



CLDATF

Cork Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force



CORK LOCAL DRUG & ALCOHOL TASK FORCE
STRATEGIC PLAN 2015–2017



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Chairperson's Statement



It is indeed a privilege and a pleasure for me to introduce and endorse this Strategic Plan of the Cork Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force.

For the past three years I have been honoured to be Chairman of the Task Force. I have found The Cork Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force to be a model of collaboration and commitment.

The Task Force brings together the various statutory agencies in Health, Education, Justice, Youth and Local Government as well as representatives from local communities. In my experience as Chairman, people in these Organisations have worked together in a concerned and harmonious way.

Alcohol is now part of the remit of the Task Force. Great imagination and commitment will be required in dealing with issues related to alcohol misuse. While the purchase and consumption of alcohol is perfectly legitimate, we need to be more responsible in our use of alcohol.

The success of our new Strategic Plan will depend on a number of key components - these are collaboration, commitment, and compassion.

While collaboration exists within the Task Force it is important that this collaboration is extended to include the business sector, especially those involved in the entertainment and hospitality industries in the region. We also need to build greater collaboration with sporting bodies. While sport is mainly about competition and a healthy lifestyle it is also associated with alcohol advertising and the over consumption of alcohol to celebrate a victory or to seek consolation after a defeat.

We also need to seek greater commitment to deal with the issues. It is critically important that government and politicians are ready to back the work of all Task Forces and provide resources to ensure that the actions identified in our plan can be carried out in a professional and competent way.

Finally, we need a lot of compassion in working with people and families suffering as a result of addiction. We are fortunate in Cork to have a wide variety of organisations and agencies who reach out in a caring and compassionate way to those whose lives are in ruins as a result of addiction to drugs, alcohol and other substances.

On behalf of the Task Force I would like to thank the HSE and the staff of the Cork Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force for their commitment and dedication. I would also like to thank all those involved in the production of this Strategic Plan 2015-2017

Gerry Raftery

Gerry Raftery
Chairman Cork Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force. April 2015

VISION

To work towards a community where, support, treatment and education is accessible to all those affected by substance misuse

MISSION

To provide a mechanism which enables local communities, statutory & voluntary agencies work together in addressing substance misuse

AIM

To continue to tackle the harm caused to individuals and society by substance misuse through a concerted focus on the five pillars of supply reduction, prevention, treatment, rehabilitation and research



Introduction

In November 1996, the Cork Local Drugs Task Force was formed and its brief was to develop a strategic, locally-based response to the drugs problem in Cork.

As of 2014 the Task Force is also responsible for reducing the harm associated with alcohol, thus becoming The Cork Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force. This is a huge additional brief to take on in the face of numerous years of funding cut backs. However the Cork Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force is fully committed to making an impact on this most prevalent issue across our city.

Today, the CLDATF funds twenty-one projects across Cork City. The projects we fund have developed over the years to meet emerging needs and the increasing prevalence of various substances within communities. The CLDATF board is comprised of a range of stakeholders including the community, voluntary and statutory sectors. Services including information and awareness raising, assessment, care planning, case management, brief interventions, holistic therapies, advocacy, onward referral, community-based counselling & pre and post treatment support are available from CLDATF funded projects.

We look forward to implementing this strategic plan and are confident that this plan will build upon the excellent services already in existence. We endeavour to provide quality services for all our service users.

Joe Kirby

Joe Kirby
Coordinator CLDATF / Rehabilitation Coordinator

Gemma O'Leary

Gemma O'Leary
Development Worker, CLDATF

OBJECTIVES

- “ To provide treatment and aftercare for those affected by substance misuse.
- “ To support and develop measures aimed at reducing the harm to those actively using drugs & alcohol.
- “ To consult with and support the families and communities in relation to drug and alcohol problems and to provide relevant up-to-date information about the effects of substance misuse.
- “ To raise awareness at local and national level of the issues related to drug and alcohol misuse, and to influence policy based on local experience.

Acknowledgements

We want to gratefully acknowledge the input of members of the Strategic plan sub group to the production of this document which would not have been possible without the considerable time, energy and effort that they gave to it.

We also want to acknowledge the input of the all board members who engaged in a consultation process throughout 2013 to produce this Cork Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force Strategic Plan 2015-2017. (See Appendix 1). Each board member and the staff team of the CLDATF consulted with various sectors by conducting and completing face-to-face questionnaires to gather important feedback to inform this Strategic Plan.

We would also like to thank the participants who completed the questionnaire. The CLDATF Strategic Plan 2015-2017 also acknowledges the role of LDATF's as set out in the National Drugs Strategy 2009-2016.

1. PREVENTION & EDUCATION



Goals

1. Support Schools in addressing the drug & alcohol issue
2. Raise awareness of the potential mental & physical health implications of substance use
3. Provide communities, services and sectors with information regarding drug & alcohol services
4. Explore the best use of all media to deliver drug & alcohol information to the community
5. Continue to support the delivery of the Strengthening Families Programme (SFP)

Strategic Plan Actions 2015-2017

- 1.a** Liaise with schools regarding drug & alcohol policy development & implementation.
- 1.b** Provide schools with information regarding local drug & alcohol services.
- 1.c** When requested provide workshops, seminars and information sessions to staff and pupils of schools in line with best practice.
- 2.a** Deliver an education & awareness campaign regarding the misuse of benzodiazepines and other prescribed medications to health providers, patients, substance users, communities.
- 2.b** Organise an annual drug & alcohol awareness week/month.
- 2.c** Provide information to communities, services and sectors regarding the mental health implications of cannabis use.
- 2.d** Address issues associated with heroin use and needle exchange.
- 2.e** Continue to highlight the potential risks of mood altering substances & respond to emerging needs as required.
- 3.a** Provide information to communities, services and sectors on the availability of detox beds and residential treatment.
- 3.b** When requested, provide information regarding drug & alcohol services in the form of workshops, seminars and information sessions to communities, services and sectors.
- 4.a** Research all forms of media and develop a plan to circulate information through various forms.
- 4.b** Develop a communication strategy for the CLDATF.
- 5.a** Participate on the National SFP Council of Ireland.
- 5.b** Continue to participate on local SFP steering committee.
- 5.c** Deliver SFP site co-ordinator training.
- 5.d** Continue to deliver SFP's across Cork City.

2. TREATMENT & REHABILITATION



Goals

1. Address alcohol use and its impact
2. Address the availability of prescription drugs (specifically benzodiazepines)
3. Explore the challenges associated with treatment for service users with a dual diagnosis
4. Assist service users in accessing appropriate drug and alcohol services
5. Continue to support implementation of National Rehabilitation Framework

Strategic Plan Actions 2015-2017

- 1.a** Develop an alcohol strategy for Cork City.
- 1.b** Support roll out of SAOR screening & brief intervention model.
- 2.a** Develop/participate in Benzodiazepine working group.
- 2.b** Support the roll out of Community Detox Protocols across Cork City.
- 2.c** Liaise locally with GP's regarding specific drug & alcohol training.
- 3.a** Provided training & workshops to workers around the issue of dual diagnosis.
- 3.b** Liaise with HSE Operations Managers locally regarding the agreement of referral and treatment protocols between mental health and drug and alcohol services.
- 4.a** Ensure Service users have access to information regarding provision of drug & alcohol services across all four tiers.
- 4.b** Liaise with local service providers to resolve any gaps or blocks to treatment provision for service users.
- 4.c** Lobby nationally and locally for service users to access funding for Tier 4 services.
- 5.a** Provide further training in keyworking/care planning/case management
- 5.b** Support integration of homeless sector with drug & alcohol sector under the case management protocols.

3. SUPPLY REDUCTION



Goals

1. Liaise and develop networks with Gardaí through various forums
2. Address alcohol use, its impact, availability and the legislation governing its distribution
3. Liaise and develop networks with customs through various forums

Strategic Plan Actions 2015-2017

- 1.a** Attend and participate in local policing forums, joint policing committee, Northside Substance Misuse Initiative, Mayfield Substance Misuse Initiative, Anglesea Substance Misuse Initiative, Togher Substance Misuse Initiative.
- 2.a** Lobby nationally and locally for minimum pricing to be introduced.
- 2.b** Where appropriate, advocate for changes in alcohol licensing legislation.
- 2.c** Develop a partnership with premises who sell alcohol in relation to responsible serving.
- 2.d** Advocate for a 'social responsibility' levy on the drinks industry where the finance raised is redirected to existing drug and alcohol services.
- 3.a** Explore the various forums which customs could contribute to.

4. RESEARCH & INFORMATION



Goals

1. Ensure information is available regarding courses and training in the area of substance use
2. Improve research links with local third level institutions
3. Research the extent of heroin use in the task force area

Strategic Plan Actions 2015-2017

- 1.a** Promote courses and training that are available in the area of substance use.
- 1.b** Provide training in the area.
- 2.a** Reflect and respond accordingly to the research opportunities & future findings.
- 3.a** Respond appropriately to results of research.

5. CO-ORDINATION



Goals

1. Ensure service users are integral to policy development and reviewing current service delivery
2. Review the CLDATF Strategic Plan on an annual basis
3. Produce annual report

Strategic Plan Actions 2015-2017

- 1.a** Develop & implement a CLDATF service user involvement strategy.
- 2.a** Review the CLDATF Strategic Plan on an annual basis.
- 3.a** Compile annual report.

Drug & Alcohol projects supported by CLDATF

Drug & alcohol projects provide a range of supports, information and evidence based interventions to assist service users in progressing their care

COMMUNITY BASED DRUG & ALCOHOL PROJECTS

- Ballincollig Community Drug & Alcohol Project
- Ballyphehane Action for Youth (BAY Project)
- Blackpool-Hillgrove Outreach Project
- Bridge Recovery – Parents Support Group
- Carrigaline Youth Initiative
- Community Outreach Drug Awareness Project
- Community Based Addiction Counselling Service
- Cork Counselling Service
- Douglas Area Youth Service (DAYS)
- Dublin Hill/Ballyvolane Initiative for Youth
- Farranree/Fairhill – Hillgrove Outreach Project
- Glanmire Drugs Project
- Glen Neighbourhood Youth Project
- Greenmount Community Drugs Initiative
- Gurrabraher/Churchfield Community Drugs Project
- Knocknaheeny Drugs Project

- Mayfield Youth 2000 – Phase 1
- Mayfield Youth 2000 – Phase 2 – Lotamore
- The (TVG) Traveller Support Project on Drugs and Alcohol
- Rehabilitation of prisoners
- Togher Link-Up.
- Yew Tree Project – Mahon
- Youth Health Service/Harm Reduction Programme

HOMELESS/HOUSING SUPPORT PROJECTS

- Cork Simon Outreach Project
- Dion – YMCA
- Post Release Services Project – Cork Prison

RESIDENTIAL/SECONDARY TREATMENT

- Fellowship House – Halfway House for Men
- Family Support Project – Tabor Lodge

More details on all these projects can be accessed on our website www.corkdrugandalcohol.ie and the CLDATF Directory of Drug and Alcohol Services



- 1.** *Contact CLDATF*
- 2.** *National Drugs Strategy Structure*
- 3.** *CLDATF – Strategic planning questionnaire*
- 4.** *CLDATF – Strategic planning consultation findings*

Appendix 1

CONTACT CLDATF

Cork Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force

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Dublin Hill,
Cork
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www.corkdrugandalcohol.ie

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Hard copies of the Directory of Drug and Alcohol Services in Cork and surrounding areas are available from the CLDATF Office in Kinvara House on 021 493 0100 or the Cork City Partnership in Heron House on 021 430 2310. To access the directory electronically, go to:

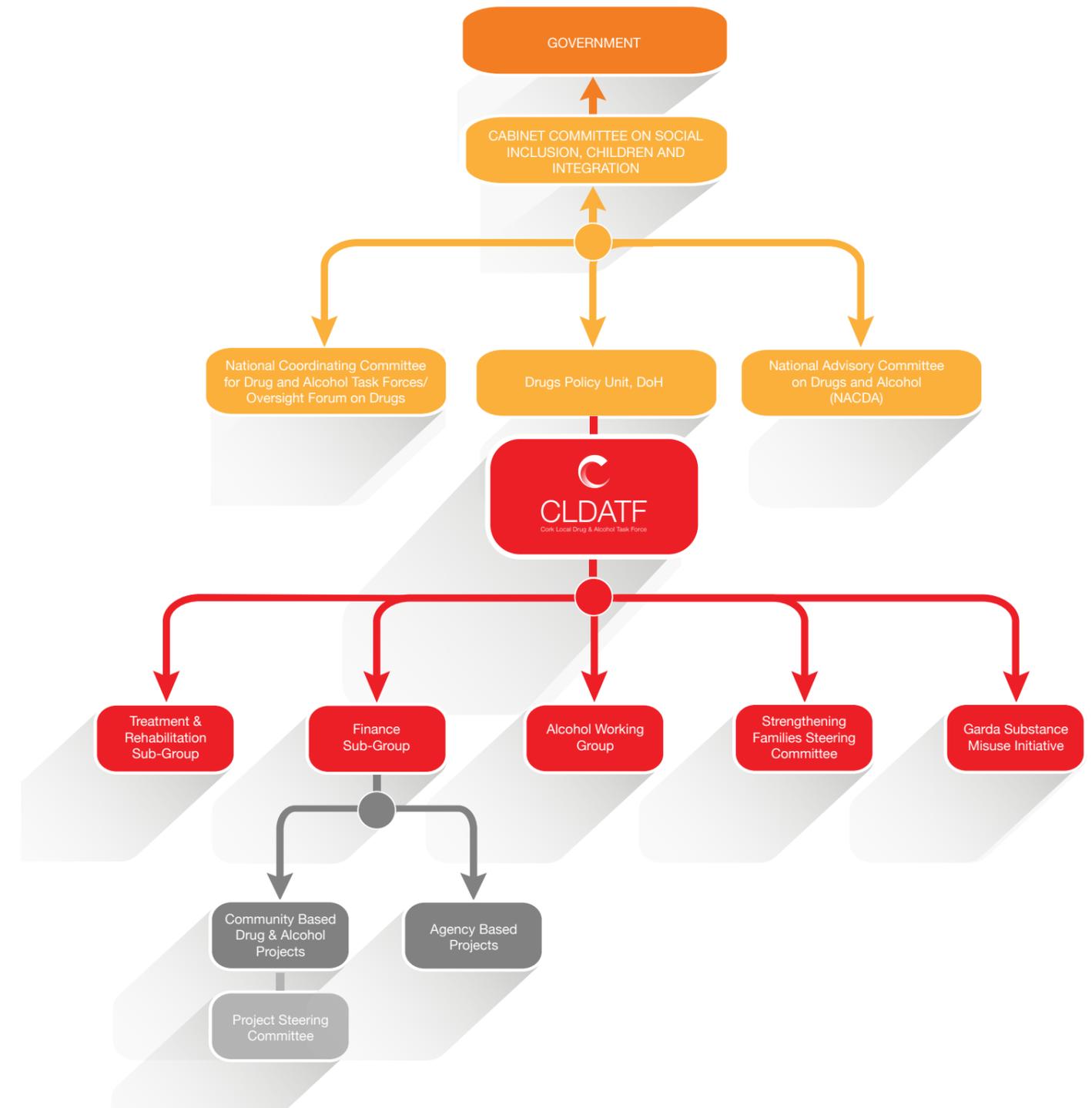
- www.corkdrugandalcohol.ie
- www.corkcitypartnership.ie
- www.srdatf.ie

DIRECTIONS TO KINVARA HOUSE

From city centre: Cross bridge at Opera House and straight ahead at traffic lights. Travel along North City Link Road pass Heineken Ireland brewery and turn left at 2nd set of traffic lights. At end of short road turn right onto Watercourse Road. Travel along this road until you come to a grotto. Turn right at grotto onto Dublin Hill. Continue up to top of hill for approx ¼ mile, Kinvara House is on your right.

Appendix 2

NATIONAL DRUGS STRATEGY STRUCTURES



CORK LOCAL DRUG & ALCOHOL TASK FORCE STRATEGIC PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE *(Information Section for Participants)*

We'd like to thank you for agreeing to take part in the Cork Local Drug Tasks Forces Strategic Planning Questionnaire. We will outline briefly who we are, what we hope to achieve through this questionnaire, your role in our planning process and how this information will be gathered;

Who We Are

The Cork Local Drug Task Force was formed in 1996. Our role is to develop and implement The National Drug Strategy 2009-2016 for Cork City. We fund 21 services and where possible, address any gaps in service provision that are identified. We also provide a mechanism which enables local communities to work closely with state and voluntary agencies in developing and implementing that strategy. Our aim is to:

- Reduce the numbers of people turning to drugs and alcohol in the first instance, through comprehensive education and prevention programmes
- Provide appropriate treatment and aftercare for those who are dependent on drugs & alcohol
- Have appropriate mechanisms in place at national and local level, aimed at reducing the supply of illicit drugs
- Ensure that an appropriate level of accurate and timely information is available to inform the response to the problem
- Support and develop measures aimed at reducing the harm to those actively using drugs & alcohol
- Support families and communities affected by drugs

What We Hope To Achieve

We are currently in the process of developing our Strategic Plan for 2015-2017. We would like to gather as many people's views across a variety of sectors regarding the drugs & alcohol situation in Cork City. This information will inform the strategic plan that will be implemented by the Task Force.

Your Role In The Planning Process

We would like you to answer the questions on the next 3 pages. This will help us greatly in determining the needs in the city and identifying the appropriate responses to meet those needs. Nobody will be identified in making specific comments. We may refer to comments made such as 'Probation highlighted the need for...' or local community members in the north side of the city reported 'that there was an increase in cannabis use in their area as evidenced by...' Please note that we only record the name of the sector that is been interviewed rather than the individual.

If you have any specific concerns regarding anonymity please highlight these to the Task Force Representative prior to completing the questionnaire.

How This Information Will Be Gathered

Representatives from the Task Force will meet with you at a time and place convenient to you and ask you the questions listed on the next 3 pages. They will record your answers in bullet points. You are welcome to review the responses as recorded by the Task Force Representative at the end of the interview.

If further clarification is required please speak to your Task Force Representative.



CORK LOCAL DRUG & ALCOHOL TASK FORCE STRATEGIC PLANNING QUESTIONNAIRE

Date: _____

Task Force Representatives conducting interview:

1. _____ 2. _____

Sector being interviewed -please

tick one:

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Probation | <input type="checkbox"/> Ex prisoners | <input type="checkbox"/> CDP |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Primary Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> A&E Depts | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secondary Schools | <input type="checkbox"/> HSE | <input type="checkbox"/> Traveller Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Funded Projects | <input type="checkbox"/> D&A Services | <input type="checkbox"/> LGBT Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Advisory Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Mental Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Refugee Services |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Project Workers | <input type="checkbox"/> Third Level Institutions | <input type="checkbox"/> Funded Project Empl |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Service Users | <input type="checkbox"/> Tier 4 Tx Centres | <input type="checkbox"/> Gardai (Comm Policing) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardai (Drug Squad) | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gardai (JLO)) | <input type="checkbox"/> Homeless Services U18 | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prison | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Resource Cen | |

1. What are the current drug & alcohol issues presenting in your community/service/sector?

2. What is the nature of the drug & alcohol use in your area, are there any trends/changes developing?

3. What do you think needs to happen for the drug & alcohol situation to improve in your community/service/sector?

4. Can you identify current gaps? (E.g. service provision, policy – national & local)

5. What help or support do you need in order to address specific drug & alcohol related issues in your community/service/sector?

6. What is the biggest concern currently in relation to drug & alcohol use/issues in your community/service/sector?

7. What actions would you like the Task Force to include and address in its next strategic plan?

Additional Comments:

Thank you for your time!

Cork Local Drug & Alcohol Task Force

CORK LOCAL DRUGS TASK FORCE – STRATEGIC PLANNING CONSULTATION – FINDINGS

CATEGORY	CATEGORY RANKING %	ISSUES/GAPS HIGHLIGHTED
ISSUES REGARDING CURRENT DRUG & ALCOHOL SERVICES (Overall Ranking 28%)		
	20%	Poor treatment options for women, children and females under 18
	13%	Lack of non using facilities
	11%	Poor access to treatment/Waiting Lists
	11%	Community based drug/alcohol intervention/ community detox: needles exchange/drug counsellors & psychologists/lack of early intervention programmes
	11%	Poor treatment options for minority groups – prisoners, travellers, asylum seekers, refugees, non Irish nationals, under 18's.
	10%	Cost of treatment prohibitive
	10%	Poor pre/post treatment services/ accommodation pre/post treatment
	6%	Tier 4/lack of treatment and detox residential beds
	5%	Limited treatment model options/harm reduction policy
	3%	Supports provided - volunteer/drugs worker
	0%	Lack of service user involvement forums
	100%	

CATEGORY	CATEGORY RANKING %	ISSUES/GAPS HIGHLIGHTED
SUBSTANCES (Overall Ranking 27%)		
	33%	Alcohol: low cost, availability, underage drinking, home brewing, drinking at home
	20%	Benzodiazepine: availability, acceptance of use
	17%	Heroin: increase in use, discarded works, sharing of needles
	9%	Cannabis: growing cultural acceptance, increase in use
	6%	Poly drug use: increasing
	4%	Cocaine
	3%	Head shop products: available online
	1%	Solvents
	1%	Khat
	1%	Crystal meth
	1%	Speed
	1%	Ecstasy
	1%	Steroids
	0%	Methadone maintenance
	0%	Methadone
	0%	Tobacco
	100%	
EDUCATION/ PREVENTION (Overall Ranking 14%)		
	28%	Training: suicide awareness, legal highs, dual diagnosis
	27%	Schools: drafting of policy, implementation of policy, health & safety
	26%	Community information sessions/raising profile of services
	13%	Courses: addiction studies, dual diagnosis
	6%	Local & national campaigns: drug & alcohol, health promotion
	100%	

CATEGORY	CATEGORY RANKING %	ISSUES/GAPS HIGHLIGHTED
HEALTH (Overall Ranking 11%)		
	45%	Mental
	25%	GP overprescribing
	23%	Physical (hepatitis B&C, packing, injecting)
	7%	Sexual (activity/unwanted pregnancy/prostitution)
	100%	
POLICING (Overall Ranking 6%)		
	47%	Increase in crime: rape, incest, intimidation, violence, theft
	35%	Poor policing: insufficient garda personnel, garda clearance delays
	12%	Court (sentencing too lenient)
	3%	Supply reduction: substances easily available, online purchasing monitoring
	3%	Prisoner access/introduction to drugs
	100%	
INTEGRATED CONTINUUM OF CARE (Overall Ranking 6%)		
	82%	Integrated continuum of care - general
	10%	Interdepartmental communication & planning
	5%	Policy National/Local (under 18 provision)
	3%	Research
	100%	

CATEGORY	CATEGORY RANKING %	ISSUES/GAPS HIGHLIGHTED
SOCIAL ISSUES (Overall Ranking 4%)		
	25%	Poverty/unemployment
	20%	Service users presenting at a younger age (travellers)
	19%	Increase in child protection issues
	11%	Increase in other addictions: sex, food, gambling
	9%	Increase in homelessness due to substance use
	5%	Antisocial behaviour
	5%	Parental lack of control
	2%	Intergenerational substance use
	2%	Increase in pregnant women using drugs
	2%	Increase in female under 18's accessing services
	100%	
FUNDING (Overall Ranking 4%)		
	100%	Lack of funding for specialised drug & alcohol Services
	100%	

Notes:

- Total number of consultations completed = 53
- Total Number of questions answered = 351/371
- Total number of responses = 981
- Total number of issues raised = 56
- The category ranking is the total number of responses which refers to a particular issue raised as a percentage of the total responses in that category
- The overall ranking is the total number of responses in that category as a percentage of the overall responses



CLDATF

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