



Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum

Strategic Plan 2016-2021

Mission Statement

Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum is committed to supporting an interagency approach in the delivery of information, supporting the coordination of services and delivery of strategic goals that aim to address, challenge and prevent the misuse of drugs and alcohol in County Monaghan.

Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum will operate in a manner that is respectful, inclusive and fair to all its members and communities of County Monaghan.

Background to Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum

Introduction

Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum was established to identify the key issues in County Monaghan with regard to drugs and alcohol misuse and to identify possible solutions to identified issues using collaborative action. During the development of Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021, the issue of substance misuse was raised on numerous occasions. A research commissioned by Teach na Daoine Family Resource Centre – ***A Community based study of synthetic cannabinoid use in County Monaghan*** also raised a number of issues and concerns in relation to the problematic use of drugs and alcohol within the community. Subsequently, the establishment of a Drugs and Alcohol Forum was included as an action in Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021.

Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021 :

Strategic objective 5.3	<i>To improve and sustain the health and wellbeing of all people in County Monaghan</i>
Action: 5.3.3	<i>Establish a Drugs and Alcohol Forum for County Monaghan</i>

Monaghan County Council coordinated an interagency steering committee that organised a community wide consultation workshop the purpose of the workshop was to explore whether there was interest in establishing a county wide drugs and alcohol forum, and to agree on draft strategic actions that could be addressed by the forum. The consultation workshop took place in April 2016. Over fifty professional staff from a broad spectrum of local statutory, community and voluntary services attended the workshop.

This strategic plan outlines the core issues identified by participants at the consultation workshop and the strategic actions that the forum will progress in order to address these issues.

Current issues relating to Drugs and Alcohol misuse in County Monaghan

Service area	Key issues identified in consultation
Early intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of services for young people who are at the early stages of experimenting with drugs and alcohol, but have not yet reached a stage of dependency Early interventions should link in with schools and Social Personal and Health Educational (SPHE) classes
Recreational opportunities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of services for young people who are interested in social activities other than sport (theatre, dance, social activism, arts etc.) There is also a lack of after-hours facilities for young people, which is linked to the variety of services available There is a need for more premises for those services that are working with youth offering opportunities to clubs and/or youth groups
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to transport is a significant issue affecting people's ability to access social and recreational services. The lack of a transport infrastructure makes it difficult for young people living in rural areas to access services and activities in urban centres
Residential treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is very limited access to national residential treatment available to services in Monaghan. There are no regional residential options for people with problematic substance use in any age group within the area
Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol is the biggest substance misuse issue right across all age profiles in the county There is a need for more awareness raising and education on the effects of alcohol misuse There has been a significant rise in the number of people over fifty presenting in A&E with alcohol intake related injuries

Current issues relating to Drugs and Alcohol misuse in County Monaghan

Service area	Key issues identified in consultation
Early intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of services for young people who are at the early stages of experimenting with drugs and alcohol, but have not yet reached a stage of dependency Early interventions should link in with schools and Social Personal and Health Educational (SPHE) classes
Recreational opportunities for young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of services for young people who are interested in social activities other than sport (theatre, dance, social activism, arts etc.) There is also a lack of after-hours facilities for young people, which is linked to the variety of services available There is a need for more premises for those services that are working with youth offering opportunities to clubs and/or youth groups
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Access to transport is a significant issue affecting people's ability to access social and recreational services. The lack of a transport infrastructure makes it difficult for young people living in rural areas to access services and activities in urban centres
Residential treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is very limited access to national residential treatment available to services in Monaghan. There are no regional residential options for people with problematic substance use in any age group within the area
Alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Alcohol is the biggest substance misuse issue right across all age profiles in the county There is a need for more awareness raising and education on the effects of alcohol misuse There has been a significant rise in the number of people over fifty presenting in A&E with alcohol intake related injuries

Current issues relating to Drugs and Alcohol misuse in County Monaghan

Service area	Key issues identified in consultation
Referral routes in crisis services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship and referral routes between acute hospital services, drug services and mental health services are not clearly defined. Acute services do not know where to signpost or to send young people when they present at A&E
Supports for Travellers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no Traveller specific services in relation to addiction and substance misuse There is limited awareness of needs of the Traveller Community with regard to substance misuse
Substance misuse among Ethnic Minorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a lack of information and understanding of trends emerging in relation to drugs and alcohol use within the ethnic minority communities throughout the county
Addiction and Homelessness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a need to support pathways for people presenting as homeless resulting from addiction
Transitional housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no supports in place in the region with regard to housing for people coming out of prison or residential care with a history of addiction
Opiate substitution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are currently no opiate substitute supports available in the county There is also no alternative to heroin substitute treatment options, other than methadone available in the county
Misuse of prescription medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is need to explore and identify trends with regard to misuse of prescription medications in particular among the over 65 age group

Current issues relating to Drugs and Alcohol misuse in County Monaghan

Service area	Key issues identified in consultation
Harm reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a need for harm reduction initiatives in the county to support people who have developed dependency and addiction to drugs and alcohol• Education on the wider aspects of addiction, substance misuse and mental health
Support for the formal Education Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a need for more awareness raising programmes and support for the formal education sector in recognising signs of substance misuse and addiction• There is a need for targeted strategies on how to address substance misuse within the formal education sector

Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum Terms of Reference

Aim

To support the interagency sharing of information, co-ordination of services and implementation of solutions to substance misuse in County Monaghan.

Values

The work of the forum is underpinned by the following values:

- The work is evidence based
- The approach is inclusive
- The focus is action orientated

Membership

Any organisation with an interest in the area can request, through the Chair, to join the group, so long as they can commit to the terms of reference. The Forum can co-opt new members if they have relevant expertise.

Member responsibilities

- Members need to commit to attendance at meetings
- If a substitute attends the meeting the member of the group should ensure they are briefed sufficiently to allow them to undertake tasks that may be assigned to them
- Members have a responsibility to undertake assigned tasks in the agreed time or to ensure that these are done

Role of Forum Member

- To support the development of a strategic action plan for the forum
- To support the working groups to overcome challenges they face in achieving their priority actions
- To support communications throughout the Forum

Forum Working Groups

Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum will aim to deliver the actions of this strategy through four thematic working groups focusing on the following thematic areas:

1. Education, formal and informal
2. Research and Co-ordination
3. Training, awareness raising and development
4. Youth and young people (up to 25 yrs)

Role of working groups

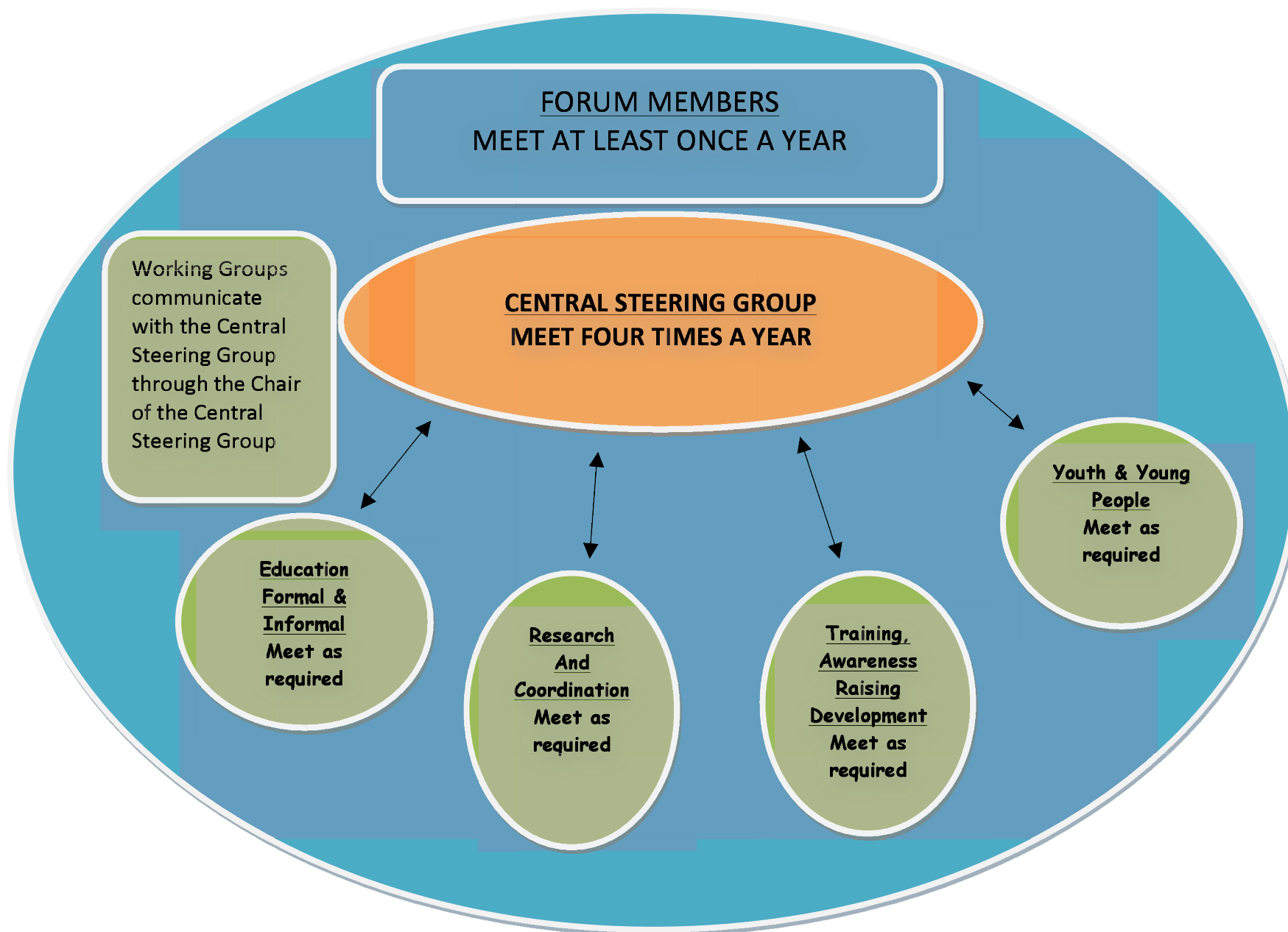
- Each working group will deliver related actions in line with the strategic plan
- Members will meet as often as they deem necessary
- Members will lend subject matter expertise in order to identify and progress actions
- Non Forum members may be invited to join a working group

Secretariat duties

Secretariat duties and developmental support for the forum will be provided by Monaghan County Council, and will specifically include:

- Support the delivery of actions within the strategy
- Sending out notification of meetings
- Support reporting from the working groups to the steering group
- Writing and maintaining a record of meeting minutes
- Providing a venue

Structure of the Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum



Strategic Goals, Objectives and Supporting Actions

Strategic Goal 1: To increase the availability of youth specific substance misuse intervention services		
Objective	Supporting actions	Indicator
To create a proposal for the development of a new youth service to deal specifically with drug and alcohol issues	<p>Identify new funding streams that can be utilised for the creation of a new drug and alcohol service that has a focus on at risk youth</p> <p>Identify one to one counselling services for young people and children with addiction issues</p> <p>Development of assertive outreach and brief interventions programmes</p>	<p>Profile of eligible funding opportunities produced</p> <p>Counselling service for young people established</p> <p>Two outreach intervention programmes established</p>
Strategic Goal 2: To increase the availability of and access to recreational opportunities for young people in the county		
Objective	Supporting actions	Indicator
To increase the availability of and access to recreational opportunities for young people in the county	<p>Conduct a mapping exercise of existing facilities and recreational opportunities for young people in the county</p> <p>Identify potential recreational services for young people that could be delivered through existing facilities/organisations</p>	<p>Profile of current facilities and recreational opportunities for young people produced</p> <p>Three additional recreational services established through existing facilities/organisations</p>

Strategic Goals, Objectives and Supporting Actions

Strategic Goal 3: To improve and develop interagency collaboration among service providers, communities and service users in County Monaghan		
Objective	Supporting actions	Indicator
To develop service pathways/interagency working agreements and protocols for better interagency working	<p>Implement a case management approach in relation to follow-up and support of services users post crisis, similar to Meithal, NDRIC Framework</p> <p>Support the capacity within services to respond to key issues such as dual diagnosis and suicidal behaviour through training and education</p>	<p>Case management post crisis support services established for County Monaghan</p> <p>Training programme on responding to key issues (identified in consultation with services) developed and delivered</p>
Strategic Goal 4: To increase the availability of support for parents, families and young people dealing with substance misuse directly or indirectly.		
Objective	Supporting actions	Indicator
To support the development of parental support programmes and supports for young people affected by substance misuse	<p>Develop information for parents relating to addiction and its impact on society and young people</p> <p>Develop supports for young people whose parents are abusing drugs and alcohol</p>	A support programme and supporting information for young people dealing with parents with addiction developed and delivered

Strategic Goals, Objectives and Supporting Actions

Strategic Goal 5: To increase the availability of training and awareness raising programmes on substance misuse in the county		
Objective	Supporting actions	Indicator
To support the development and rollout of training programmes which will support people who work directly or indirectly in the area of drug and alcohol misuse	Training on the symptoms of drug use Training on current trends in drug use and availability Training on how to carry out a brief intervention Promotion of programmes that are currently available Harm reduction training Cultural awareness - Ethnic Equality & Diversity training	Comprehensive training programme developed and implemented annually
Strategic Goal 6: To improve access to crisis and intervention services in the county		
Objective	Supporting actions	Indicator
To develop guidelines on referral pathways and interagency protocols relating to crisis intervention and working with adults and at risk youth	Collation of information on crisis intervention services available and how to access them Identify gaps and blocks within the existing system in order to improve access to crisis intervention services Evaluation of current referral pathway, including referral routes between acute hospital services, drug services and mental health services	Profile of crisis intervention services available produced Audit of existing crisis intervention services completed and recommendations for improved access identified Evaluation report on referral pathways produced

Strategic Goals, Objectives and Supporting Actions

Strategic Goal 7: To increase awareness on existing and emerging trends in relation to substance misuse in the county		
Objective	Supporting actions	Indicator
A comprehensive series of research studies on prioritised themes to be conducted and completed over the lifetime of the strategy	Research into alcohol misuse within all age profiles Research into substance misuse within the Traveller Community Research into substance misuse with ethnic minority communities Research into misuse of prescription medication in the county	Plan of proposed research projects developed Series of research reports on prioritised themes produced
Strategic Goal 8: To improve and increase awareness of services, information and supports through targeted information initiatives		
Objective	Supporting actions	Indicator
To develop a communication plan to promote and disseminate information on training, services, supports, and prevention initiatives regarding drugs and alcohol misuse in County Monaghan	To conduct a mapping exercise on substance misuse services and supports available Coordinate local media campaigns in association with relevant national awareness events Dissemination of information on supports, training, services, events and opportunities available for those affected by substance misuse Roll out a social media campaign to raise awareness of the work of Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum	Profile of all services and supports available in County Monaghan relating to substance misuse produced Publicity campaign to promote profile of services produced, delivered throughout the county Monthly public and social media report delivered to highlight the work of Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum

Monaghan Drugs and Alcohol Forum Steering Committee

Cathal Hand	Monaghan Primary Care Network Manager	HSE
Fintan Mc Phillips	Chief Officer Monaghan LCDC	Monaghan County Council
Bernie Bradley	Social Inclusion Officer	Monaghan County Council
Mary O'Reilly	Social Inclusion	HSE
Andy Ogle	Coordinator	North East Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
Lisa Gavillet	Development Worker	North East Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force
Irene Gilmore	Senior Probation Officer	Probation and Welfare Services
Packie Kelly	Coordinator	Teach Na Daoine FRC
Patricia Boyle	Addiction Services Cavan/Monaghan	HSE
Gerry Lowry	Area Manager	TUSLA
Gail Penders	Child & Wellbeing Centre Manager	TUSLA
Ann Murray	Administrative Officer Community Development	Monaghan County Council
Tom Freeman	Community Representative	Monaghan Public Participation Network
Tim Murphy	Coordinator	Cavan Monaghan Drugs Awareness group
Cllr. Paudge Connolly	Elected Representative	Monaghan County Council
Patrick A O'Connell	An Garda Siochanna	An Garda Siochanna
Martin Keeney	Coordinator	Children Young People Services Committee (CYPSC)

References

Monaghan Local Economic and Community Plan 2016-2021: Monaghan County Council – Monaghan Local Community Development Committee

A Community based study of synthetic cannabinoid use in County Monaghan: Teach na Daoine Family Resource Centre

Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, 2009. *The National Drugs Strategy (Interim) 2009 - 2016*, Dublin: Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Department of Health, 1991. *Government Strategy to Prevent Drug Misuse*, Dublin: Eastern Health Board

Department of Health, 2012. *Steering Group Report on a National Substance Misuse Strategy*, S.I.: Department of Health

Department of Social Protection, October 2015. *Programme Framework for CE Drug Rehabilitation Schemes*, Dublin: Department of Social Protection

Doyle, J. & Ivanovic, J., 2010. *National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework*, Dublin: Health Services Executive

Expert Group on Mental Health Policy, 2006. *A Vision For Change*, Dublin: Stationery Office

National Drugs Rehabilitation Implementation Committee, 2011. *National Protocols & Common Assessment Guidelines*, Kildare: Health Service Executive

Report of the HSE Working Group on Residential Treatment & Rehabilitation (Substance Users), 2007. *Report of the HSE Working Group on Residential Treatment & Rehabilitation (Substance Users)*, Dublin: Health Service Executive

Report of the Working Group on Drugs Rehabilitation, 2007. *Report of the Working Group on Drugs Rehabilitation*, Dublin: Stationery Office

Health Service Executive (2015) *National Service Plan 2016* Dublin: Health Service Executive

Department of Health (2013) *Healthy Ireland: a framework for improved health and wellbeing 2013–2025*. Dublin: Department of Health

North Eastern Regional Drug Task Force (2013): *Implementation Plan for the National Substance Misuse Strategy in the North Eastern Region 2013 – 2016 (Cavan, Monaghan, Louth & Meath)*

Notes

