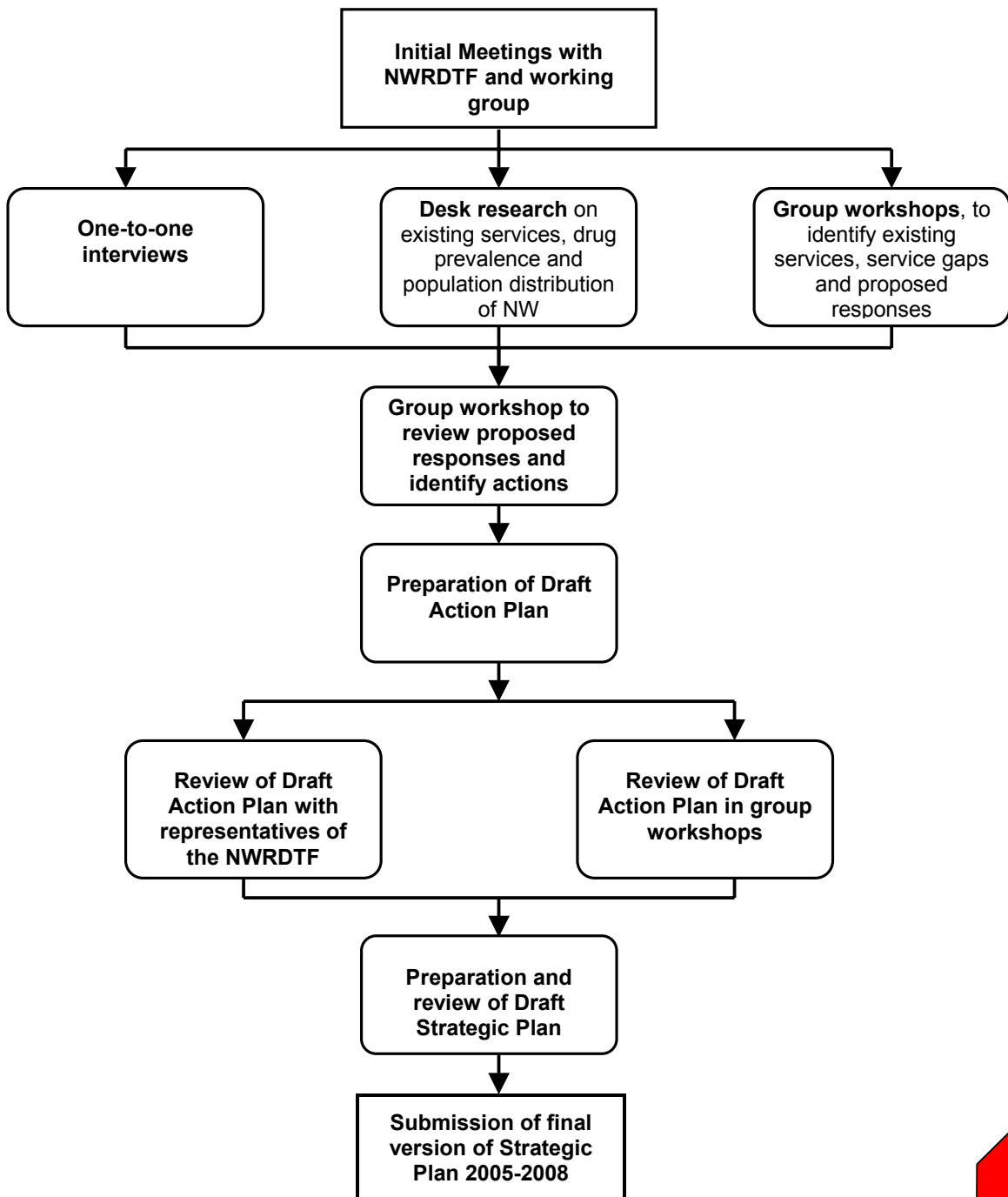
Established in 2003 under the NDS, the North West Regional Drugs Task Force is the responsible body for tackling the issues associated with illicit drug use and underage drinking in the North West region, the operational area of the Health Services Executive - North West Area (HSE NW), formerly North Western Health Board (NWHB).

Comprised of local representatives of statutory and voluntary bodies in the region, as well as public, governmental and community representatives (see current membership listing in Appendix I), the NWRDTF is committed to implementing a Strategic Plan for the region in tackling illicit drug use and underage drinking.

¹ Since the original terms were written, the Department of Social, Community and Family Affairs has been re-structured into two departments, i.e. Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Department of Social and Family affairs.

2.0 Methodology

As required under the NDS, the NWRDTF has developed a Strategic Plan for the three-year period 2005 - 2008, which provides the framework and direction for ongoing and future initiatives and actions targeting illicit drug use and underage drinking in the North West region. The methodology used in the development of the Strategic Plan is outlined below:



2.1 Strategic Planning Process

All members of the NWRDTF, beginning in late 2004, were involved in the Strategic Planning process, which entailed the following activities:

2.1.1 Consultation

Extensive consultation was conducted throughout the Strategic Planning process with a range of stakeholders. This involved one-to-one interviews and group meetings with Task Force members and others having an interest in, or responsibility for addressing illicit drug use and underage drinking in the region.

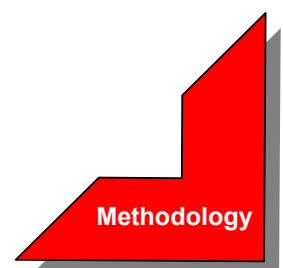
The purpose of this consultation was to:

- Inform stakeholders about the NWRDTF and the Strategic Planning process
- Elicit comments and views on the current state of the region, existing services and resources, and possible future activities and initiatives
- Identify other stakeholders having contributions to make to the planning process and the work of the NWRDTF

The results of the consultation process have been recorded in the **Proposed Responses** (see Appendix V) and incorporated into the Action Plan.

2.1.2 Planning Workshops

A series of facilitated workshops was conducted for Task Force members during the course of the Planning process to assist them in exploring the issues relating to illicit drug use and underage drinking in the region, including how best to address these in an effective and efficient manner.



2.1.2.1 Service Gaps/ Proposed Responses

The first full-day Planning Workshop, conducted in March 2005, involved a review of service gaps in the North West region, with reference to the four pillars of the NDS, i.e.:

- Supply reduction
- Prevention
- Treatment
- Research

These existing gaps, which were identified during the consultative stage of the Planning process by both Task Force members and external consultants, were agreed and highlighted for subsequent action.

Following further deliberation and, in some instances, clarification, the Task Force proposed a range of appropriate and realistic responses to each service gap under its relevant pillar heading. These responses, which can be viewed at Appendix V, formed the basis for further consultation with stakeholders leading to the development of an Action Plan.

2.1.2.2 Actions

The primary objective of the Planning process was the development of agreed actions to be undertaken by the NWRDTF during the three-year duration of the Strategic Plan 2005 - 2008. The actions provided in this document are the agreed responses of the Task Force to the service gaps existing in the region at the time the Planning process occurred. They are realistic responses to the issues that the Task Force has a remit to address, and the capacity to undertake, within the existing budgetary, regulatory, statutory, and time constraints relating to illicit drug use and underage drinking in the North West region.

3.0 Strategy Plan Aims and Objectives

The NWRDTF has established the aims and objectives of their three-year Strategy Plan, 2005 - 2008, for the North West region.

3.1 Aim

As part of the Strategic Planning process the Task Force members, agreed the following as the strategic aim of their plan:

“To reduce the negative impact of drug misuse and underage drinking upon the individual and society in the region through co-ordinated and targeted actions at regional and local levels”

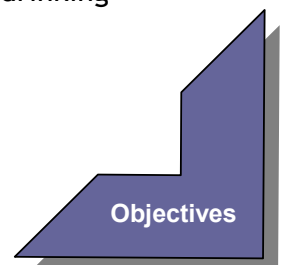
3.2 Objectives

A review of the service gaps phase of the Planning process highlighted several *action-based* categories that were felt by the Task Force to accurately reflect the distinct needs of the region. These actions formed the basis for the Strategic Objectives of the NWRDTF and are outlined as follows:

- ❑ Awareness
- ❑ Co-ordination
- ❑ Communication
- ❑ Direct Actions
- ❑ Advocacy

3.2.1 Awareness

- ❑ To raise the levels of awareness of drug misuse and underage drinking in the North West
- ❑ To research, compile and disseminate relevant and up to date data regarding drug misuse and underage drinking issues in the North West



3.2.2 Co-ordination

- To ensure the development of a co-ordinated and integrated response to tackling drug misuse and underage drinking in the North West
- To establish and apply evidence-based protocols regarding the implementation and delivery of all activities and initiatives

3.2.3 Communication

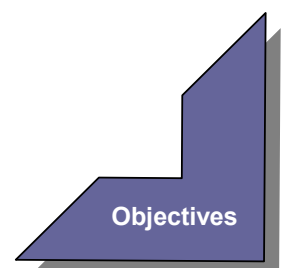
- To proactively encourage and facilitate effective communication between relevant agencies dealing with issues of drug misuse and underage drinking at appropriate levels
- To promote the North West Regional Drugs Task Force as the central point of information regarding drug misuse and underage drinking
- To inform the public of Task Force actions on an ongoing basis

3.2.4 Direct Actions

- To agree and undertake proactive, evidence-based actions positively impacting upon drug misuse and underage drinking, and falling within the Task Force's direct sphere of influence

3.2.5 Advocacy

- To support, through advocacy, actions positively impacting upon drug misuse and underage drinking, and falling outside the Task Force's direct sphere of influence



4.0 North West Region

4.1 The Region

The NWRDTF is responsible for the entire North West region, extending from the Inishowen Peninsula in the north east of Donegal southward along the border with Northern Ireland to Blacklion, County Cavan, and comprising all of counties Sligo, Leitrim, and Donegal, as well as the northwest corner of Cavan in the vicinity of Blacklion. The region is characterised by:

- Dispersed population
- High dependency age profile
- Proximity to the border with Northern Ireland,
- Relatively low drug prevalence levels
- Disproportionate effects of long-term unemployment, isolation and a lack of access to services

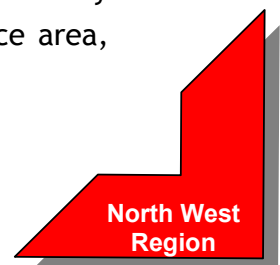
The size of the region, which equates to the HSE NW Area, is approximately 8,500 square kilometres. It is a predominantly rural region with less than twenty towns of more than 1,000 inhabitants². Of these, only two have populations in excess of 6,000; Letterkenny (8,000) and Sligo (18,500).



Figure 1 Health Service Executive Areas

In addition, the urban centres of Enniskillen, Strabane, and the city of Derry are located in the region adjacent to the Task Force area, east of the border, in Northern Ireland.

² Central Statistics Office, Census of Population, 2002



4.2 Population

Slightly more than 220,000 people inhabit the North West region³. Table 1 provides a population overview for the region, specifically the proportion of males to females and the increases occurring in total population between 1996 and 2002, for each of the three entire counties in the region.⁴

County	2002			1996	% Change
	Male	Female	Total	Total	
Cavan	656	532	1,188	1,203	-1.2%
Leitrim	13,324	12,475	25,799	25,057	3.0%
Sligo	28,746	29,432	58,178	55,821	4.2%
Donegal	69,016	68,559	137,575	129,994	5.8%
Total	111,742	110,998	222,740	212,075	5.0%

Table 1 Population Statistics

As shown above, the region experienced an increase in population between 1996 and 2002 of 10,665, i.e. 5%, which was below the national average of 8% for the same period.

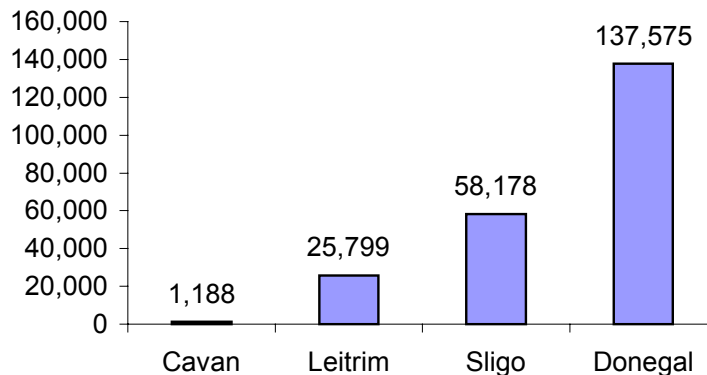
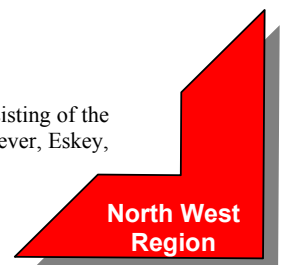


Chart 1 Population of counties as % of total population in NW

³ Central Statistics Office, Census of Population, 2002

⁴ A small portion of the north west of County Cavan is included in the NWRDTF region, consisting of the Enniskillen No. 2 Rural area, i.e. the DED's of Derrylahan, Derrynananta, Dowra, Dunmakeever, Eskey, Killinagh, Teebane and Tuam.



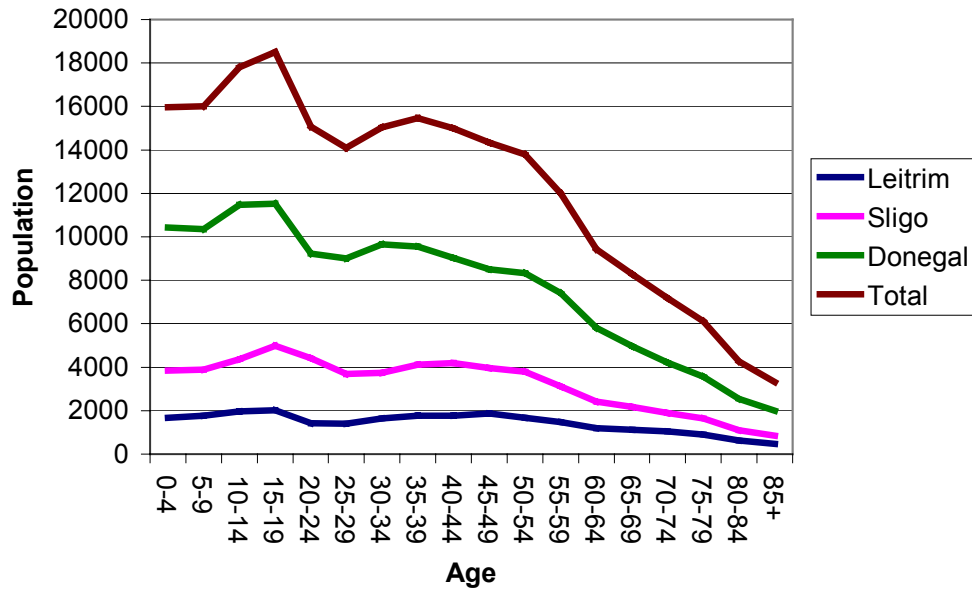


Chart 2 2002 Population of the Region by Age Group and County

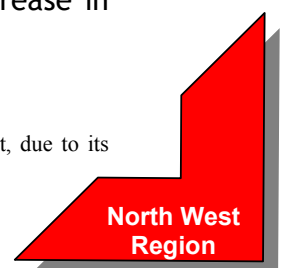
Chart 2 provides an analysis of the populations of Counties Donegal, Leitrim and Sligo⁵. The analysis is based upon the number of people in each county that are within the age categories 0-4 years, 5-9 years, 10-14 years, etc. An analysis of the total population of the three counties is provided for comparative purposes.

The number of young people in the region, as evidenced by the chart above, has been reflected in the strategic planning process and action plan of the NWRDTF, particularly in relation to future and current education & prevention programmes.

4.2.1 County Donegal

Donegal, in addition to having the largest number of inhabitants of the three entire counties in the region, is also the largest in size covering an area of almost 5,000 square kilometres. It is bordered by the Northern Ireland Counties of Derry, Tyrone and Fermanagh to the east, and County Leitrim to the south. The County experienced the largest increase in

⁵ The portion of County Cavan within the remit of the NWRDTF is excluded for this chart, due to its limited size.



terms of population growth, 5.8%, of the three counties between 1996 and 2002.

Though its principal settlement is Letterkenny, located in the northern part of the county, almost 70% of its 137,000 inhabitants live in rural villages and dispersed communities of less than 1,000 residents. The northern portion of the new Health Service Executive - North West Area is served primarily from Letterkenny General Hospital.

4.2.2 County Sligo

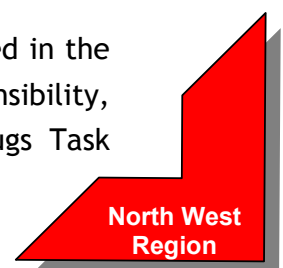
The second largest county in the region in terms of population, 58,178, and size, approximately 1,800 square kilometres, Sligo also has the largest number of residents, 38%, living in urban settlements of more than 1,000 people. Bordered by Counties Mayo, Roscommon, and Leitrim, its principal settlement is Sligo a city that, in common with Letterkenny and other urban areas, has experienced significant population and economic growth in recent years. Sligo city is also the location of Sligo General Hospital, which serves the southern half of the Health Service Executive's North West Area, including all of Leitrim and Sligo as well as the southern portion of Donegal and west Cavan in the vicinity of Blacklion.

4.2.3 County Leitrim

The smallest of the three counties, 1,588 square kilometres, Leitrim runs westward from the border of County Cavan to the Atlantic coast, separating Counties Sligo and Donegal. Carrick-on-Shannon, is the largest urban settlement with a population of 1,842 reflecting the fact that the majority of Leitrim's 25,799 inhabitants live in rural communities of less than 1,000 inhabitants.

4.2.4 County Cavan

Only a small portion of County Cavan, the part included in the Health Service Executive's North West Area of responsibility, falls under the remit of the North West Region Drugs Task



Force. The area is comprised of several small towns and parishes in the general vicinity of Blacklion, County Cavan, a rural border area on the main road, the N16, between Sligo and Enniskillen. The inhabitants of the area are served by Sligo General Hospital. In addition, Loughan House, an open prison facility with low security, is located two miles from Blacklion village.

4.3 Rural/ Urban Divide

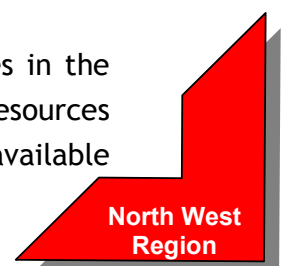
The majority of residents in the region live in rural communities of less than 1,000 inhabitants or in dispersed settlements. The largest urban settlements in the region are Sligo town and its environs, with a population of almost 20,000, and Letterkenny, Co. Donegal with a population of more than 15,000 inclusive of its environs. The next largest town is Bunrana on the Inishowen Peninsula with a population in 2002 of more than 5,000. There follows three towns, all in Donegal, with populations of between 2,000 and 4,600, and eleven towns of more than 1,000 but less than 2,000 inhabitants. The remaining 157,291, 70% of the inhabitants of the region, live in less populated rural communities.

As with many communities throughout Ireland, some of the largest increases in population between the 1996 and 2002 census were recorded in and around urban settlements.

In addition, the impact of Northern Ireland on the region should be acknowledged, with the city of Derry and its environs, immediately adjacent to the Inishowen Peninsula, home to more than 110,000 inhabitants. Strabane, to the south of Derry has more than 12,500 residents and Enniskillen, further south in County Fermanagh, has more than 11,000.

4.4 Existing Services

As part of the planning process, an audit of existing services in the region was conducted. This refers to activities and resources addressing illicit drug use and underage drinking currently available



within the region. A summary of services dealing specifically with education and prevention, treatment and rehabilitation, and supply reduction is provided below.

4.4.1 Education & Prevention

- Voluntary programmes, e.g. FOROIGE youth projects, etc.
- School substance abuse policies
- Social, Personal and Health Education (SPHE) in schools
- Parenting programmes, e.g. Fás le cheile, Parent Stop, etc.
- School completion programmes
- FÁS employment and training schemes

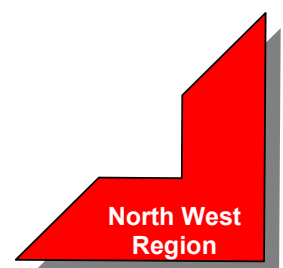
4.4.2 Treatment & Rehabilitation

- Alcohol and substance counselling and advisory services
- Youth Alcohol and Drug counselling
- Whiteoaks Rehabilitation Centre
- Primary care

4.4.3 Supply Reduction

- Probation and Welfare Service
- Customs & Excise
- An Garda Síochána:
 - Community policing
 - Juvenile Liaison Officers
 - Drugs squad

For the most part, the services are provided by statutory bodies and mirror similar services found in other Task Force areas, though in several cases, with far fewer resources. This reflects the lack of tailored, local responses to the specific problems and challenges facing the communities of the North West in particular.



5.0 Drug Use in the North West

Statistics regarding illicit drug use and underage drinking in the Northwest are drawn primarily from documents published by the following:

- The National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD)
- The Drug & Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU)
- The Health Service Executive North Western Area (HSE NW)
- An Garda Síochána
- Department of Health and Children
 - Survey of Lifestyle Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN)
 - Health Behaviour of School Aged Children (HBSC)

It should be noted, however, that the majority of documents dealing with these issues refer solely to illicit drug use as opposed to underage drinking.

5.1 NACD and DAIRU Statistics

During late 2002 and early 2003, the NACD and DAIRU undertook a Drug Prevalence Survey for each Health Board (Ireland) & Health & Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) on the island, North and South. This survey sampled a representative number of people in each area aged between 15 and 64, of which 332, of a total of 8,442 participants who took part, were from the NWHB region.

The results were collated in relation to prevalence⁶, including lifetime prevalence⁷, last year prevalence⁸ and last month prevalence⁹. For the purposes of this document, the last year prevalence statistics have been used to provide an indication of the level of illicit drug use in the region.

⁶ The term prevalence refers to the proportion of a population who have used a drug over a particular time period.

⁷ Lifetime prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported ever having used the named drug at the time they were surveyed.

⁸ Last year prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported using a named drug in the year prior to the survey. This is often referred to as **recent** use.

⁹ Last month prevalence refers to the proportion of the sample that reported using a named drug in the 30-day period prior to the survey. This is often referred to as **current** use, although this is not synonymous with regular use.

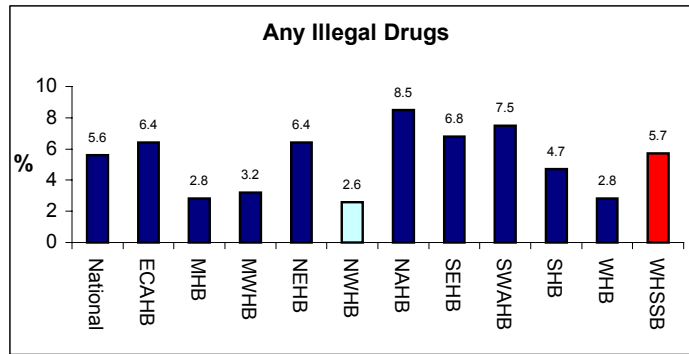


Chart 3 Last year prevalence of illegal drugs for Health Boards and WHSSB¹⁰

Chart 3 shows the *last year prevalence* of illegal drug¹¹ use for the Health Boards and the Western Health and Social Services Board (WHSSB) Northern Ireland. The WHSSB has been included because of its proximity to the North West, particularly regarding Derry's proximity to major population centres in County Donegal. The inclusion of the WHSSB in discussions regarding illegal drug use in the North West has been supported by An Garda Síochána, who stated that the influence of Northern Ireland on drug use and supply in the region will increase significantly over the short to medium-term.

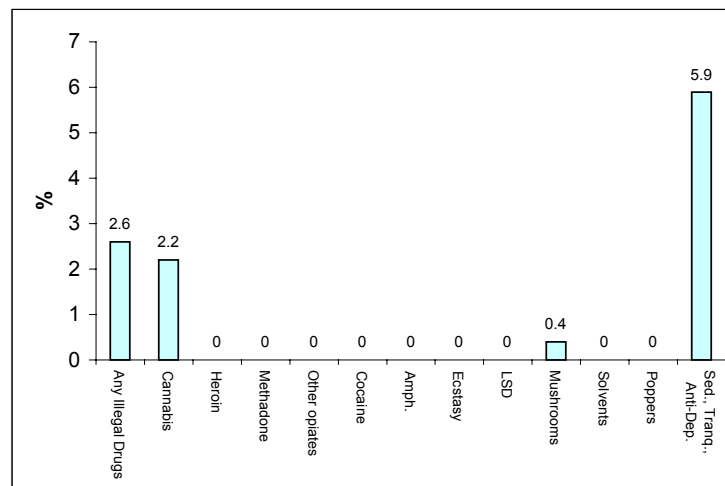


Chart 4 Last year prevalence itemised by types of drugs¹²

¹⁰ National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) & Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU), *Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results*, Bulletin 2, March 2004.

¹¹ The term illegal drug includes, Cannabis, Heroin, Methadone, other Opiates, Cocaine, Amphetamine, Ecstasy, LSD, Mushrooms, Solvents and Poppers.

¹² Based upon statistics in the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) & Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU), *Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results*, Bulletin 2, March 2004.

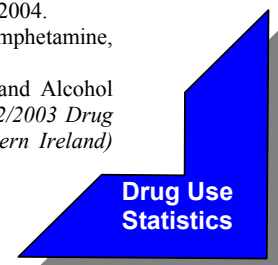


Chart 4 shows the *last year prevalence* of drug use in the North West. This has been itemised by the type of drug, i.e. Any Illegal Drug (2.6%) and Sedatives, Tranquillisers and Anti-depressants (5.9%.) The term Any Illegal Drug has been analysed further to itemise individual illegal drugs, i.e. Cannabis (2.2%) and Mushrooms (0.4%.)

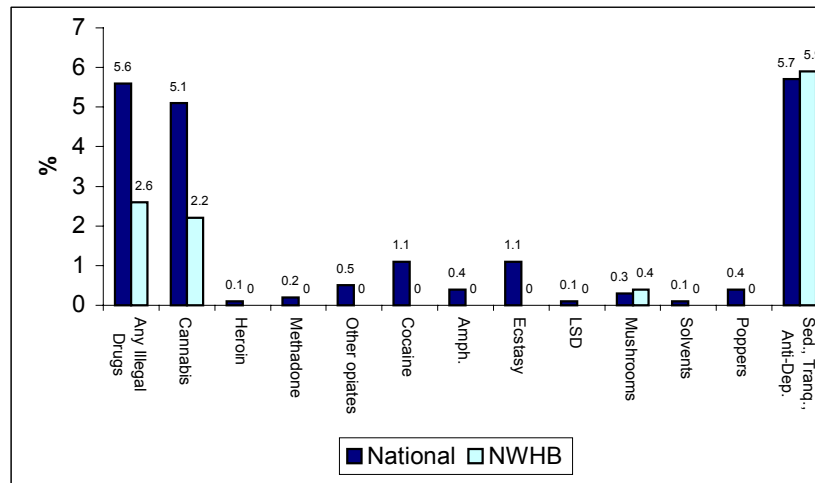
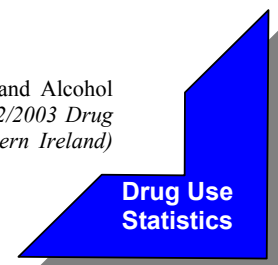


Chart 5 Last year prevalence in NWHB vs. Nationally¹³

Chart 5 compares the *last year prevalence* of drug use in the NWHB vs. drug use Nationally. Based on these statistics, the level of drug use in the North West is below national figures, apart from use of Sedatives, Tranquillisers and Anti-Depressants, which is higher than the national figure.

As a result, one of the primary aims of the NWRDTF is to maintain and reduce the relatively low rate of illegal drug use through awareness campaigns and programmes listed in the Action Plan and tailored specifically to the needs of the North West. This has been reflected in the strategic planning process of the NWRDTF, particularly in relation to future and current education & prevention programmes.

¹³ Based upon statistics in the National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) & Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU), *Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results*, Bulletin 2, March 2004.



5.2 Drug Offences

Information regarding drug offences is recorded in the Garda Síochána Annual Reports, the most recent of which refers to the year 2003. For comparative purposes, this document will show the statistics for drug offences in 2002 and 2003.

It should also be noted that the relevant statistics from the Garda Síochána Annual Reports refer to the Northern Region, i.e. Cavan/Monaghan, Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim. This region extends beyond that covered by the NWRDTF and, as a result, the figures for Cavan/Monaghan have been excluded to give a more accurate representation for the North West.

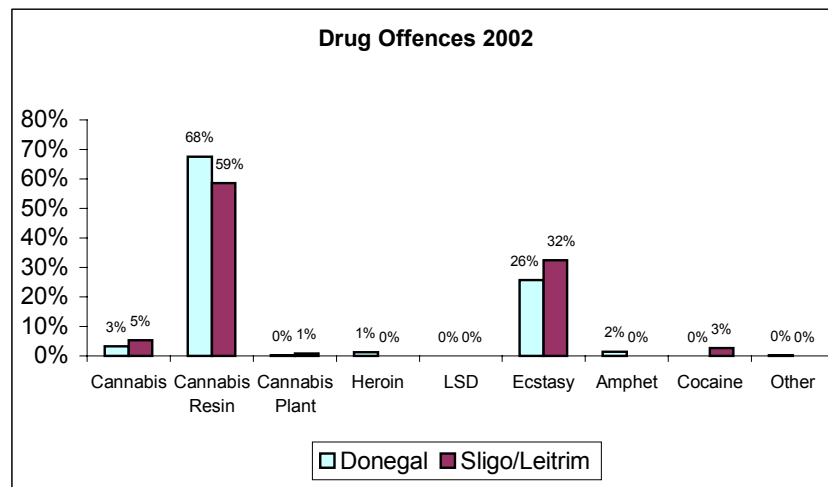
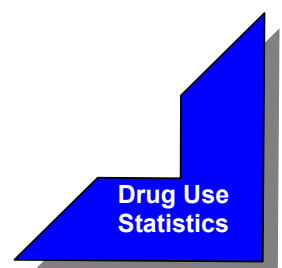


Chart 6 Drug Offences in Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim 2002¹⁴

Chart 6 shows number of offences, itemised by substance, as a percentage of total drug offences in Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim for 2002.

¹⁴ An Garda Síochána, *Annual Report, 2002*.



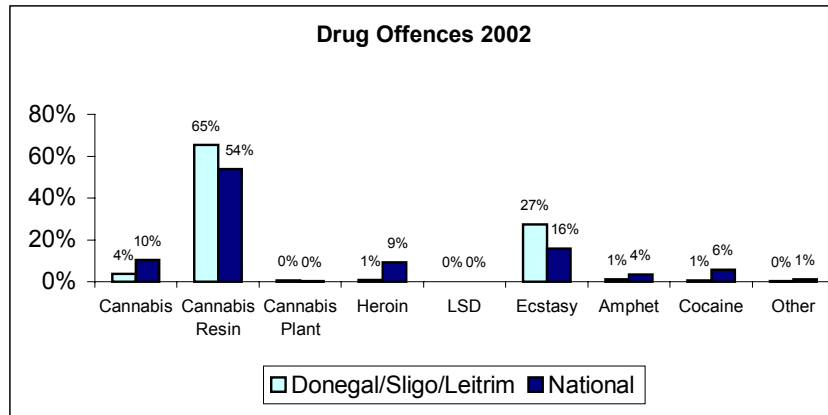


Chart 7 Drug Offences for Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim vs. National in 2002¹⁵

Chart 7 shows the number of offences, itemised by substance, as a percentage of total drug offences in Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim versus Nationally for 2002.

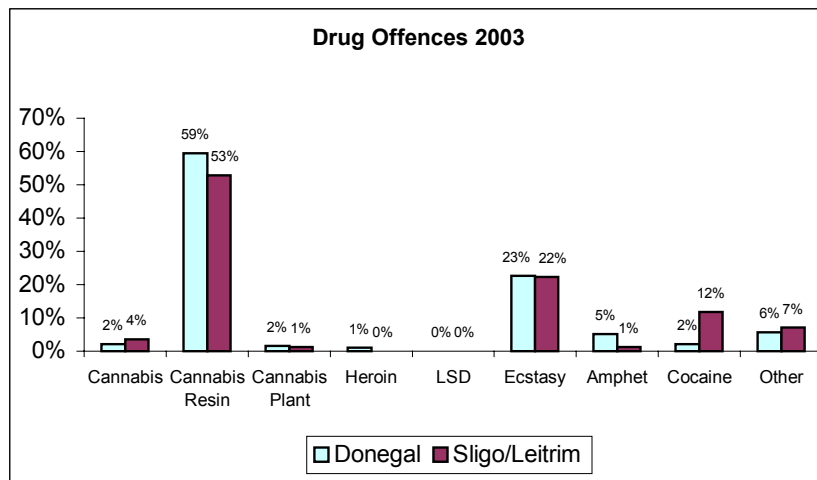
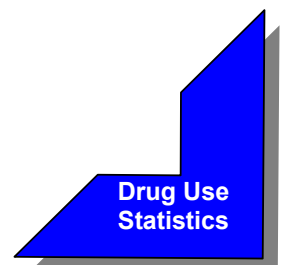


Chart 8 Drug offences for Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim for 2003¹⁶

Chart 8 shows the number of offences, itemised by substance, as a percentage of total drug offences in Donegal and Sligo/Leitrim for 2003.

¹⁵ An Garda Síochána, *Annual Report*, 2002.

¹⁶ An Garda Síochána, *Annual Report*, 2003.



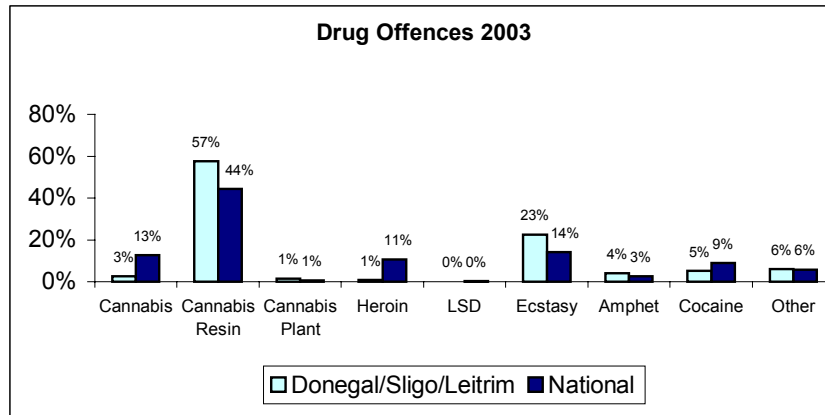


Chart 9 Drug Offences for Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim vs. National 2003¹⁷

Chart 9 shows the number of offences, itemised by substance, as a percentage of total drug offences in Donegal/Sligo/Leitrim versus Nationally for 2003.

5.3 Under-age Drinking

The most recent statistics for underage drinking have been compiled by SLÁN and HBSC in the National Health and Lifestyle Surveys, 2003¹⁸, the results of which are summarised below:

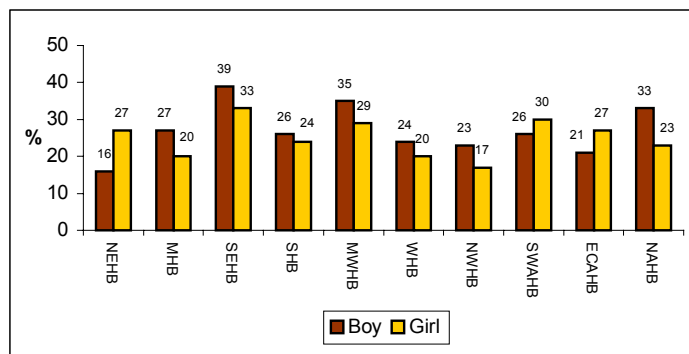


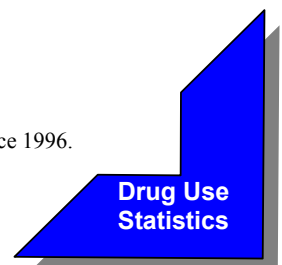
Chart 10 Drinking alcohol in past month (10-17 year olds, 2003)¹⁹

Chart 10 shows the number of boys and girls between the ages 10-17 years who participated in the survey and who drank alcohol in the past month.

¹⁷ An Garda Síochána, *Annual Report, 2003*.

¹⁸ The survey showed a 370% increase in intoxication in public places by underage drinkers since 1996.

¹⁹ SLÁN & HBSC, National Health and Lifestyle Surveys, 2003.



5.4 Statutory Bodies and Representatives of Groups & Agencies

During the consultation process, interviews and workshops were held with statutory bodies and representatives of agencies and groups to explore the extent of the drug problem and underage drinking in the North West:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> An Garda Síochána | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Representatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community & Enterprise Office | <input type="checkbox"/> Education sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Community group representatives | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Authority representatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Addiction Service | <input type="checkbox"/> Representatives of voluntary sector |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Promotion Service | <input type="checkbox"/> National Drugs Strategy Team |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FÁS | <input type="checkbox"/> Probation and Welfare Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Department of Justice, Equality
and Law Reform | <input type="checkbox"/> Representatives of the Traveller
community |

The consultations reflected the findings of the statistics discussed in the previous sections of this document, and can be summarised as follows:

- Experience on the ground among all agencies, groups and statutory bodies has shown that the most prominent drugs in the North West are cannabis and ecstasy
- Mushrooms are, to some extent, also prevalent in the region, although on a reduced, seasonal, basis
- The region's proximity to the border, particularly Derry City, has a growing, and highly significant, influence on the extent of the drug problem, both in terms of use and supply
- Poly-drug use, combined with alcohol misuse, is prominent among young people using drugs
- Poly-drug use is increasing in the region among all drug users
- The alcohol and drug cultures in the region are intertwined and need to be addressed as part of an inclusive approach
- While the effect of drugs on urban communities has been recognised, their effects on rural communities has not been addressed to the same extent

All of the above have formed the basis for the identification of proposed actions, which were reviewed for inclusion in the Action Plan, discussed in the next section.

6.0 Action Plan

As part of the Strategic Plan, the NWRDTF participated in a series of action planning workshops to identify and agree actions, forming the operational framework of the NWRDTF for the period 2005-2008. The actions will be submitted to the NDST as part of the budgeting submission for the region.

During the action planning process, the NWRDTF agreed that any actions to be implemented should be:

1. Tailored to meet the specific needs of the North West, as identified through existing research and the experience of the statutory bodies, agencies and voluntary groups represented on the Task Force
2. Within the remit of the Task Force and not duplicating existing services/ programmes
3. In accordance with the aim and objectives of the Task Force, as agreed during the strategy planning process

6.1 Needs of the North West

Throughout the action planning process, the NWRDTF identified and reviewed actions, based upon the agreement that all actions should be tailored to meet the specific needs of the North West, which include the following:

- The population distribution of the region and the need to re-structure the group to accommodate the geographic spread
- The need to maintain/ reduce the low level of drug prevalence in the region
- The impact of Northern Ireland, particularly Derry, on the drug culture in the North West
- The level of poly drug use among drug users in the North West
- The level of underage drinking, which has been identified by all agencies and statutory bodies as a significant problem throughout the North West

- The degree to which the drug culture and underage drinking have become intertwined over recent years in the North West

6.2 Remit of the NWRDTF

To ensure the actions were within the remit and responsibility of the NWRDTF, as established by the NDS, each proposed action was reviewed under the following guiding principles:

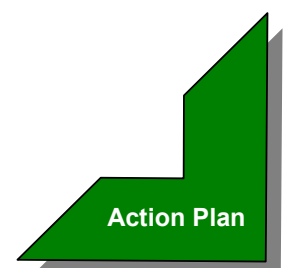
- ✓ Actions within the remit of the NWRDTF and within their sphere of influence should be included (*i.e. actions they could implement directly*)
- ✓ Actions within the remit of the NWRDTF and outside their sphere of influence should be included (*i.e. necessary actions they could support but not implement directly*)
- ✗ Actions outside the remit of the NWRDTF and to be excluded from the Action Plan (*e.g. actions within the sole remit, or duplicating actions, of other agencies and statutory bodies*)

6.3 Aims and Objectives

Following the review of the actions, each action was categorised by the NWRDTF, in accordance with its agreed objectives, i.e.:

- Awareness
- Co-ordination
- Communication
- Direct Actions
- Advocacy

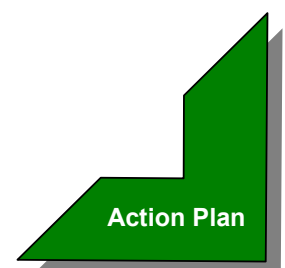
In addition to the above, another category was included, i.e. **Operational Actions**, which refers to actions necessary to establish and run the NWRDTF on a day-to-day basis.

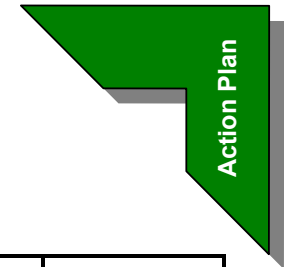


6.4 Action Plan Format

The Action Plan, presented over the following pages, is structured as follows:

- **Action**
A description of the action.
- **Timescale**
The date by which the action should be implemented.
- **Priority**
High, Medium or Low, as allocated by the NWRDTF.
- **Code**
A method by which the action is linked directly to the proposed responses that were identified by the NWRDTF under the four pillars of the NDS (see Appendix V.)
- **Stakeholders**
The agency, body or group responsible for the implementation of the action.
- **Cost**
An estimated cost for the action. While some costs are once-off, most actions are on-going and have been allocated an annual cost.

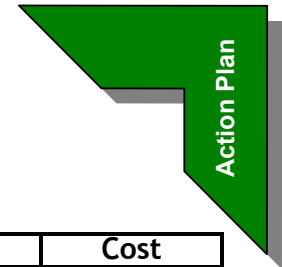




Operational Actions - actions to establish and operate the Task Force on an ongoing basis

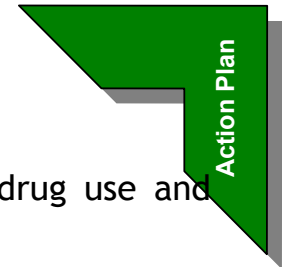
Action	Timescale	Priority	Code ²⁰	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Recruit NWRDTF Co-ordinator, Development Worker and Administration Support 	June 2005	High	--	NWRDTF	€4,000 (Year 1 only)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Employ NWRDTF Co-ordinator, Development Worker and Administration Support, i.e. salaries and motoring expenses 	Start July 2005	High	--	NWRDTF	€183,000 per year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Operating costs, e.g. rent, insurance, financial & legal fees, etc. 	Start June 2005	High	--	NWRDTF	€25,000 per year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Expand the membership of NWRDTF and sub-committees to encourage knowledge-based representation 	November 2005	High	E7 T1	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Source external providers with experience in community-based organisations to provide on-going training and support to the NWRDTF and its sub-committees on topics such as Strategic & Operational Planning, Facilitation, etc., to ensure they operate in an effective manner. 	December 2005	High	T1 T2	NWRDTF	€5,000 per year

²⁰ The code provides a direct link between the “Proposed Actions” in this document and the “Proposed Responses” identified at the first Strategic Meeting, and included in Appendix V.



Operational Actions, continued

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost																								
<p>□ Establish and operate county-based and interest-based sub-committees of the NWRDTF. This has been identified as an essential feature of the continuing operations of the NWRDTF, primarily because of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Geographic size of the region covered by the NWRDTF ○ Difficulties faced to date by NWRDTF members in disseminating information to representatives based within three different county structures ○ Differing nature of problems faced by the separate counties, e.g. North Donegal’s proximity to Derry, problems faced in specific areas within Sligo Town, Letterkenny and County Leitrim, etc., which are difficult to address in an all-inclusive, regional forum <p>Costs for the action are additional to the cost of the Regional Task Force and include:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Average Cost</th> <th>Meetings</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Meeting facility hire</td> <td>€150</td> <td>24</td> <td>€3,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mileage expenses</td> <td>€300</td> <td>24</td> <td>€7,200</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Administration</td> <td>€60</td> <td>24</td> <td>€1,440</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Subsistence</td> <td>€320</td> <td>24</td> <td>€7,680</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>€19,920</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Description	Average Cost	Meetings	Total	Meeting facility hire	€150	24	€3,600	Mileage expenses	€300	24	€7,200	Administration	€60	24	€1,440	Subsistence	€320	24	€7,680	Total			€19,920	December 2005	High	T1 T9	NWRDTF	€19,920 per year (€9,960 in Year 1)
Description	Average Cost	Meetings	Total																										
Meeting facility hire	€150	24	€3,600																										
Mileage expenses	€300	24	€7,200																										
Administration	€60	24	€1,440																										
Subsistence	€320	24	€7,680																										
Total			€19,920																										

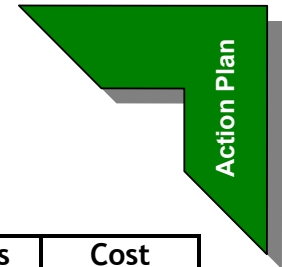


Awareness - to provide information on, and raise the level of public awareness of, illicit drug use and underage drinking in the North West

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Establish sub-committee, including representatives from Garda Síochána, Customs & Excise, with the authority to initiate actions aimed at supply reduction 	Start September 2005	High	S1 S2 S4	NWRDTF	€10,000
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Conduct research into levels of misuse in North West and provide access to up-to-date information 	Start July 2005	High	T12	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Work closely with communities to identify their concerns and issues relating to illicit drug use and underage drinking and to assist in finding solutions, e.g. the Bishops' Drug Initiative 	Start December 2005	High	E8 E7 E10 E11	NWRDTF lead role	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Identify effective communication pathways for individuals and communities to utilise in responding to illicit drug use and underage drinking at the local level 	Start December 2005	Medium - High	E7 E8 E10 S1 S2 S3	NWRDTF lead role	€0

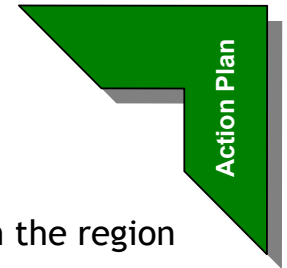
Awareness, continued

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost																
<p>□ Provide public training and information sessions for community and voluntary groups to assist in developing appropriate responses to local problems. Aims include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To maintain and reduce prevalence rates in the region through prevention and pro-active awareness campaigns ○ To address the significant threat, identified by Gardai, posed to the region, due to its proximity to Northern Ireland ○ To respond to the variance in needs of communities within the large geographic area covered by the NWRDTF ○ To encourage local involvement and strengthen ties between the NWRDTF and community groups <p>Structured training (e.g. “Drug Questions - Local Answers” format) by approved trainers will support communities in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Identifying the specific nature of the problem in their area, thereby providing a true picture of local needs ○ Generating tailored and innovative responses that meet the specific needs of RAPID areas, CLAR areas, and urban, rural, and border communities, etc. <p>Costs are based upon 12 programmes per year, as follows:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="220 1247 1050 1391"> <thead> <tr> <th>Description</th> <th>Average Cost</th> <th>Sessions</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Hire of meeting facilities</td> <td>€150</td> <td>72</td> <td>€3,600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Training costs</td> <td>€4,000</td> <td>12</td> <td>€48,000</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>€51,600</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Description	Average Cost	Sessions	Total	Hire of meeting facilities	€150	72	€3,600	Training costs	€4,000	12	€48,000	Total			€51,600	Start December 2005	High	E10 E7	NWRDTF, Community and voluntary groups	€51,600 per year (€25,800 in Year 1)
Description	Average Cost	Sessions	Total																		
Hire of meeting facilities	€150	72	€3,600																		
Training costs	€4,000	12	€48,000																		
Total			€51,600																		



Awareness, continued

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<p>□ Develop and publish regionally relevant, local information on illicit drug use and underage drinking. Produce and distribute professionally produced pamphlets, posters and other resources designed by local communities in the NW utilising the ‘process model of Learning’ i.e. the major emphasis will be on the learning gained by the community rather than on the product produced.</p> <p>The action will avoid duplication with existing resources by providing information specific to the North West, and further sub-divided into the constituent counties. It will achieve this by linking the development of the materials into the training and public consultation actions. For example, an important output from local community training programmes will be the development of tailored and innovative responses to their needs, (e.g. locally-based awareness campaigns.)</p> <p>The action will also incorporate information campaigns to be implemented directly by the NWRDTF, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ E-learning for parents accessing web-based material ○ Information cards on illicit drugs and underage drinking ○ Effects of illicit drug use and underage drinking on pregnancy 	<p>Start September 2005</p>	<p>Medium - High</p>	<p>E7 E10</p>	<p>NWRDTF</p>	<p>€20,000 per year (€10,000 in Year 1)</p>



Co-ordination - actions to improve effectiveness of delivery and implementation of resources in the region

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Establish protocols to co-ordinate inter-agency activities, e.g. interventions in schools and communities 	July 2005	High	T9 S2 S3	NWRDTF lead role	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Work in partnership with cross-border agencies to address illicit drug use and underage drinking in the region 	Start September 2005	Medium	E6 S5	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Research cross-border education projects to ensure resources are used to procure effective and evidence-based treatment and social care interventions in the schools and out-of-school settings 	Start early 2006	Medium	E6	NWRDTF	€0

Communication, inter-agency communication and promotion of co-ordinating role of the Task Force

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Promote the NWRDTF and its staff as the regional body for co-ordinating all illicit drug and underage drinking initiatives and as the central contact point in the region 	Start May 2005	High	E8 T9	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Undertake publicity campaign informing the public and community groups of the role and functions of NWRDTF, e.g. advertisements in regional papers and radio 	Start September 2005	High	E7	NWRDTF	€12,000 in Year 1 (€6,000 per year thereafter)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Design and maintain a single website for the NWRDTF, including sub-committees and special interest groups 	Start September 2005	High	E7	NWRDTF	€6,000 in Year 1 (€1,500 per year thereafter)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Publish a North West region handbook for those affected by illicit drug use and underage drinking, providing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ a step-by-step guide to accessing help locally ○ contact and service information at local/county level <p>Tailored to the North West, the handbook will not duplicate information existing at a national level.</p>	February 2006	High	E7	NWRDTF, community forums	€10,000 (Year 2 only)

Direct Actions - addressing regional issues within the Task Force's sphere of influence through proactive, evidence-based actions

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Establish a small-grant fund providing funding to evidence-based community and voluntary projects relating to illicit drug use and underage drinking. Includes funding for programmes identified by the NWRDTF in Years Two and Three, with the further possibility of securing matching funds from County Development Boards, PEACE II, etc. 	Start July 2005	High	S2 E1 E3 E4 E7 E9 E10 T2 T8 T11	NWRDTF	€60,000 per year (€30,000 in Year 1)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Initiate a film programme, aimed at transition year students, inviting submissions of films dealing with illicit drug use and underage drinking. Host an awards night, to be held with film societies of Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal, with prizes awarded to winning schools and students. 	Start September 2005	High	E7 E9 E10 S2	NWRDTF and secondary schools	€12,000 per year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Establish a relapse prevention programme to equip participants with a range of skills including assertiveness, problem solving and creativity. Use art therapy as a means of distilling information to the target group (i.e. non-academic), so as to provide support in reducing cravings. Developed and co-ordinated by the NWRDTF, it will be presented in conjunction with local artists. Programme costs are based upon an 8-week programme, to be run 3 times per year in community-based venues. 	Start September 2005	High	T2	NWRDTF	€12,000 per year (€8,000 in Year 1)

Direct Actions, continued

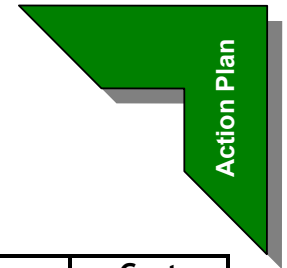
Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Develop programmes aimed at ‘night-time economies’, e.g. pubs and nightclubs, to address the intertwined nature of illicit drug use and underage drinking in the North West, as identified by the HSE NW and Gardai. This will include the provision of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Publicity material aimed exclusively at this sector, including consumers and businesses ○ Advice and support to businesses in addressing illicit drug use and underage drinking ○ A ‘getting home safe’ publicity campaign 	Start September 2005	High	E1 E3 E8 T8 S2	NWRDTF, pubs, nightclubs and Gardai	€8,000 in Year 1 (€6,000 per year thereafter)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Establish Youth Alcohol & Drug service in Leitrim on pilot basis, work through a local voluntary organisation, e.g. FOROIGE. Possibility of part-funding by the HSE NW 	Start January 2006	High	T5 E9	NWRDTF, HSE NW, voluntary organisation (to be identified)	€65,000 per year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Review NWRDTF structures and validate initiatives and programmes 	Start January 2006	High		NWRDTF	€10,000 per year
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Undertake regular audits of needs of specific sectors in, areas of the North West region 	Start March 2006	Medium	E5	NWRDTF	€20,000 per year

Advocacy - addressing issues outside of the Task Force's direct sphere of influence

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Help secure funding for programmes through HSE NW, aimed at the reduction of illicit drug use and underage drinking 	As appropriate	High	T13 T11	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support an increase in the number of support workers and level of resources available to those working with young people at risk and/or outside mainstream education 	As appropriate	High	E1 E4 T5 T8	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support development, between service providers and Gardai, of a referral scheme for underage drinking and drug-related offenders 	As appropriate	High	S1 S2 S3	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support the establishment of a urine analysis protocol between Probation and Welfare Service and HSE NW 	As appropriate	High	T9 T16	NWRDTF, HSE NW, Probation & Welfare	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support initiatives in the region that will impact on awareness, transmission, treatment and management of blood-borne viruses 	As appropriate	High	E3, E9 E10 E11 T1	NWRDTF, HSE NW	€0

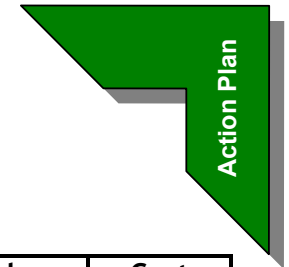
Advocacy, continued

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support the provision of Drug & Alcohol counsellors to the Courts Service, in partnership with Probation and Welfare 	As Appropriate	High	T9 T10 T11	NWRDTF, HSE NW, Probation and Welfare	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support the development of residential and in-patient services, e.g. under-18's alcohol and drug detoxification and treatment facility 	As Appropriate	High	T2, T10 T17	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Work with other agencies to identify more effective means of extracting and recording data on levels of abuse in the NW, e.g. Coroners Court and HIPE 	As Appropriate	High	T12	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support the HSE NW to develop a Court Alcohol and Drug Programme in region dedicated to under-18's. 	As Appropriate	Medium	T9	NWRDTF, HSE NW	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Review research conducted into the utilisation of SPHE within schools, with specific regard to effectiveness in the NW 	As Appropriate	Medium	E2	NWRDTF Dept. of Education	€0



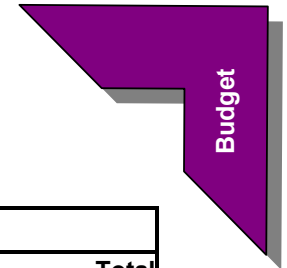
Advocacy, continued

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Assist in the drawing down of capital funding for community and voluntary-based projects relating to illicit drug use and underage drinking, primarily through the Capital Premises Fund 	Ongoing	Medium	T2 T10	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support applications for funding for education and prevention programmes 	Ongoing	Medium	E3	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Assist in the establishment of tenancy support services for dependent drug users 	As appropriate	Medium	T14	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support an increase in staff numbers of Youth and Adult Alcohol & Drug Service and Health Promotion Team 	As appropriate	Medium	T6 T7	NWRDTF, HSE NW	€0



Advocacy, continued

Action	Timescale	Priority	Code	Stakeholders	Cost
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Lobby for greater enforcement of existing legislation, e.g. underage drinking laws, consistency of court penalties 	As appropriate	Low	S8	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support programmes that will assist drug users in addressing their housing needs 	As Appropriate	Low	T14	NWRDTF	€0
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> □ Support the establishment of balanced and workable guidelines for a clearance system, i.e. a workable vetting process 	As appropriate	Low	T3	NWRDTF	€0



7.0 Budget

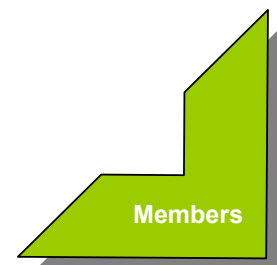
Objectives	Actions	Priority	Cost			Total
			Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	
Operational actions	<input type="checkbox"/> Recruitment	High	€4,000	€0	€0	€4,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Employment	High	€183,000	€183,000	€183,000	€549,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Operating costs	High	€25,000	€25,000	€25,000	€75,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Training and support to NWRDTF	High	€5,000	€5,000	€5,000	€15,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Sub-committees	High	€9,960	€19,920	€19,920	€49,800
Awareness	<input type="checkbox"/> Training & information sessions	High	€25,800	€51,600	€51,600	€129,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Supply reduction initiatives	High	€10,000	€10,000	€10,000	€30,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Develop & publish resource materials	Medium/High	€10,000	€20,000	€20,000	€50,000
Co-ordination	<input type="checkbox"/> All actions	All priorities	€0	€0	€0	€0
Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> Publicity campaign	High	€12,000	€6,000	€6,000	€24,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Website	High	€6,000	€1,500	€1,500	€7,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Publications	High	€0	€10,000	€0	€10,000
Direct Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> Evidence-based programme funding	High	€30,000	€60,000	€60,000	€150,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Film programme	High	€12,000	€12,000	€12,000	€36,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Relapse Prevention programme	High	€8,000	€12,000	€12,000	€32,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> 'Night-time Economies' Programme	High	€6,000	€8,000	€8,000	€22,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth Alcohol & Drug Service in Leitrim	High	€0	€65,000	€65,000	€130,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> Review/ validation of initiatives	High	€5,000	€10,000	€10,000	€25,000
Advocacy	<input type="checkbox"/> Needs Audits	Medium	€10,000	€20,000	€20,000	€50,000
	<input type="checkbox"/> All actions	All priorities	€0	€0	€0	€0
Total Costs			€361,760	€519,020	€509,020	€1,389,800

Appendix I
NWRDTF Members

North West Regional Drug Task Force Members

Mr. Loman Conway	Chairman, North West Regional Drugs Task Force
Ms. Trish Garland	Health Service Executive (Interim Co-ordinator)
Ms. Rita Ann Burke	Community Representative, Sligo
Fr. Neal Carlin	Voluntary Sector
Fr. Sean Cassin	National Drugs Strategy Team
Ms. Dorothy Clarke	County Development Board Representative (Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal)
Ms. Paula Cooney	Probation and Welfare Services
Ms. Ann Donegan	Community Representative, Sligo
Mr. Gerry Doyle	Local Authority Representative (Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal)
Mr. Frank Fox	Department of Education and Science
Cllr. Tony Ferguson	Public Representative, Leitrim
Fr. Tom Hever	Voluntary Sector
Det. Insp. James Kearns	An Garda Síochána
Mr. Larry Kelly	FÁS
Mr. Paddy Kennedy	Community Representative, Donegal
Cllr. Peter Kennedy †	Public Representative, Donegal
Sr. Dolores Kilbane	Community Representative, Leitrim
Ms. Paula Leonard	Voluntary Sector (Travellers)
Cllr. Jerry Lundy	Public Representative, Sligo
Ms. Susan McLoughlin	Voluntary Sector (Youth Services)
Mr. Michael McLoughlin	Community representative, West Cavan
Ms. Moira Mills	North West Alcohol Forum
Mr. Mickey Mullen	Community Representative, Donegal
Seán O'Longáin	V.E.C.
Mr. Jim Penders	Community Representative, Leitrim
Mr. Gerry Walsh	Revenue Commissions, Customs and Excise

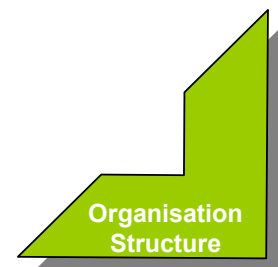
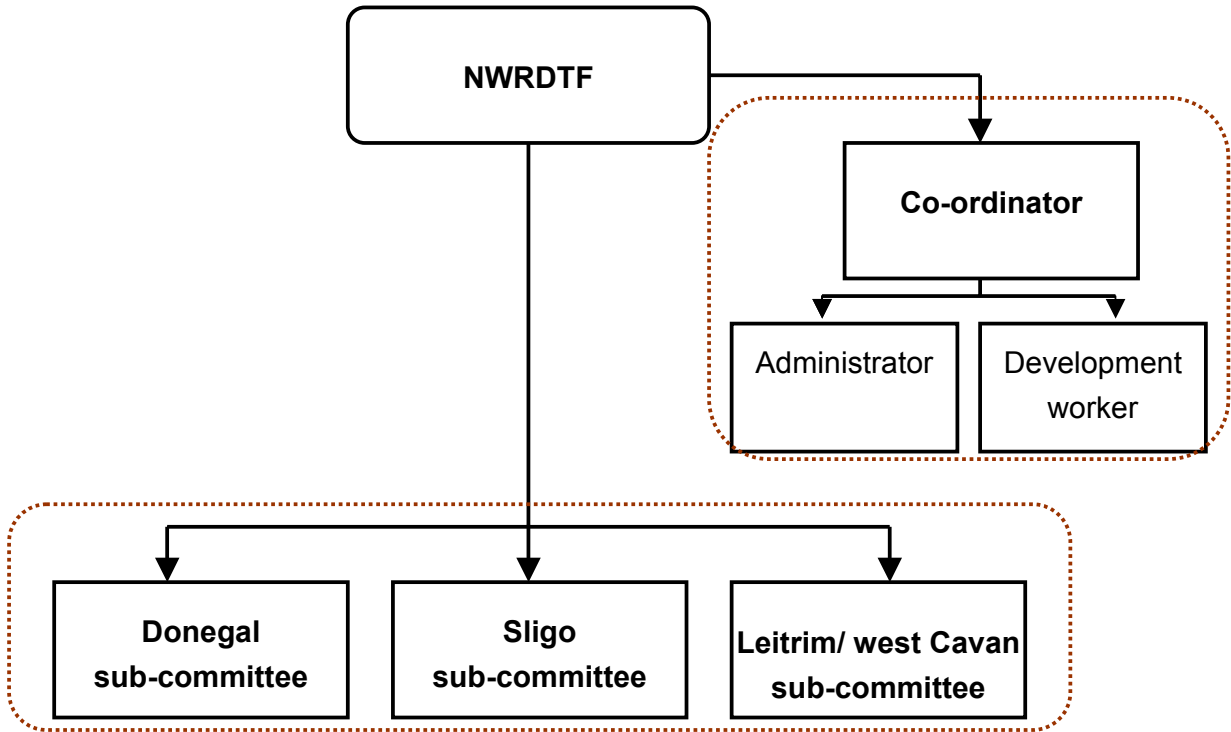
† Deceased



Appendix II
Organisational Structure

Organisational Structure

The proposed organisational structure of the NWRDTF is outlined below:



Appendix III
Operational Issues

Operational Issues

The NWRDTF will continue to operate as a Regional Task Force, as established by the NDS. To ensure that it can operate as an effective organisation, a number of operational issues need to be addressed, including the following:

□ **Legal Structure**

The Task Force currently operates as an association, with no formal legal structure. The legal structure for the future operations of the NWRDTF will be decided, depending on the recommendations of the NDS. The likely options for the legal structure are:

- Company limited by guarantee (registered as a charitable organisation)
- Task Force under the auspices of a host agencies, (i.e. an existing body), e.g. HSE NW, LEADER, Community & Enterprise.

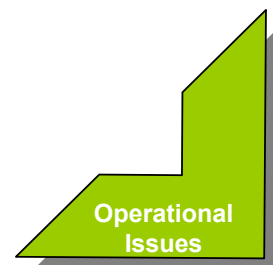
□ **Employment**

The NDS have stated that the operational activities of each Task Force will, at a minimum, require the employment of three people, i.e.:

- RDTF Co-ordinator
- Development Worker
- Administrator

The job description, salary structure, core competencies and reporting arrangements for each of the posts have been established in guidelines provided by the NDST.

The employees will be contracted either to the NWRDTF directly or to a host agency, depending on the legal structure identified by the Task Force, as recommended by the NDS. This will have implications regarding employer's PRSI, employment rights, obligations and insurance.



□ **Insurance**

Depending on the legal structure recommended by the NDS, the NWRDTF's insurance requirements and costs will be incurred in either of the following:

➤ **Limited company**

If the Task Force establishes a company limited by guarantee, insurance considerations will include the following:

- General insurance cover, e.g. equipment
- Employers liability
- Public liability

➤ **Host agency**

In this case the host agency would fulfil the insurance requirements. This, however, would depend on the agency's ability to incorporate the activities of the NWRDTF and the proposed employees, into its existing structure and insurance arrangements

□ **Location**

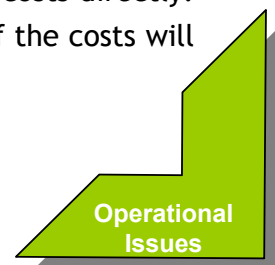
Due to the geographic spread of the region, the head offices will need to be located in a central location, e.g. Ballyshannon.

□ **Operational costs**

Operational costs for the NWRDTF will include, e.g.:

- | | |
|-------------|-------------|
| □ Heating | □ Telephone |
| □ Postage | □ Rent |
| □ Insurance | □ Auditing |

If the NWRDTF operates as a limited company, it will incur the costs directly. If it operates under a host agency, a contribution towards all of the costs will be made the Task Force through its operational budget.



□ **Auditing requirements**

Annually, an independent auditor will audit the financial accounts of the NWRDTF and a report, formally approved by the NWRDTF, will be forwarded to the NDST.

□ **Sub-committees**

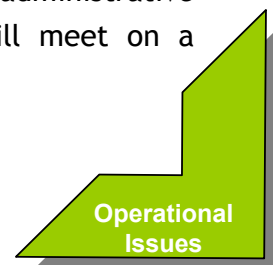
As previously noted, the NWRDTF have agreed to establish and operate county-based and interest-based sub-committees, primarily because of the following:

- Geographic size of the region covered by the NWRDTF, stretching from the Inishowen Peninsula southward along the border with Northern Ireland and eastward to Leitrim's border with Co. Longford
- Difficulties faced to date by NWRDTF members in disseminating information to representatives based within three different county structures
- Differing nature of problems faced by the separate counties, e.g. North Donegal's proximity to Derry, problems faced in specific areas within Sligo Town, Letterkenny and County Leitrim, etc., which are difficult to address in an all-inclusive, regional forum

The role and make-up of these sub-committees, while mirroring to an extent that of the NWRDTF, will vary slightly between counties depending upon local structures, needs, and resources. As sub-committees of the NWRDTF, however, county-based organisations will act on the Regional Task Force's behalf in ensuring that:

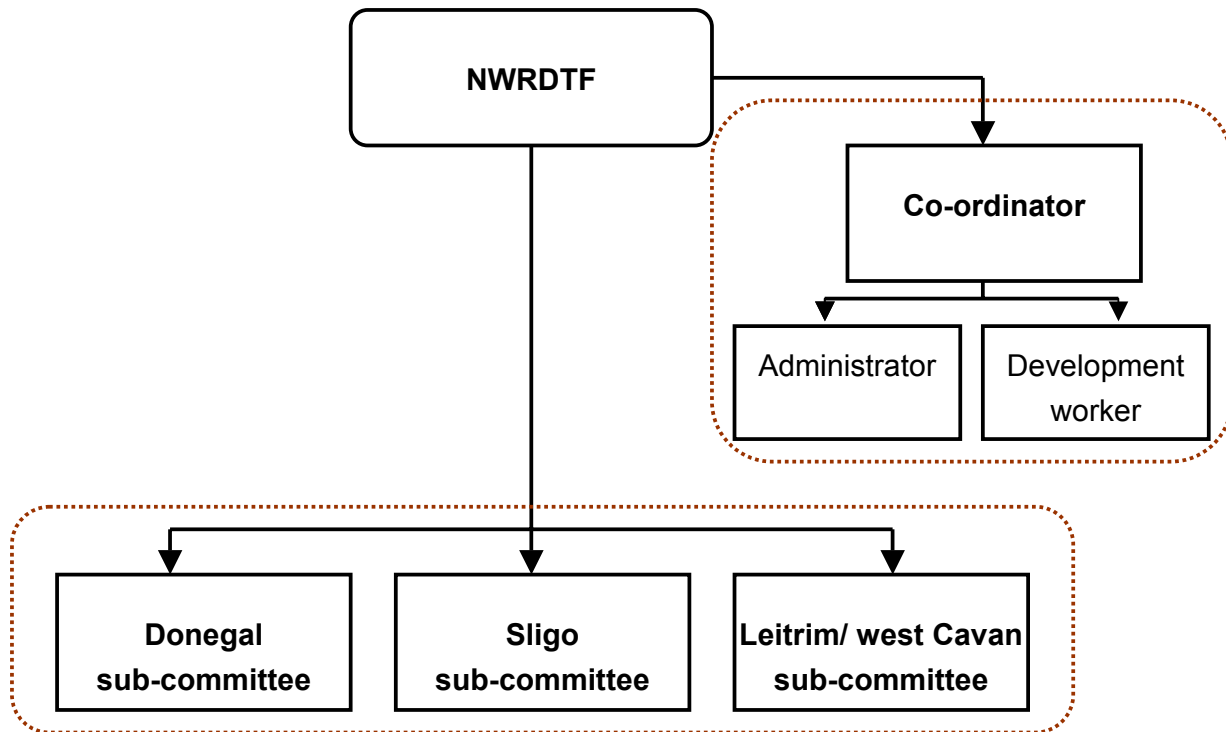
- The Strategic Plan 2005 -2008 is implemented
- Co-ordination occurs in the delivery of services and resources
- Responses to problems are appropriate to local needs.

The Regional Task Force will provide direction, guidance and administrative support to county-based sub-committees, each of which will meet on a



regular basis to review progress, identify new needs, and to provide up-date reports to the NWRDTF.

The organisational structure of the NWRDTF under the county-based format is outlined below:



□ **Funding**

Funding received from the NDST will be utilised in accordance with the requirements of the funding agency and the Strategic Plan 2005 - 2008. The NWRDTF will retain control of all funds allocated to the North West and will monitor and review all funding grants to approved programmes within the region.

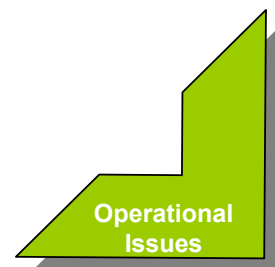
Where funding allows, as in the case of capital funding, the Regional Task Force will issue a public call for submissions for funding assistance for projects dealing with illicit drug use and underage drinking. Submissions will be received, reviewed, and assessed by the NWRDTF, or its representatives, for selection for grant aid support. All project funded by the NWRDTF will be

reviewed and assessed on an annual basis by an independent, external assessor.

Where eligible, and appropriate, specified monetary amounts will be allocated to each county for the implementation of local programmes and initiatives aimed at problems in their respective regions. As in the case of the NWRDTF, local committees will also issue public calls for submissions and will review and assess submitted proposals prior to the forwarding of selected projects to the NWRDTF for funding approval.

□ **Strategic Plan Review**

On an annual basis, the NWRDTF will meet formally to review and assess the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2005 - 2008, and to revise the Plan if appropriate. Fiscal requirements of the Plan will also be reviewed and updated where necessary, and included in the annual funding submission to the NDST.



Appendix IV
List of References

List of References

An Garda Síochána, *Annual Report of An Garda Síochána, 2002*

An Garda Síochána, *Annual Report of An Garda Síochána, 2003*

Central Statistics Office, *Census of Population, 2002*

Department of Education and Science, *Guidelines for developing a school substance use policy, 2002*

Department of Health and Children, Health Promotion Unit, *Facts About Drug Misuse in Ireland, 2003*

Department of Tourism, Sport and Recreation, *National Drugs Strategy 2001 - 2008, Building on Experience.*

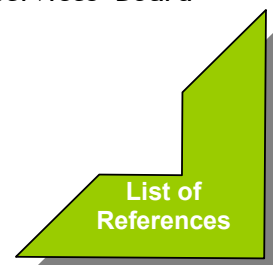
DMRD Occasional Paper No. 11. *Trends in treated problem drug use in the seven health board areas outside the Eastern Regional Health Authority, 1998 to 2002, 2004*

DMRD Occasional Paper No. 12. *Trends in treated problem drug use in the seven health board areas outside the Eastern Regional Health Authority, 1998 to 2002, 2004*

DMRD Occasional Paper No.13. *Trends in treated problem opiate use the seven health board areas outside the Eastern Regional Health Authority 1998 to 2002, 2004*

Irish College of General Practitioners, *Working with opiates users in community-based primary care, 2003*

National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) & Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU), *Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results, Bulletin 2, 2004.*



National Advisory Committee on Drugs (NACD) & Drug and Alcohol Information and Research Unit (DAIRU), *Drug Use in Ireland and Northern Ireland, 2002/2003 Drug Prevalence Survey: Health Board (Ireland) & Health and Social Services Board (Northern Ireland) Results*, Bulletin 1, 2004.

National Advisory Committee on Drugs, *Drug Use Prevention*, 2001

National Advisory Committee on Drugs, *Mental health and addiction services and the management of dual diagnosis in Ireland*, 2004

National Advisory Committee on Drugs, *The Role of Family Support Services in Drug Prevention*, 2004

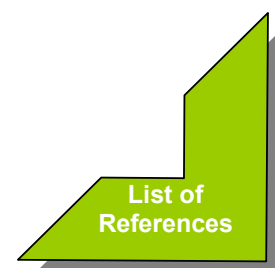
North West Alcohol Forum, *A Portrait of our Drinking*, 2004

North Western Health Board, *Young People - Alcohol and Drugs Project*, 2000

NSW Drugs and Community Action Strategy, *Framework for Action*, 2000

Strategic Task Force on Alcohol, *Second Report*, 2004

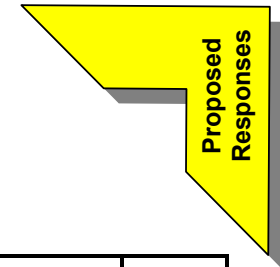
Survey of Lifestyle Attitudes and Nutrition (SLÁN) and Health Behaviour of School Aged Children (HBSC), *National Health and Lifestyle Surveys*, 2003



Appendix V

Proposed Responses

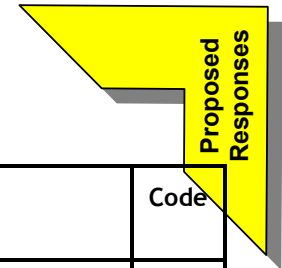
***Identified during workshops
and interviews***



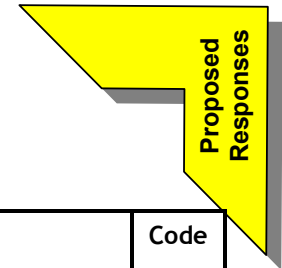
Education and Prevention

<i>Service Gaps - Education and Prevention</i>	Proposed Responses	Code ²¹
<p><i>Interventions with young people who are leaving or have left the education system.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Look at ways of dealing more effectively with young people who drop out, e.g. cross-agency programmes, meetings between professions & parents, when appropriate, to address each case <input type="checkbox"/> Identify a method for tracking this cohort over time <input type="checkbox"/> Learn from voluntary experience, e.g. FOROIGE, review possibility of using existing programmes <input type="checkbox"/> Explore the possibility of using existing FÁS and VEC programmes, etc., to access young people in this sector 	E1
<p><i>Review the effectiveness of the drugs and alcohol elements of the SPHE Programme. Some schools are more active than others.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Research the level of usage of SPHE within schools <input type="checkbox"/> Promote the use of programmes in schools to maximise rollout <input type="checkbox"/> The quality of the programmes needs to be evaluated on an on-going basis <input type="checkbox"/> Need for ongoing training for delivery staff. (This should be needs-led) <input type="checkbox"/> Continue to promote the SPHE programme which addresses quality of life and personal development issues as an important “holistic” approach to drugs issues and underage drinking <input type="checkbox"/> To implement the primary SPHE programme, which is spiral in nature and revisits the topics <input type="checkbox"/> Establish protocols to ensure consistent, accurate and efficient use of resources <input type="checkbox"/> Promote the use of the School Journal <input type="checkbox"/> Promote awareness of SpunOut as a resource for young people on a range of health issues, including drugs 	E2

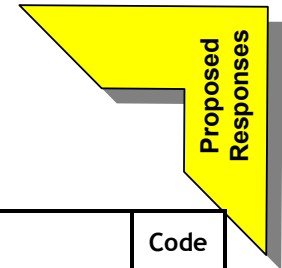
²¹ Each “Proposed Response” has been allocated a code that will be used to provide a direct link between proposed responses and action items.



Service Gaps - Education and Prevention	Proposed Responses	Code
<i>There is scope for allocating more funding for programmes aimed at education/prevention, specifically underage drinking</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support applications for more funding for education and prevention programmes <input type="checkbox"/> Funding for Parent Stop project in Letterkenny <input type="checkbox"/> Funding for training of regional volunteers manning advice and support hotline 	E3
<i>Lack of co-ordinated service provision for out-of-school youth work provision in certain areas and communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Examine the budget of the RDTF and look at directing funding towards addressing this gap <input type="checkbox"/> Undertake an audit of the needs within certain areas and communities prior to implementation, to ensure the provision of appropriate services <input type="checkbox"/> Establish and implement on-going quality assurance measures 	E4
<i>Continuity of funding for youth projects and services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify what exists, what needs to be or could be adapted, also evaluation of programmes <input type="checkbox"/> Provide support for youth website/ on-line support services <input type="checkbox"/> Provide support for sport and other activities serving youth <input type="checkbox"/> Funding of special youth (at risk) projects in region <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase of materials for youth projects <input type="checkbox"/> Provide private and secure meeting places for youth to meet 	E5
<i>Cross-border education projects</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Research what exists in Ireland, EU, etc., to identify effective projects, also what can be developed from existing programmes for incorporation in youth services and perhaps schools? 	E6

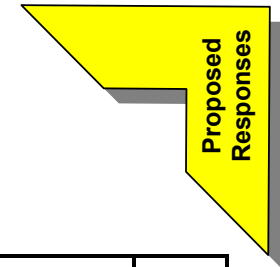


Service Gaps - Education and Prevention	Proposed Responses	Code
<p><i>Lack of awareness among communities of programmes and supports available</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Raise awareness with the publication and distribution of a service directory <input type="checkbox"/> Review the role of agencies and representatives to ensure that existing channels are used more effectively, particularly when providing support to the communities <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct community information sessions regarding drug misuse and underage drinking <input type="checkbox"/> Fund community forums to provide information and support regarding drug misuse and underage drinking to communities and agencies at local levels <input type="checkbox"/> Assist in development of communication strategies to effect contact with/ between groups at local level <input type="checkbox"/> Promote awareness of Parent and Fás le Chéile 	<p>E7</p>
<p><i>Information and support services provided to youth, parents, adults and communities often varies, depending on the initial contact point, e.g. schools, Gardai, health service, etc.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a central contact-point, i.e. most likely the Task Force, who can identify the most relevant agency and/ or representative to provide support <input type="checkbox"/> Establish protocols for introducing people to the system. Most statutory bodies have policies regarding alcohol & drugs that could be used to establish a protocol for the Task Force <input type="checkbox"/> Need for inter-agency approach in establishing the above protocol <input type="checkbox"/> Promote SpunOut.ie as a source of information for young people 	<p>E8</p>
<p><i>While there are numerous programmes aimed at children at risk, parents' of such children are not participating in many of the programmes available</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop programmes/mechanisms aimed at parents' of children at risk (Parent Plus programmes) <input type="checkbox"/> Co-ordinate programmes for children and parents, e.g. parents' programmes are run by a different area of the HSE <input type="checkbox"/> Use Home School Liaison/ Breaking the Cycle/ School Completion/ Giving Children and Even Break to link with parents of children at risk <input type="checkbox"/> Develop links with NEPS and NEWB 	<p>E9</p>



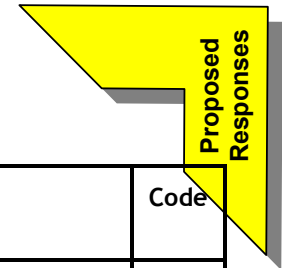
<i>Service Gaps - Education and Prevention</i>	Proposed Responses	Code
<i>Lack of skills training for communities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identify communities that require intervention, with a view to building their capacity to facilitate specialist service providers to work within their communities <input type="checkbox"/> Provide training and support programmes to communities <input type="checkbox"/> Build upon the grass-roots knowledge of community groups and agencies <input type="checkbox"/> Provide funding to community and voluntary groups working in the sector <input type="checkbox"/> Support for capacity building programmes for Traveller Community Health Workers in region <input type="checkbox"/> Support in establishing Traveller (Health) group in Leitrim <input type="checkbox"/> Training of Foroige volunteers 	E10
<i>Awareness of Best Practice</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Identification and endorsement of best practice at community level by NWRDTF <input type="checkbox"/> Promote the principle of young people’s involvement on a rights based participation agenda <input type="checkbox"/> Research methodologies such as Draw & Write could be used to establish a baseline of where children are at and thus ensure more effective and targeted planning²² 	E11

²² Research indicates that children by age 10 have already formed attitudes to drugs.

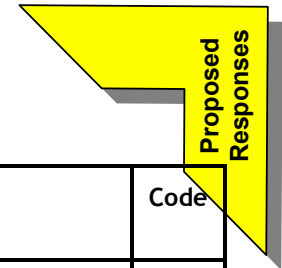


Treatment and Rehabilitation

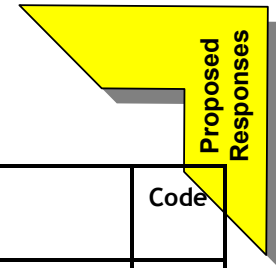
<i>Service Gaps - Treatment and Rehabilitation</i>	Proposed Responses	Code
<i>Up-to-date skills training for all persons working with drugs in the region</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Need to 'upskill' staff, groups working in the field and support workers in addiction services on drug-specific knowledge <input type="checkbox"/> Provide expert training and expand the knowledge base within the region <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a sub-committee within the NWRDTF, which incorporates expert input on developments in drug-related issues 	T1
<i>There is a lack of voluntary and community group participation/ support in treatment programmes and referral to treatment</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Upskill voluntary and community groups <input type="checkbox"/> A project/ field worker to be employed locally (shared by community groups) to support/ educate local groups to develop skills around drug issues and under-age drinking <input type="checkbox"/> Encourage the participation of parents of children taking drugs and/or alcohol in voluntary sector involvement 	T2
<i>The vetting process for voluntary involvement in programmes is either too difficult or not intense enough</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establish balanced and workable guidelines for a clearance system 	T3



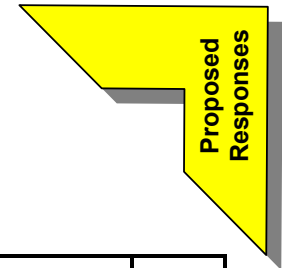
<i>Service Gaps - Treatment and Rehabilitation</i>	Proposed Responses	Code
<i>With an increase in the numbers of refugees and asylum seekers in the area, there is a growing need for support groups and information regarding “new” drugs</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Upskill staff regarding specialist drug issues for refugees, asylum seekers and special interest groups <input type="checkbox"/> Review the possibility of establishing a post to provide support to these groups in relation to drugs and under-age drinking 	T4
<i>Due to numbers, there is a gap in the services available through the Youth Alcohol and Drug services</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a Youth Alcohol and Drug Service in Leitrim and expand the current Youth Alcohol and Drug Service in Sligo and Donegal 	T5
<i>Adult addiction service is at capacity</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Need to increase staff numbers and expand the capacity of adult addiction services 	T6
<i>The size of the health promotion team is small relative to the area being covered</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Need to expand the numbers and resources available to the health promotion team 	T7
<i>Need to develop support programmes, to be provided in an out-of-school setting</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Increase the level of support workers and resources available to those working in this sector, particularly to the Home Youth Liaison 	T8



<i>Service Gaps - Treatment and Rehabilitation</i>	Proposed Responses	Code
<i>There is a lack of co-ordination of drug awareness and prevention programmes among statutory and voluntary agencies</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Develop a cross-agency programme, incorporating support from a range of agencies, e.g. Probation, Health Board, FAS and VEC <input type="checkbox"/> Reduce the amount to which agencies involved in dealing with drugs issues work in isolation from each other <input type="checkbox"/> Establish county-based Task Forces <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a system that encourages effective communication between the agencies at appropriate levels 	T9
<i>There is no day-programme for drugs in the region</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establish a day-programme for drugs, possibly with the support of a cross-agency programme such as that discussed above 	T10
<i>Funding for development work posts</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Explore possibility for matching funds with County Development Boards and community groups <input type="checkbox"/> Share project workers within rehabilitation, treatment, education and prevention <input type="checkbox"/> Avoid duplication by providing training to shared workers 	T11
<i>Lack of data on drug misuse</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Need support from the coroner's court and A&E data to help determine the real levels of abuse <input type="checkbox"/> Explore possibility of establishing more effective methods of extracting relevant information from HIPE <input type="checkbox"/> Provide access to up to date, reliable information concerning drug misuse and underage drinking 	T12

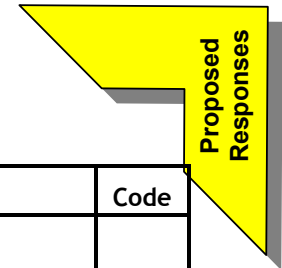


<i>Service Gaps - Treatment and Rehabilitation</i>	Proposed Responses	Code
<i>Lack of funding for drugs and underage-drinking programmes</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Use NWRDTF to secure funding for drugs and under-age drinking programmes through the HSE <input type="checkbox"/> Development of Court Alcohol Programme in region dedicated to under 18s 	T13
<i>Need for increased support for dependant drug users to ensure their situation does not worsen, e.g. lose housing and become homeless</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Provision of tenancy support for dependant drug users to ensure their situation does not worsen, e.g. lose housing and become homeless, thereby exacerbating the problem <input type="checkbox"/> Development of sheltered housing for dependant drug users 	T14
<i>Danger of Treatment and Rehabilitation services becoming too involved in primary prevention</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> While encouraging co-ordination of services, ensure that education and awareness is driven primarily by those agencies and voluntary groups within that sector 	T15
<i>Methadone service gaps</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support to GPs in region providing methadone treatment services <input type="checkbox"/> Need for establishing urine analysis protocols between Probation and HSE 	T16
<i>Lack of in-patient services in region</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Need for 'detox' facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Support for residential rehab in Athlone <input type="checkbox"/> Support for under 18 alcohol treatment facility 	T17



Supply Reduction

<i>Service Gaps - Supply Reduction</i>	Proposed Responses	Code
<p><i>Information exchange between authorities, such as the Garda, Customs, CAB, Local Authorities, EU Authorities and the Courts</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Better exchange of intelligence <input type="checkbox"/> Representation at division level <input type="checkbox"/> Greater liaison with housing officers <input type="checkbox"/> Councillors to address the “respectability” of drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Implement county-based initiatives that will inform the public how to report/ respond to drug issues <input type="checkbox"/> Full-time officers with EU funding to combat drugs <input type="checkbox"/> Gardai and customs excise to develop links with the EU 	<p>S1</p>
<p><i>Lack of support and education initiatives within the community regarding drug misuse</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Establish protocols to report misuse while safeguarding the informant/ individual <input type="checkbox"/> Provide support through the liaison officers <input type="checkbox"/> Support people and representatives on the ground to ensure that “early identification can lead to early intervention” 	<p>S2</p>
<p><i>Lack of support system for communication</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Re-develop and re-discuss operational protocols on an inter-agency and agency-community basis <input type="checkbox"/> Establish operational protocols at more levels, e.g. local and operational 	<p>S3</p>



<i>Service Gaps - Supply Reduction</i>	Proposed Responses	Code
<i>Resources, i.e. the funds available to agencies and representatives involved in supply reduction</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Any actions in this regard would be considered political <input type="checkbox"/> Any interventions should be related to necessity and effectiveness <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-border links should be reviewed in regard to resources in the region <input type="checkbox"/> Use the NWRDTF to lobby for resources/ actions relevant to the needs of representative agencies <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Revenue Boat fleet to include west coast <input type="checkbox"/> More personnel to monitor drug issues, consider permanent stationing of officers at Knock airport 	S4
<i>Influence of Northern Ireland</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Consolidation and growth in cross-border links will be vital to reducing supply in the Northwest, e.g. Derry has a strong influence on the drugs scene in Inishowen and Letterkenny 	S5
<i>Training</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Training should be provided in drugs specialisation and equipment 	S6
<i>Inconsistencies in courts, e.g. fines</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support a standardisation of fines for drugs-related offences 	S8
<i>Enforcement/ anti-social behaviour</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Support Housing Liaison office to work with residents & apply tenancy agreement with regard to drug issues <input type="checkbox"/> Inform guidelines to ensure fair application of tenancy agreements 	S9