

Minutes of the Cross Party Group on Drug and Alcohol Misuse Tuesday 8th December 2015

Attendance

MSPs – 3 Non-MSPs - 10

The meeting focused on work being undertaken by SDF with Alcohol and Drug Partnerships on developing death prevention strategies which would seek to reduce drug related deaths from a range of causes, including overdose, BBVs, bacterial infections and suicide. The meeting received a presentation on this topic from Kirsten Horsburgh, National Naloxone Co-ordinator, Scottish Drugs Forum

This work was introduced with a Joint Ministerial letter in August 2014 to Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) to encourage them to utilise the support from SDF to consider a broader, more holistic view of drug-related deaths (DRDs).

14 ADPs took part in the initial work with consultations and meetings culminating in a seminar which helped to inform the Drug-Death Prevention Strategy which will be published in 2016. There will also be a toolkit to accompany this document and ongoing support and development work from SDF to implement the various strategies at local levels.

The key findings to help prevent DRDs are to focus on the following:

- Develop low threshold services/retention in services
- Create assertive outreach/wound care/bacterial infections programmes
- Improve responses to people experiencing non-fatal overdoses
- Respond more effectively to people with a dual diagnosis
- Reducing stigma and improving staff attitudes

Improvements in:

- BBV testing and treatment
- Continuity of care
- Throughcare
- Information sharing and assessments
- Reach of Naloxone programme

Respond to the specific needs of:

- Older drug users
- Homeless populations