



Meeting: NHS Highland Board

Meeting date: 31 January 2023

Title: Annual Report submitted to the Scottish Government for the Highland Alcohol and Drugs Partnership.

Responsible Executive/Non-Executive: Tim Allison, Director of Public Health

Report Author: Debbie Stewart co-ordinator of HADP

1 Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Assurance

This report relates to a:

- Government policy/directive

This report will align to the following NHS Scotland quality ambition(s):

Safe, Effective and Person Centred

This report relates to the following Strategic Outcome(s)

Start Well	x	Thrive Well	x	Stay Well	x	Anchor Well	x
Grow Well	x	Listen Well	x	Nurture Well	x	Plan Well	x
Care Well	x	Live Well	x	Respond Well	x	Treat Well	x
Journey Well	x	Age Well	x	End Well	x	Value Well	x
Perform well	x	Progress well	x				

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

Highland NHS is host to the Highland Alcohol and Drug Partnership (HADP) which is managed through the Directorate of Public Health and Policy. The HADP reports to a multi-agency strategy group made up of partners who contribute to the local ADP strategy. HADP reports to the Highland Community Planning Partnership Board. Annual progress is monitored by the Scottish Government through the completion of an annual report. The HADP’s annual

report has already been agreed at the Highland Community Planning Partnership Board 9 December 2022.

2.2 Background

Alcohol continues to be a leading cause of illness and early death in Scotland and significant inequalities persist in the health harms alcohol causes and in the rates of mortality related to it.

1245 people died from conditions caused by alcohol in Scotland 2021 and in Highland council area this number was 61ⁱ.

Drug-related deaths have been increasing since 1996 but since 2013 the upward trend has been steeper. For Scotland, in 2021, there were 1,330 drug-related deaths and in Highland the number was 35ⁱⁱ.

Performance is measured by the drug and alcohol treatment waiting times. The standard is as follows: 90% of people referred for help with their drug or alcohol problem will wait no longer than three weeks for treatment that supports their recovery. The latest statistical report, published December 2022, for the time period of 1 July and 30 September 2022, reports 87.2% and shows this standard was not metⁱⁱⁱ.

The Scottish Government has stated that drug related deaths are a national emergency and have made substantial investment into reducing drug related deaths. Of particular relevance to the NHS is the introduction of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards^{iv}. There are 10 standards with 1-5 showing good progress and 6-7 prioritised for the first quarter of 2023. The two national documents driving this work are: ‘Rights, Respect and Recovery’ 2018^v, and the ‘Alcohol Framework’ 2018^{vi}.

2.3 Assessment

The annual report provides a comprehensive narrative and explanation of how the additional finance has been invested to demonstrate progress against the Rights, Respect and Recovery strategy (2018) and the Alcohol Framework (2018) including a specific focus on the national mission of drug related deaths. HADP has made good progress, for example, in increasing the capacity of residential support for those wishing to follow a detoxification programme, introduction of the MAT standards, developing an immediate response pathway and establishing a housing first model. These programmes of work will remain a priority for 2023/24. The HADP remains committed to progressing the ‘Planet Youth Prevention Model’ (Icelandic model) and agreements with schools are in now in place. Feedback on the content of the reports and progress made will be provided by Scottish Government separately to the ADPs and is expected in June 2023.

2.4 Proposed level of Assurance

This report proposes the following level of assurance:

Substantial	<input type="checkbox"/>	Moderate	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Limited	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comment on the level of assurance:

HADP will respond to feedback provided by the Scottish Government on the report – expected June 2023.

Continue to work with the national MAT Implementation Support Team (MIST) to meet the Medicines Assisted Treatment Standards.

This annual report is a standard agenda item at the HADP strategy group.

3 Impact Analysis

3.1 Quality/ Patient Care

Positive

- The additional funding directed towards residential rehabilitation and rehabilitation will reduce waiting lists.
- The introduction of the MAT standards, particularly same day access, increased choice and assertive outreach will transform the type of service currently available and will save lives.
- The development of an immediate response pathway for non-fatal drug overdose will save lives.
- The introduction of lived experience panels and additional support for service users will ensure their voices are heard.

Negative

- The introduction of the MAT standards, although welcome, will put pressure on existing services because of the increase in work load and in particular the challenge of recruiting/retaining staff in rural and remote locations.

3.2 Workforce

The introduction of the MAT standards, continue to be challenging for services to achieve particularly in rural locations, where there are a small teams of staff and recruitment remains an issue. There is the potential for increased job satisfaction because the staff will be able to offer an immediate service and also benefit from the increase in posts with more career structure.

3.3 Financial

The Scottish Government has declared drug related deaths as national emergency and provided additional resources to increase spend in Highland Council area. The money is allocated to NHS Highland and HADP co-ordinates this spend and commissions services across partner agencies.

3.4 Risk Assessment/Management

The COVID-19 pandemic affected all aspects of HADP work, for example, data management through to provision of services where it is difficult to recruit staff or staff become unwell. Although recovery is underway some of the risks remain particularly where the staff team is small. The main risk is the waiting times target is not met and that over the next three years drugs and alcohol death rates do not fall.

3.5 Data Protection

The implementation of the national Drug and Alcohol Information System (DAISy) required a Data Sharing Agreement with Public Health Scotland. This was agreed with the Caldicott Guardian and with the advice from the Data Protection Team. An additional data Sharing Agreement was also made between the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) and NHS Highland so that non fatal overdose information is directly reported by SAS to the Drugs and Alcohol Services for immediate follow up.

3.6 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

An impact assessment has not been completed because this is a Scottish Government annual reporting template. The template, however, includes a number of questions that relate to equality and diversity and tackling health inequalities.

Section 3: Getting it Right for Every Child, Young People and their Families. This section includes questions about support for children, young people, the families of those with problematic alcohol and drug use and those who experience gender based violence.

3.7 Other impacts

Other sections include information about the involvement of those with lived experience and tackling stigma.

3.8 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The process for completion of this annual template involved partner contributions, for example, alcohol and drug recovery/treatment services, prevention/whole population-based approaches, criminal justice services and individuals with lived experience. A draft copy is circulated to strategy group members.

3.9 Route to the Meeting

Presented and agreed at the Highland Community Planning Partnership, December 2022, and agreed by the Strategy Group on 23 November 2021.

4 Recommendation

NHS Highland Board is asked to note the assurance provided by the reports on the work of the Alcohol and Drugs Partnerships and also note the challenges relating to service delivery and health improvement.

4.1 List of appendices

The following appendices are included with this report:

Appendix No 1, HADP Summary Annual Report 2021/22 (Full report available if requested)

- i Alcohol Related Deaths in Scotland [National Records of Scotland Alcohol Deaths](#) Published 4 August 2022
- ii Drug Related Deaths in Scotland [National Records of Scotland Drug Related Deaths](#) Published 28 July 2022
- iii National Drug and Alcohol Treatment Waiting Times [Public Health Scotland](#) 1 July 2022 to 30 September 2022
- iv Medication Assisted Treatment Standards [Scottish Government](#) 31 may 2021
- v Rights, Respect and Recovery [Scottish Government](#) 28 November 2018
- vi Alcohol Framework 2018 [Scottish Government](#) 20 November 2018