

Meeting of the Cross Party Group on Drug & Alcohol Misuse

Wednesday 18th March

Committee Room 6 - The Scottish Parliament

Note of Meeting

Attendance

There were 34 people in attendance including 2 MSPs

Cross Party Group Meeting

The March CPG meeting was opened by convenor John Finnie MSP who chaired.

CPG co-convenor Kezia Dugdale MSP has had to step down from the role. Richard Simpson MSP was proposed and seconded as co-convenor and elected unopposed.. There was a vote of thanks in appreciation of Kezia Dugdale's work in convening and contributing to the work of the group.

There were presentations on sexual health -

- Adrienne Hannah, Scottish Drugs Forum

Adrienne presented on her 3 year post at Scottish Drugs Forum builds on work done by SDF's National Quality Development Team funded through the Bloodborne Virus and Sexual Health Framework.

The outcomes of the work are

- improved sexual and reproductive health of drug/alcohol users
- improved pathways between sexual health services and drug/alcohol services
- reduced number of BBVs, STIs and unintended pregnancies among drug/alcohol users

Focuses of the work which have evolved through training and other work include -

- Sexual orientation
- Gender identity
- Methadone/contraception
- Children being looked after/accommodated

- Repeat abortions
- Prostitution
- Chemsex/Slamming

Services are reporting changes in activity due to training. Drug Services are including S&RH in assessments; giving appropriate and up to date information on STIs/safer sex/BBVs/contraception; supporting individuals to use local S&RH services. Sexual Health Services are giving more focus to an individual's drug and alcohol use and the impact this may have on their S&RH.

- Dr Anne McLellan, Sexual Health Consultant, NHS Lanarkshire

Anne presented on the effect of alcohol and drugs on sexual function; effect of substance use on pregnancy; challenges in antenatal care, care on delivery (social and health), neonatal abstinence syndrome, fostering and long-term placement and repeat pregnancy and repeat outcomes; innovative work in terms of delivering a sexual health service to addiction services.

- Liz Walsh, Specialist Midwife, South Lanarkshire

Liz presented on the work of two specialist midwives in Lanarkshire. This presentation covered the referral criteria for the service; pathways of care; antenatal care for this patient group; the outcomes of pregnancy; LARC and vulnerable women.

There followed a short discussion which focused mainly on LARC and staff attitudes.