

## Update from the Special Interest Groups

Group:	Public Health Drugs Special Interest Group
Co-chairs:	Duncan McCormick – NHS Lothian Tara Shivaji – NHS Grampian
Member organisations:	NHS Boards – Greater Glasgow and Clyde, Dumfries and Galloway, Lanarkshire, Ayrshire and Arran, Forth Valley, Tayside, Lothian, Highland, Grampian, Western Isles Public Health Scotland – Health Scotland, Health Protection Scotland, Information Services Division Drug Research Network Scotland
Aims of SIG:	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Provide those leading on the implementation of a public health approach to the Scottish Drugs strategy “Rights, Respect and Recovery” with a forum to communicate, collaborate and coordinate action.</li> <li>2. Provide strategic advice on the development and implementation of public health approaches in Scottish drug policy to Scottish Directors of Public Health.</li> <li>3. Provide operational advice and support on public health approaches to organisations and groups implementing Rights, Respect and Recovery</li> </ol>
Describe the work undertaken in the last year and any impact.	<p>Aim 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Created a forum for knowledge exchange between partners and areas using the SCOTPHN website and the Scottish Faculty of Public Health Conference.</li> <li>• Shared best practice and examples of local innovation across areas</li> <li>• Raised awareness of local public health leaders about the existence of the Drug Research Network, it is too early to say what impact this has had on collaborations between front line and academic colleagues to advance public health research.</li> </ul> <p>Aim 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provided a detailed and comprehensive response to the draft alcohol and drugs strategy to the DPHs. This set out the details of what a public health approach to drugs would mean and clearly articulated the links between this agenda and the inequalities in health outcomes that persist in Scottish communities.</li> <li>• Supporting the SDsPH group to develop a coordinated position statement on drugs, drug harms and the role of public health</li> <li>• Participate in the Drugs Surveillance Working group set up by Scottish Government in partnership with ISD, HPS and HS.</li> </ul> <p>Aim 3</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conducted a series of mapping exercises to determine current actions and priorities for shared action in Scotland.</li> <li>• Identified priorities that can be collectively developed across Scotland to improve prevention, early intervention, treatment and support recovery for those affected by problematic substance use</li> <li>• SIG members were pivotal in setting out the case for a public health surveillance system for substances in Scotland. This work is being advanced by Scottish Government in partnership with the SIG.</li> <li>• Initiation/participation in exploratory discussions on local and national approaches to: (1) identification and follow up of people at risk of serious drug related harm or death such as non fatal over doses; (2) rationalisation of the national DRD Data Base</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
How has the SIG supported the wider system and Public Health Reform?	The SIG has not engaged in this agenda
Who has the SIG engaged with in the last year?	Scottish Government
Is the SIG represented on any other national groups?	ADP national group
Has the SIG held any events in the last year?	No
What are the main issues the SIG is considering currently?	<p>Development and implementation of a surveillance system for illicit and harmful substances based on the model of surveillance for communicable disease.</p> <p>Since the 2008 global economic crisis, young people in Scotland have been exposed to a harsh socio economic climate. The number of children growing up in poverty is rising. How do we prevent this generation exposed to numerous ACEs from turning into the next cohort of drug related morbidity and premature mortality.</p> <p>Investigation and improvement of local and national approaches to the identification and follow up of people at risk of serious drug related harm or death such as non fatal over doses;</p>

What are the SIGs objectives for 2019-20?

To develop an evaluation framework for outreach interventions to people who have experienced a non-fatal opiate overdose and were treated by the Scottish Ambulance Service (or other emergency care provider)

To develop guidance on approaches to the identification and follow up of people at risk of serious drugs related harm or death. Including people identified through SAS non fatal overdose reporting, through local clinical systems and services -such as TRAK, A&E, hospital in reach and through other partnerships such as with criminal justice (police, police custody, courts and prisons).

To develop guidance on the approaches to review individual cases of drug related deaths to inform preventative actions and sharing learning through SCOTPHN platforms.