

Drug and Alcohol Cross Party Annual General Meeting

Minutes 28.10 21

1 Attendance

MSPs:

Monica Lennon
Clare Baker
Collette Stevenson
Stuart McMillan
Paul McLennan

Gillian Martin
Paul Sweeney
Michael Martin
Emma Harper
Mercedes Villalba

Speakers:

Joan Walsh
Tracey Clusker

Attendees:

Dave Liddell
Simon Furmage
Laura Wilson
Kenny Harrison
Fiona Mercer
Catriona Connell
Laura Mitchell
Sean Kehoe
Duncan Stewart
Brenda Bradley
Emily Murphy
Donna Thain
Mercedes Villalba
Susan Grant
Tracey McFall
Arun Menon
Gary Meek
Fiona Gellatly

Cameron Scally
Amanda Rae
Stephen Wishart
Joanne Smith
Roisin Ash
Rebecca McColl
Judith Proudfoot
Angela Prentice
Chris Bain
Claire Muirhead
Drew McGowan
Annemarie Ward
Sandra Holmes
Paul McLennan
Liam Mehigan
Tracey Stewart
Dougie McBean
Michael Trail

Apologies:

Justina Murray

2 Introduction

Monica Lennon introduced herself as one of the MSPs for Central Scotland. She began by asking MSP to introduce themselves:

- Claire Baker is Mid-Scotland and Fife MSP and Labours spokesperson on drugs policy.
- Claire has been involved in recent debates, particularly MAT standards, so was particularly interested in this discussion.
- Colette Stevenson. MSP from East Kilbride. A newly elected member who sits on the Criminal Justice Committee.
- Stuart McMillan. MSP for Greenock and Inverclyde. Also a board member of Moving on in Inverclyde for six years.
- Gillian Martin. MSP for Aberdeenshire East
- Paul Sweeney. Glasgow list MSPMSP.
- Paul McLellan, MSP for East Lothian. Had been leader of East Lothian Council before being elected.

The CPG has been running for a number of years and there has been significant interest from MSPs and I want to thank some of our previous members and in particular, John Finney, who retired in the last session. John was at the co-convener and was an excellent friend and supporter of this group.

3 Officer bearers

Co-convenors

Monica Lennon was nominated by Stuart McMillan
Stuart McMillan was nominated by Claire Baker

Vice- convenors

Paul Sweeney was nominated by Stuart McMillan and approved by the CPG
Paul McLennan was nominated by Stuart McMillan approved by the CPG

4 Secretariat

Scottish Drugs Forum were re elected to provide the secretariat for the group.

5 Update on Medication Assisted Treatment Standards

Monica Lennon explained that the next item was update of progress with the implementation of the Medication Assisted treatment standards. As we know these are hugely important particular aspects around access, choice and retention. Government has given a commitment to implement these by next April. The two speakers were:

- Joan Walsh, Scottish Drugs Forum, User Involvement Officer – findings of a service evaluation of 95 people on Medication Assisted Treatment
- Tracey Clusker, Clinical Lead, Scottish Government's Medication Assisted Treatment Implementation Support Team – providing an update on local Alcohol and Drug Partnership progress with implementation of MAT

The presentation PowerPoints provided at the end of this minute.

Question and discussion

Claire Baker highlighted the ambition to have delivery by all ten by April and how feasible was this. Tracey Clusker confirmed that there was a commitment from Government to deliver all ten standards by April. But, there are particular challenges re the system changes of Standards 6-10 for example the involvement of primary care.

Collette Stevenson highlighted the recent evidence session at the CJ Committee. A great deal of inconsistency across ADPs was observed in terms of approaches. Tracey Clusker responded by saying that this highlighted the need dedicated programme management in areas to deliver the MAT Standards. She reported that approaches are different across Scotland, but we need consistency across Health Board areas and across Scotland. The MIST team were also looking at how people can be commenced on MAT in custody the same day.

Tracey highlighted the challenges of engaging with people with a drug problem on an experiential level and highlighted the importance of working with SDF to engage with current users.

Arun Mennon, speaking in a personal capacity, asked whether implementation by April 2022 was achievable or was an aspirational goal. Tracey Clusker replied by saying the standards are aspirational and we have to push and aim high as we would with other care groups. Work force will be key to the effective delivery of the Standards. The challenges are huge but I would be naive to say otherwise

Liam Meechan asked a specific question about the SDF Survey and particularly with regard to the day people were started on a prescription. Joan Walsh replied that some people who were surveyed by SDF's peer research volunteers may have, on occasions, been confused the first point of contact rather than the date they actually

got a prescription. The baseline position may therefore actually be worse than described.

People not feeling emotionally safe to describe their benzodiazepines. Tracey Clusker people felt very stigmatised for asking to be prescribed. Consensus conference has been proposed to embed the draft guidelines which were published in June.

Emma Harper raised the issue of reversal agencies which are equivalent to Naloxone to respond to benzodiazepine overdoses. TC Italy has done some work on this but the concern is around these drugs causing seizures.

6 Future Programme of work, meetings and actions

Sue Weber and Myles Briggs will also be joining the group.

Key areas for future work

- Street Benzodiazepine use and prescribing Guidelines
- Workforce Development issues and capacity
- Recovery research – looking at the gaps in research
- Drug Consumption Rooms
- Residential Rehabilitation and support services

Monica Lennon highlighted the Right to Recovery Bill and suggested asking Douglas Ross to speak on this before Christmas. Also Monica Suggested inviting the Minister to speak at an appropriate.

Sandra Holmes, Families Campaign for change spoke about the challenges of communicating with services. The lack of accessibility is a major issue. It was agreed that Sandra would speak at a future meeting.

7 Date of Next meeting

22nd December at 5.45pm over zoom.

PRESENTATIONS

Joan Walsh, Scottish Drugs Forum, User Involvement Officer – findings of a service evaluation of 95 people on Medication Assisted Treatment.



Joan%20Walsh%20
Presentation.pptx

Tracey Clusker, Clinical Lead, Scottish Government's Medication Assisted Treatment Implementation Support Team – providing an update on local Alcohol and Drug Partnership progress with implementation of MAT.



Tracey%20Cusker%
20Presentation.pptx