

Cross-Party Group on Substance Use

26th November 2025 6pm-8pm

Minute

Present

MSPs

Audrey Nicoll MSP
Paul Sweeney MSP
Elena Witham MSP

Invited guests

Michael Trail - Jericho Society
Marianna Marquardt - Scottish Families Affected By Drugs and Alcohol
Simon Holmes - Change Grow Live
Barry Chapman - NHS Lothian
Liam Mehigan - Abbeycare
Elinor Dickie Public - Health Scotland
Tracy Morrice (online) - WithYou
Laura Wilson (online) - Royal Pharmaceutical Society
Iain Smith (online) - Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland Addiction Faculty
Dr Lorna Nisbet - Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science
Prof. Niamh Nic Daeid - Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science
Mary Clare Madden - Lead Pharmacist, NHS GGC
Joke Delvaux - Public Health Intelligence Lead, Public Health Scotland

Non-MSP Group Members

Kirsten Horsburgh - Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF)
Jo-Anne Hamilton – SDF

Apologies

Chris Reilly - Equal Say North Lanarkshire
Cllr Allan Houston
Louise Stewart - WithYou
Lesley Ross - Glasgow Council on Alcohol
Emma Crawshaw - CREW
Douglas McBean
Aileen O'Gorman - UWS

Agenda item 1

- Audrey welcomed everyone to the meeting.
- Previous meeting minutes were approved.
- A new CPG membership request was approved by the group for Barry Chapman - NHS Lothian Lead Pharmacist Substance Use.
- The AGM took place:
- Audrey Nicoll MSP stepped down as Chair.
- In her role as secretariat, Kirsten Horsburgh announced that Ms Nicoll would like to stand as Chair. This was approved by the group.
- Ms Nicoll nominated Scottish Drugs Forum as secretariat, and this was approved by the group.

Agenda item 2

- Presentation 1: Scotland's National Drug Checking Lab - Prof. Niamh Nic Daeid and Dr Lorna Nisbet, Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science.
- There were no slides for this presentation.
- Discussion topics included how intelligence will be shared with services and community members, whether there is an aspiration to offer a service that accepts samples from the community, timelines, evaluation.

Agenda item 3

Presentation 2: Glasgow's Drug Checking Service - Mary Clare Madden, Lead Pharmacist, NHS GGC.

- Slides will be shared with the group.
- Discussion topics included the limitations around who can access the service, and how engagement will be trauma-informed.

Agenda item 4

Presentation 3: Evaluation of Scotland's National Mission -Joke Delvaux, Public Health Intelligence Lead, Public Health Scotland.

- Slides will be shared with the group.
- Discussion topics included how the evaluation will inform what comes after the National Mission in the new Parliament, how feedback on findings relating to stigma will be shared with services, funding for services in the new Parliament, and how feedback is gathered from statutory and non-statutory services.
- The meeting started late due to decision time taking place in Parliament. For this reason, the update on Committee work was held over. Please see appendix 1 for a written update from Audrey Nicoll MSP.

Agenda item 5

- AOCB:
- Kirsten Horsburgh shared that Glasgow Council on Alcohol recently marked its 60th anniversary and has rebranded as Murray's Initiative in honour of its founder