

CROSS-PARTY GROUP ANNUAL RETURN 2022

NAME OF CROSS-PARTY GROUP
Cross-Party Group on Drug and Alcohol Misuse
DATE GROUP ESTABLISHED (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)
21 st October 2021
DATE OF MOST RECENT AGM
21 st November 2022
DATE OF PRECEDING AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 12 months of the previous AGM]
21st October 2021
DATE ANNUAL RETURN SUBMITTED
16 th December 2022

GROUP MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non- MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

Annual General meeting held on 21st October 2021

Monica Lennon introduced herself as one of the MSPs for Central Scotland. She began by asking MSP to introduce themselves:

- Claire Baker is Mid-Scotland and Fife MSP and Labours spokesperson on drugs policy.
- Claire has been involved in recent debates, particularly MAT standards, so was particularly interested in this discussion.
- Colette Stevenson. MSP from East Kilbride. A newly elected member who sits on the Criminal Justice Committee.
- Stuart McMillan. MSP for Greenock and Inverclyde. Also a board member of Moving on in Inverclyde for six years.
- Gillian Martin. MSP for Aberdeenshire East
- Paul Sweeney. Glasgow list MSP.
- Paul McLellan, MSP for East Lothian. Had been leader of East Lothian Council before being elected.

The CPG has been running for a number of years and there has been significant interest from MSPs and I want to thank some of our previous members and in particular, John Finney, who retired in the last session. John was at the co-convenor and was an excellent friend and supporter of this group.

3 Officer bearers

Co-convenors

Monica Lennon was nominated by Stuart McMillan
Stuart McMillan was nominated by Claire Baker

Vice- convenors

Paul Sweeney was nominated by Stuart McMillan and approved by the CPG
Paul McLennan was nominated by Stuart McMillan approved by the CPG

4 Secretariat

Scottish Drugs Forum were re-elected to provide the secretariat for the group.

5 Update on Medication Assisted Treatment Standards

Monica Lennon explained that the next item was update of progress with the implementation of the Medication Assisted treatment standards. As we know these are hugely important particular aspects around access, choice and retention. Government has given a commitment to implement these by next April. The two speakers were:

- Joan Walsh, Scottish Drugs Forum, User Involvement Officer – findings of a service evaluation of 95 people on Medication Assisted Treatment
- Tracey Clusker, Clinical Lead, Scottish Government's Medication Assisted Treatment Implementation Support Team – providing an update on local Alcohol and Drug Partnership progress with implementation of MAT

The presentation PowerPoints provided at the end of this minute.

Question and discussion

Claire Baker highlighted the ambition to have delivery by all ten by April and how feasible was this. Tracey Clusker confirmed that there was a commitment from Government to deliver all ten standards by April. But, there are particular challenges re the system changes of Standards 6-10 for example the involvement of primary care.

Collette Stevenson highlighted the recent evidence session at the CJ Committee. A great deal of inconsistency across ADPs was observed in terms of approaches. Tracey Clusker responded by saying that this highlighted the need dedicated programme management in areas to deliver the MAT Standards. She reported that approaches are different across Scotland, but we need consistency across Health Board areas and across Scotland. The MIST team were also looking at how people can be commenced on MAT in custody the same day.

Tracey highlighted the challenges of engaging with people with a drug problem on an experiential level and highlighted the importance of working with SDF to engage with current users.

Arun Mennon, speaking in a personal capacity, asked whether implementation by April 2022 was achievable or was an aspirational goal. Tracey Clusker replied by saying the standards are aspirational and we have to push and aim high as we would with other care groups. Work force will be key to the effective delivery of the Standards. The challenges are huge but I would be naive to say otherwise

Liam Meechan asked a specific question about the SDF Survey and particularly with regard to the day people were started on a prescription. Joan Walsh replied that some people who were surveyed by SDF's peer research volunteers may have, on occasions, been confused the first point of contact rather than the date they actually got a prescription. The baseline position may therefore actually be worse than described.

People not feeling emotionally safe to describe their benzodiazepines. Tracey Clusker people felt very stigmatised for asking to be prescribed. Consensus conference has been proposed to embed the draft guidelines which were published in June.

Emma Harper raised the issue of reversal agencies which are equivalent to Naloxone to respond to benzodiazepine overdoses. TC Italy has done some work on this but the concern is around these drugs causing seizures.

6 Future Programme of work, meetings and actions

Sue Weber and Myles Briggs will also be joining the group.

Key areas for future work

- Street Benzodiazepine use and prescribing Guidelines
- Workforce Development issues and capacity
- Recovery research – looking at the gaps in research
- Drug Consumption Rooms
- Residential Rehabilitation and support services

Monica Lennon highlighted the Right to Recovery Bill and suggested asking Douglas Ross to speak on this before Christmas. Also Monica Suggested inviting the Minister to speak at an appropriate.

Sandra Holmes, Families Campaign for change spoke about the challenges of communicating with services. The lack of accessibility is a major issue. It was agreed that Sandra would speak at a future meeting.

Meeting held on 22nd December

Present

MSPs Monica Lennon, Clare Baker, Paul Sweeney and Stuart McMillan

Right to Recovery Proposals

The proposals were summarised by Annemarie Ward and Steven Wishart. The proposals were to deliver a Right to Recovery legislation through the adoption of a private members bill being put forward by Douglas Ross the Conservative Party leader in Scotland

The general principles of the proposal were outline as follows:

The aim of this proposed Bill is to ensure that everyone has access to the necessary drug and alcohol addiction treatment they need. This will enable those living with addiction issues to survive, get better and reduce Scotland's shameful drug and alcohol death numbers.

The proposed Bill would enshrine the right to necessary addiction treatment in Scots law. It would place an obligation on Scottish Ministers, Health Boards and others to provide treatment and set up reporting arrangements so that the quality and access of treatment provided can be monitored and reported to the Scottish Parliament. This will ensure that individuals may access a preferred treatment option unless it is deemed to be harmful by a medical professional. The proposal is a Bill that would include, but not be limited to, a statutory right to:

- Short-term residential rehabilitation;
- Long-term residential rehabilitation;
- Community-based rehabilitation;
- Residential detoxification;
- Community-based detoxification;
- Stabilisation services;
- Substitute prescribing services; and
- Any other forms of treatment as a health professional may deem appropriate, in line with guidance from the Scottish Ministers.

The Bill would seek to prevent individuals seeking drug and alcohol treatment services from being refused access for reasons including:

- A medical history of substance misuse;
- A criminal history involving substance misuse;
- Automatically on the outcome of a mental health assessment;
- The individual currently being in receipt of substitute prescribing services, regardless of the volume of prescription; and
- The individual currently still undertaking alcohol and/or drug misuse.

In addition, it would see the introduction of new national standards and guidance to increase the accessibility of rehabilitation programmes. I also intend to consider how effective and appropriate the current NHS complaints procedures are, and whether an additional complaints procedure specific to this proposal should be included in the Bill. The Bill would also aim to establish a national funding scheme to ensure that resources swiftly reach frontline treatment services in areas of acute demand.

Discussion of group members followed as to the merits of the proposals and members were urged to make the views known through the consultation on the proposed bill.

MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Monica Lennon MSP, Labour

Stuart McMillan MSP, SNP

Claire Baker is Mid-Scotland and Fife MSP, Labour

Colette Stevenson. MSP from East Kilbride. SNP

Stuart McMillan. MSP for Greenock and Inverclyde, SNP

Gillian Martin. MSP for Aberdeenshire East, SNP

Paul Sweeney. Glasgow list MSP, Labour

Paul McLellan, MSP for East Lothian. SNP

Miles Briggs MSP, Conservative and Unionist Party

NON-MSP MEMBERS OF THE GROUP

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals

Rowan Anderson
Alistair Brown
Laura Hoskins
Dr David Johnson
Cath Logan
Liam Mehigan
Arun Menon
Paul Mooney
Stephanie Morrison
Dr Eunice Reed
Cameron Scally
Tracey Stewart
Michael Trail

Organisations

Scottish Drugs Forum
Abbeycare Foundation
Addiction Support and Counselling(ASC)
Alcohol Focus Scotland
Big Lottery Fund
Corra Foundation
Circle
Community Justice Scotland
Community Pharmacy Scotland
CREW
East Lothian Substance Misuse Service
Favor UK

	<p>Glasgow Council on Alcohol Homelessness and Inclusion Health Society Howard League Institute for Marketing and Health Jericho House Moving on MRC/CSO Social & Public Health Sciences Unit. Uni of Glasgow NHS Borders NHS Fife Addiction Services NHS GGC NHS Lothian NHS Tayside NHS Highland NSPCC Police Scotland Rowan Alba Rise Recovery Cafe Robert Gordon University Royal Pharmaceutical Society Salvation Army Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance Scottish Recovery Consortium Scottish Youth Parliament Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs SISCO Shelter Stirling ADP Signpost Recovery Stirling University The Royal College of Physicians & Surgeons of Glasgow Turning Point Scotland University of the West of Scotland Waverley Care West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Service</p>
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GROUP OFFICE BEARERS

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co- conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	<p>Stuart McMillan MSP, co-Convener</p> <p>Monica Lennon MSP co-Convener</p>
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Deputy Convener	Paul Sweeney, MSP, Labour Paul McLellan, MSP, SNP
Secretary	Secretariat: Scottish Drugs Forum
Treasurer	

FINANCIAL BENEFITS OR OTHER BENEFITS RECEIVED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) received from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

Details of material support should include the name of the individual providing support, the value of this support over the year, an estimate of the time spent providing this support and the name of the organisation that this individual is employed by / affiliated to in providing this support.

Groups should provide details of the date on which the benefit was received, the value of the benefit and a brief description of the benefit.

If the Group is not disclosing any financial information please tick the box to confirm that the Group has considered the support received, but concluded it totalled under the threshold for disclosure (£500).

SUBSCRIPTION CHARGED BY THE GROUP

Please provide details of the amount charged and the purpose for which the subscription is intended to be used.

n/a

CONVENER CONTACT DETAILS

Name	John Finnie MSP –co-Convener Monica Lennon MSP – co-Convener
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