Tallaght Drug & Alcohol Task Force (TDATF)

STRATEGIC PLAN
2017 - 2020
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CHAIRPERSONS STATEMENT

Since 1997, Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force is at the forefront in an, integrated response to the impact of substance misuse on the local communities, families and individuals in the Tallaght area.

I would like on behalf of Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force, to thank all the people who have given their time so generously, who have worked so hard and contributed so much over the years, to help and support those affected by substance misuse. They have provided the local communities and the families of Tallaght with a first class service. In 2014 ‘Alcohol’ was added to the remit of the Local and Regional Task Forces, so it is now appropriate that we develop a new strategy going forward to deal with the issues currently being encountered in our local area. It is also important that we have strong governance standards in our approach to enable us achieve our targeted objectives. I am delighted to endorse The Strategic Plan of the Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force for 2017-2020.

Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force represents a partnership between the statutory, voluntary, service users, community sectors and the local Authority. The people involved are making a significant contribution in addressing substance misuse and alcohol issues in the Area through supporting responses that meet the needs of communities, families and individuals.

The success of the new strategy will depend on a huge commitment by the many people tasked with the workload assigned in the new strategy. Its focus is to have positive outcomes for the communities, families and individuals who are caught up in the cycle of drug misuse, alcohol addiction, intimidation, social economic problems and the physical and emotional harms encountered. Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force will provide help and support to those communities, families and individuals in need and working with us to build awareness, infrastructure and resilience to combat the impact of drug and alcohol misuse.

Eamon Dolan
TDATF VISION & MISSION

Vision

The vision of TDATF is to be the central coordinating body in Tallaght and Whitechurch¹ advocating on behalf of individuals, families and communities in relation to alcohol and substance misuse and related harm.

Mission

Our mission is to facilitate and coordinate the effective local implementation of national alcohol and substance misuse strategies. We do this by

- **Empowering families, communities and individuals** to proactively address alcohol and substance misuse in the home, the community and their lives.

- **Providing up to date information** and education on alcohol and substances - impacts, related harm, supports and services for individuals, families and communities in Tallaght and Whitechurch areas.

- **Leading interagency work** and collaboration to best support individuals, families and communities in addressing their needs in relation to alcohol and substance misuse.

- **Facilitating services** in the Tallaght and Whitechurch areas to work cohesively in responding to the needs of, individuals, families and communities impacted by alcohol and substance misuse through prevention, rehabilitation and family support programmes that reflect best practice.

- **Modelling effective governance** and regularly reviewing TDATF structures/performance with a view to maintaining the highest standards of best practice to service the Tallaght and Whitechurch areas.

¹ TDATF services two geographical areas and their surrounding communities ‘Tallaght and Whitechurch’. Included are Dublin 24, Firhouse, Citywest, Rathfarnham, Whitechurch, Edmonstown, Tara Hill, Knocklyon and
ABOUT TDATF

Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force (TDATF) is one of 13 Local Drugs Task Forces set up in March 1997. 2014 marked the addition of alcohol to TDATF’s remit. TDATF facilitates an integrated response to alcohol and substance misuse in Tallaght and Whitechurch, South County Dublin. A key function of TDATF is to assess the nature and extent of alcohol and substance misuse in the area and to coordinate responses. Membership of TDATF includes representatives from the statutory, community, voluntary and political sectors. Through a partnership approach TDATF provides oversight for the implementation of TDATF action plans, which co-ordinate all relevant alcohol and substance misuse programmes/initiatives in the local area. Effective partnership working remains fundamental in today’s challenging climate.

TDATF is a subgroup of South Dublin County Partnership (SDC Partnership). As part of this infrastructure, TDATF is accountable to the Board of South Dublin County Partnership which is responsible for overseeing the broad strategy and policies for TDATF. The Board of SDC Partnership operates to best practice corporate governance principles and is subject to EU audit and compliance regulatory standards. SDC Partnership has the responsibility for the TDATF staff roles, employment and project fund outlined in the HSE service level agreement contract. SDC Partnership is responsible for TDATF financial procedures and practises.

The HSE grant 10 service agreements with community drug projects in TDATF area and 1 service agreement to SDC Partnership to implement the work of TDATF.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Acronym</th>
<th>Agency Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Lorien</td>
<td>Barnardos Lorien Project for children, young people, families affected by drug misuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BASP</td>
<td>Brookfield Addiction Support Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARP</td>
<td>Community Addiction Response Programme</td>
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<tr>
<td>FDRP</td>
<td>Fettercairn Drug Rehab Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JADD</td>
<td>Jobstown Assisting Drugs Dependency</td>
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<tr>
<td>WASP</td>
<td>Whitechurch Addiction Support Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Aengus</td>
<td>St. Aengus Community Action Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Dominics</td>
<td>St. Dominic’s Community Response Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SWAN</td>
<td>SWAN Family Support and rehabilitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TRP</td>
<td>Tallaght Rehabilitation Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDCP</td>
<td>South Dublin County Partnership</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The HSE require all projects to be represented on Task Force substructures, submit their service agreement details, workplans and financial projections to Tallaght Drugs Alcohol Task Force in addition to HSE addiction services and financial monitoring to the HSE compliance unit.
The Drugs Policy Unit (DPU) fund 5 projects through two channels of funding a. Dublin Education Training Board and b. South Dublin County Council.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Acronym</th>
<th>Agency Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>TDEI, Foroige</td>
<td>Tallaght Drugs Education Initiative, Foroige</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Aengus</td>
<td>St. Aengus Community Action Group</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CARP</td>
<td>Community Addiction Response Programme</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fettercairn Estate Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Killinarden Estate Management</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The DPU request all 5 projects submit application forms and financial reports, any reallocation of funds/project focus forms to TDATF before submission to DPU. The DPU require an annual report from Tallaght Drug Alcohol Task Force each year which also includes submissions from all Tallaght Drug Alcohol Task Force Projects.

Other drug rehabilitation projects supporting and contributing to the work of Tallaght Drug Alcohol Task Force with no service agreement from either DPU or HSE include

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Acronym</th>
<th>Agency Title</th>
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<tr>
<td>NHRC</td>
<td>New Hope Men’s Residential Centre</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Figure 1 – Tallaght Drug & Alcohol Task Force Structures

TDATF Board members: Community representatives include Tony Condren, Tommy Gilson, Mick Duff, Cathy Murray, Alice Murray, Marie White. Voluntary reps include Layton Kelly, Pat Daly, Statutory reps include Brian Cagney, Dorothy O’Reilly, Keri Goodliffe, Róisín McClendon, Cathy Purdy, Political reps include Brian Leech, Charlie O’Connor, Sean Crowe, Paul Murphy, John LaHart, Other reps include Robert Dunne (Barnardos), Valerie Scully (Foroige), Lary O’Neill (IDC Partnership) and Chairperson Eamon Dolan.
INTRODUCTION

TDATF’s core aim is to enhance integrated working with a view to providing a seamless continuum of care\(^2\) for all service users. Our hope is that we can reduce the impact of alcohol and substance misuse for families/individuals resulting in more resilient communities.

This plan, which sets the course for TDATF for the next three years, is the result of a 12-month process that has brought together stakeholders from the Tallaght and Whitechurch communities to inform and support the development of an outcome focused strategy.

TDATF has a unique role to play in addressing alcohol and substance misuse in the Tallaght and Whitechurch areas. While not a direct provider of services the task force facilitates collaboration between and across local services. This allows service users a clear view of the appropriate interventions and support routes available to them.

The purpose of the 2017 - 2020 Strategy is to focus on a set of priorities addressing the impact of alcohol and substance misuse in the Tallaght and Whitechurch area.

This strategic plan is informed by:

- TDATF’s remit as coordinator of responses to alcohol and substance misuse in Tallaght.
- The challenges facing TDATF identified through consultation and relevant data.
- The changes most likely to occur as a result of the National Drugs Strategy and related policies.
- Priorities for the next 3 years linked to annual operational plans.

\(^2\)Continuum of Care is an integrated system of care that guides and tracks a person over time through client-led goal setting supported by a comprehensive array of services spanning all levels of intensity of care. It involves treatment and rehabilitation from a range of care providers aimed at helping the individual reintegrate into society and recover from problem substance use (continuum of Care Position Paper, DPU, 2016)
BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

TDATF’s last strategic plan (2008 – 2013) was written in Celtic Tiger times, yet delivered sustainability during a severely challenging financial climate. From 2013, despite numerous cuts in both funding and resourcing, TDATF remained focused, maintaining its relevance locally and as a key voice at the table influencing structural reform and policy for alcohol and substance misuse.

TDATF is operating in a rapidly changing environment. The local population is increasing, with ever larger numbers of people accessing local services. In addition, the remit of TDATF is expanding beyond the 7% of the population in dependency of alcohol and/or substances to include an additional 54% of the population who are using substances (including alcohol) harmfully and hazardously (National Alcohol Diary Survey, 2013).

TDATF projects (listed page 4 and 5) constitute a highly skilled, experienced and dedicated work force. Despite the significant challenges of working in disadvantaged areas there is a determination to bring tangible and positive changes in the Tallaght and Whitechurch communities. Project work has been innovative and led to many successful outcomes, including with the children and families impacted by alcohol and substance misuse.

The prevalence data from the Next Generation Research (2016) estimates that between 15% and 24% of children are possibly impacted by illicit drug use in the Tallaght and Whitechurch areas.

Children of parents who misuse substances can carry a lot of anxiety that slowly strips away their own sense of wellbeing. This quote from a 12-year-old boy says an awful lot about a common experience for children in this situation:

“I worry when my mam goes out that she won’t come home.”

With access to the right supports however the parent and child’s experience can be so different as this quote from an 11 year old boy shows us:

“I have fun playing games with my ma now and she is not as moany as before.”

While the research has confirmed that 3.7% of families impacted by alcohol and substance misuse are engaged with local services, it demonstrates that there are 4-6 times the number of children not directly linked to any supports and who are possibly

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3 With a population of circa 125,000, TDATF had the highest number of people in treatment across Dublin’s thirteen task force areas in 2014
4 All Island HP Depravation Index 2011, trutzhaase.eu
5 Barnardos
experiencing harm. TDATF have agreed, over this next period, to make ‘the next generation’ a priority.

The demand for services to support the complex interconnected impacts of alcohol and substance misuse in communities is increasing all the time (Next Generation Research, 2016). Through consultation with local projects, TDATF understand that certain substance misuse trends have reached crisis levels. In particular, tablet use among young people, both prescribed and over the counter (OTC) has become commonplace. The use of illicitly manufactured medication and polydrug use in which alcohol and cannabis are normalised are increasingly worrying trends. While we have focused on specific strategic themes; sustainability and supporting the development of local, essential community drug and alcohol services remains a key priority.

Finally, TDATF continue to be challenged by funding and capacity cuts, by the need to reconfigure resources and respond to emerging needs and gaps in provision. The success of this new Strategic Plan depends on TDATF having the necessary organisational capability and capacity.

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6 Report to Next Generation Children’s Research Committee – June 2016, Ms. Karen Galligan (TCD, PhD candidate), Professor Catherine Comiskey
CONSULTATION

The development of this strategy was informed by a number of consultation sessions, both in person and online; where specific open ended questions were asked to gather as much input to the development of the strategy as possible. The approach was intended to involve a wide range of stakeholders in the development of the strategic plan.

We consulted with the following stakeholder groups:

- Selected community drug and alcohol services
- Service Users
- Partner Stakeholders
- A sample of the wider communities across the TDATF area (including young people)
- Key Staff (TDATF Coordinator & TDATF Rehabilitation Coordinator)
- TDATF Board Members
- TDATF working sub-committees

We asked the following key questions

- What are the main problems of substance misuse (or related issues) in your community?
- What in your view, would address these issues or make your community better?
- Anything else? This is your opportunity to tell us anything and everything you think we should know or note in the context of our planning for the period 2017 – 2020

We heard the following key messages during our consultations

“Taking drugs has become normal for young people” – Youth Consultation
“No real help for those addicted – they need rehab not a life of methadone” – Online, Public Consultation
“The strategic plan should commit [TDATF] as a group of agencies to work together to respond to the needs [of the community]” Service User Consultation
“It’s easier to get drugs than it is to get alcohol” - Youth Consultation
“TDATF needs to lead the partnership approach… to listen at local community level” – Service User Consultation

Consultation Principles: There may be a number of reasons to consult: to garner views and preferences, to understand possible unintended consequences of a policy or to get views on implementation. Consultation improves the quality of policy making by bringing to bear expertise and alternative perspectives, and identifying unintended effects and practical problems. It should be part of strengthening policy making and should involve understanding the effects of the policy on those affected. The objectives of any consultation should be clear, and will depend to a great extent on the type of issue and the stage in the policy-making process – from gathering new ideas to testing options (OECD Principles of consultation, 2013)
The consultations highlighted that

- There is an urgent need to revitalise community engagement and prevention initiatives and targeted communications
- There needs to be more interagency working and cohesion of services
- The work of TDATF needs to link with the upcoming national drugs strategy, current national rehabilitation framework, national alcohol campaign, community action on alcohol project and national hidden harm strategy; applying local interventions specific for Tallaght and Whitechurch
- Education and prevention needs to start with under 12’s (breaking the cycle of ‘this is the norm’ across the generations and communities)
- Communities have a part to play in planning - TDATF needs to listen at local community level and more resources are required
- Service users identified the need for integrated care planning, and better sharing of information. Service users suggested one door 10 services approach
DEVELOPING STRATEGY 2017-2020

In this 3-year strategy we have set out our ambitions for the future based on what is achievable now and on how TDATF can continue to strengthen and build on success. The plan is informed by our consultations, (with service users, projects, staff and the public), by evidence of current need, and our understanding of the future challenges facing TDATF (NDTRS data 2016 HRB).

The Theory of Change Model® provided a framework to focus our plan. We have started with the ‘end game’ (outcomes) to provide a clear focus towards 2020. TDATF pillar® structure has been very useful in encouraging joined up thinking within specific areas, this structure meant that at times cross pillar actions had no clear owner and a siloed approach began to develop. To ensure we take a big picture view we have chosen to move away from a purely pillar focused view into delivering across ‘strategic themes’ Throughout the planning process our consultations and analysis of relevant data informed the development of our Strategic Themes, Goals and Actions. We have reviewed and confirmed our vision and mission. We have validated that our focus for addressing alcohol and substance misuse in Tallaght and Whitechurch remains relevant and will guide our work plans.

TDATF agreed to include alcohol in our remit and title in 2014. We were one of five Drug & Alcohol Task Forces involved in the Community Action on Alcohol Pilot (CAAP) Project, led by the Alcohol Forum. The CAAP has also fed into our strategic plan 2017-2020. Substance misuse is reported to be the norm in some areas of the community in Tallaght and Whitechurch, people feel helpless, unsupported and unable to access complex services. TDATF is committed to improving community and service user outcomes by championing effective partnership between statutory and non statutory services. We are focused on developing a capacity of individuals, families and communities in Tallaght and Whitechurch to respond more effectively to the harm caused by alcohol and substance misuse.

This strategy is directional and will be supported by annual operational plans. While it aligns to the national agenda in relation to substance misuse it is very much a plan for Tallaght and Whitechurch.

8 Theory of Change (ToC) is a methodology for planning and evaluation that is used in the not-for-profit and government sectors. Theory of Change links outcomes and activities to explain HOW and WHY the desired change or strategy is expected to come about
9 TDATF Pillars – Alcohol, Education/Prevention, Family Support, Treatment & Rehab, Supply Reduction, Research. TDATF operational framework aligned subgroups to pillars.
ALIGNING GOALS AND ACTIONS

Three strategic themes will shape all aspects of our work over the next three years.

- **Improved Service User and Community Outcomes**
- **Effective Partnership**
- **Increased Capacity**

Under these strategic themes, we have grouped clear positive outcomes. For each outcome, we have named goals and actions. The goals and actions are directional and will be the guide to our annual operational plans. Specifically, we have ensured that each action in the Plan links to a set of outcomes grouped under our Strategic Themes, allowing us to measure our progress. Figure 2 below illustrates why we have focused on each theme, describing the outcomes we want to achieve in delivering this plan.

**Figure 2 – Strategic Themes**

- **Improved Service User & Community Outcomes**
  - An increased number of people are drug free
  - More families are supported
  - Children are safer
  - The cycle of intergenerational substance misuse is broken
  - There is an improvement in school attendance

- **Effective Partnership**
  - There is an increased accountability from all partners of the local and national drug strategy
  - There is an enhanced rapport with statutory agencies
  - TDATF can influence structural reform nationally
  - There is more effective interagency collaboration

- **Increased Capacity**
  - Child and youth focused services meet the true level of need
  - There is an increased capacity to respond to polydrug use
  - TDATF has longevity and remains sustainable
  - All projects are fully funded
1. Improved Service User and Community Outcomes

Sustainability and development of essential community drug services are core priorities for TDATF in the new Strategy. The intergenerational impact of substance misuse frames the focus on families and children as a strategic priority going forward.

Aligned to our vision and mission TDATF is targeting improved service user and community outcomes so that:

- An increased number of people are drug free
- More families are supported
- Children are safer
- The cycle of intergenerational substance misuse is broken
- There is an improvement in school attendance

The goals we have identified in table 1 are delivered through clear, strategic action. This will be supported by annual operational plans so that we can remain flexible and respond to emerging needs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Level Goals</th>
<th>2017-2020 Actions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. People have an increased knowledge of the availability of services within the area</td>
<td>• Develop and Implement a TDATF Communications Strategy and Plan for Tallaght and Whitechurch (incl. mobile &amp; social media)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 2. There is an understanding and partnership to create structures to support integrated working between and across services/projects | • Advocate for the need for cross collaboration in the TDATF area to provide a continuum of care  
• Showcase successful initiatives where integrated working across services/projects was utilised  
• Support closer links between children’s services and adult services and to encourage and facilitate their interagency collaboration  
• Support services implement best practice  
• Increase the effectiveness and impact of services                                                                                           |
| 3. Shared planning between/across services becomes the standard we work to (services/projects are working together) | • Review current sub group structures (assess alignment with National Strategy)  
• Develop and implement structures that provide opportunities for integrated working between services/projects  
• Link sub group work plans to outcomes targeted in TDATF Strategy  
• Establish TDATF facilitated annual joint planning workshops for services/projects  
• Schedule progress review meetings to measure progress against joint goals and key performance indicators                                                                                                        |
| 4. Policies are in place to deliver better outcomes for service users            | • Develop and implement collaborative working framework for services/projects in TDATF area  
• Support the development of an area based integrated rehabilitation service delivery model which includes child and family supports  
• Develop research relevant to children’s outcomes  
• Develop template policies, procedures and protocols                                                                                          |
2. Effective Partnership

TDATF represents a partnership between the statutory, voluntary and community sectors. Over 20 years, TDATF and its partner organisations have made a significant contribution to addressing the substance misuse problem in Tallaght and Whitechurch, through the provision of locally based responses that complement existing drugs and alcohol programmes and services.

In the development of this Strategic Plan we have recognised that the contribution of individual Task Force members in representing their particular agencies or sectors has been pivotal to our success to date. Success and sustainability in the future, will be dependent on continuing to work in partnership, striving to bring all parties to the table. TDATF is targeting effective partnership so that:

- There is increased accountability from all partners of the local & national drugs strategy
- There is an enhanced relationship with statutory agencies
- TDATF can influence structural reform nationally
- There is more effective interagency collaboration

The goals we have identified in table 2 are delivered through clear, strategic actions. This will be supported by annual operational plans so that we can both model and deliver effective partnership.

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10 A public participation network is an independent umbrella organisation and network that provides a voice for all community & voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups throughout the county. Public Participation Network (PPN) facilitates the representation of the community on issues that affect their lives.
High Level Goals | 2017 - 2020 Actions
---|---
2. All stakeholders are aware of the importance of and recognise the value of being represented at the table | • Lobby key stakeholders to encourage their active participation in TDATF
3. All stakeholders are represented at the table and have a voice and equal responsibility | • Reframe subgroup terms of reference (role, responsibilities etc.) to align with current strategy
4. Stakeholders acknowledge that alcohol and substance misuse impact access to their services | • Work with managers from statutory, community and voluntary services to highlight that individuals and families may have wider psychosocial issues (promote SAOR\(^\text{11}\) model)
5. Policy makers and funders recognise and support the value of the independent voice of the Task Force and fully support and contribute to the effective partnership in the make up of the Task Force | • Invest in Task Force operation structure and membership; sustaining focus on the coordinating collaboration and advocacy function of the task force
6. TDATF influences the national policy agenda for substance misuse responds to and addresses the needs of TDATF service user community | • Task Force to develop a service user involvement strategy and operational plan

Table 2 – Goals and Actions – Effective Partnership

3. Increased Capacity
Many community projects / initiatives have suffered greatly as a result of years of funding cuts, including to frontline services. Since 2014 the negative impacts of funding shortfalls were exacerbated by TDATF’s new alcohol remit, an ever increasing demand for services, and a worrying increase in the complexity of presenting issues. Building capacity of services and ensuring the sustainability of our essential community services remains a key priority of TDATF.
TDATF are targeting increased capacity so that:
- Child and youth focused services meet the true level of need
- There is an increased capacity to respond to polydrug use
- TDATF has longevity and remains sustainable
- All projects are fully funded

The goals we have identified in table 3 are delivered through clear, strategic actions and will be supported by annual operational plans so that we can support capacity building at all levels in the local community.

11 SAOR: Support, Ask & Assess, Offer Assistance, & Refer is a National Model of Practise for all services recommending the use of screening and brief intervention as a response to alcohol and substance misuse.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>High Level Goals</th>
<th>2017 -2020 Actions</th>
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| 2. Funders acknowledge family and community needs based on population and social deprivation index to resource TDATF adequately | • Develop and implement core agendas to pursue with funders based on the social demographic needs of the area e.g. Prevention  
• Lobby for initiatives aimed at prevention in the community including parenting and family supports for at-risk families in Tallaght and Whitechurch.  
• Explore structural reform with a view to revisiting the geographical area |
| 3. TDATF are aware of additional funding streams                                 | • Encourage and support services to access alternative funding opportunities                                                                                                                                              |
| 4. TDATF encourage projects to explore other funding avenues                    | • Support community and voluntary projects to specialise in their expertise                                                                                                                                               |
| 5. TDATF and projects are adequately funded to meet the needs of the task force area | • TDATF supports projects in achieving and sustaining Better Safer Health Care Standards (HSE Quality Improvement Plan)                                                                                                 |

Table 3 – Goals and Actions – Increased Capacity
CONCLUSION

As we approach TDTAF’s 20 year anniversary, this strategic plan will serve as a foundation to focus our activities towards 2020. This plan aims to be comprehensive, addressing both practical needs at community level, and the policies required to develop our capacity and capability as local Task Force.

There is an urgent need to revitalise community engagement and prevention initiatives around alcohol and substance misuse. It is clear that there needs to be more interagency collaboration and cohesion of services to deliver improved outcomes. We are committed to deliver on our remit for Tallaght and Whitechurch, striving to facilitate the delivery of an accessible continuum of care for all service users.

TDTAF has made a significant contribution to addressing alcohol and substance misuse issues locally through 20 years of partnership between the statutory, voluntary and community sectors. It is our intention to continue with this partnership approach while aligning with the upcoming National Drugs Strategy. Our sustainability and success will be dependent on collaborating to deliver appropriate local interventions for Tallaght and Whitechurch.

We have prioritised ‘the next generation’ throughout our strategic planning process. We listened during our consultations and know that education and prevention needs to start with under 12’s (breaking the cycle of ‘this is the norm’ across the generations). We will put policies in place that facilitate supporting families and communities to address the impact of alcohol and substance misuse.

Delivering our strategic plan successfully depends on TDATF having the necessary capacity and capability to facilitate a response to alcohol and substance misuse in Tallaght and Whitechurch. Developing our capacity has been a key theme in our planning. We are committed to advocating for the appropriate resources and funding to support our communities into the future.

This plan should be viewed as the first step in our strategic journey. We have set out our ambitions for the next three years as a foundation for delivering our vision and mission. We will develop detailed annual operational plans to meet the goals and actions we have identified. While we are committed to aligning with the national agenda in relation to alcohol and substance misuse, this is a plan for TDATF, for Tallaght and Whitechurch. Our ultimate hope is that we can reduce the impact of alcohol and substance misuse for families/individuals, resulting in more resilient communities.
APPENDIX 1 – DOCUMENTATION REVIEWED

- Cork Local Drug and Alcohol Task Force, Strategic Plan 2015-2017
- Framework For Improving Quality, HSE
- National Alcohol Diary Survey, health Research Board, 2013
- National Drugs Strategy (interim) 2009-2016, Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, 2009
- National Drugs Strategy Submission, Barnardos, October 2016
- Next Generation Research ‘Estimating the number of children of parents who misuse substances, including alcohol across the communities of the Tallaght Drug and Alcohol Task Force (TDATF)’ (June 2016), Ms. Karen Galligan (TCD, PhD candidate), Professor Catherine Comiskey
- Review and Assessment of Tallaght Local Drugs Task Force Projects Final Report, January 2012, Sue Irving Ltd
- Review of the ongoing impact of mainstream, interim and other funding cuts on TDATF projects and services, 2014 – 2015, TDATF, July 2015
- Steering Group Report on a National Substance Misuse Strategy, Department of Health, February 2012
- TDTF Strategic Plan 2008 - 2013
APPENDIX 2 – GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Continuum of Care
The Continuum of Care is an integrated system of care that guides and tracks a person over time through client-led goal setting supported by a comprehensive array of services spanning all levels of intensity of care. It involves treatment and rehabilitation from a range of care providers aimed at helping the individual reintegrate into society and recover from problem substance use.

Brief Intervention
- Short, structured & helpful conversation about alcohol
- Any intervention that involves a minimum of professional time to help change behaviour requiring anything from 5 minutes up to 2hrs to administer
- Generally restricted to four sessions or less, can be conducted by non-specialist workers
- Investigate a potential problem and motivate an individual to begin to make a change

Hidden Harm
The experience of children living with, and affected by, parental substance use has become widely known as ‘Hidden Harm’. The term Hidden Harm encapsulates the two key features of that experience: that children are often not known to services, that they suffer harm in a number of ways through physical and emotional neglect, including exposure to harm and poor parenting. Not all parents who use substances experience difficulties with parenting capacity. Equally not all children exposed to parental substance misuse are affected adversely either in the short or longer term.

National Rehabilitation Framework (NRF):
The National Drugs Rehabilitation Framework (NDRF) provides for an integrated model of service provision that, depending on the complexity of need and stage of the life-cycle, a service user may be offered support in one or some of the following areas:
- drugs-specific interventions
- general health services;
- employment (including community employment, work placements);
- justice, law and criminal issues support;
- family support and child care;
- education and training, personal development;
- housing, tenancy and independent living support.
Polydrug use
Poly drug use refers to the use of two or more psychoactive drugs in combination to achieve a particular effect. In many cases one drug is used as a base or primary drug, with additional drugs to leaven or compensate for the side effects of the primary drug and make the experience more enjoyable with drug synergy effects, or to supplement for primary drug when supply is low.

Rehabilitation
Rehabilitation encompasses a structured development process focused on individuals, involving a continuum of care and aimed at maximising their quality of life and enabling their re-integration into community and working life. Rehabilitation is best understood as a process that supports and encourages drug users at each stage of their drug use and cycle of behavioural change. At each stage, services should be person-centred and respond to the needs of drug users and ideally the rehabilitation process begins from the first time the client accesses a service for problem drug use.

SAOR
Support, Ask & Assess, Offer Assistance, & Refer is a National Model of Practise for all services recommending the use of screening and brief intervention as a response to alcohol and substance misuse.

Screening
Measurement tool for the extent of one’s addiction (e.g., self-completion questionnaire/life-history assessment)

South Dublin County Partnership
SDC Partnership is a non-profit organisation working to tackle poverty and social exclusion in South Dublin County. We develop and deliver projects in six areas:
- Enterprise & employment,
- Lifelong learning,
- Children and families,
- Community development,
- Health & wellbeing and
- Your local partnership

Substance Misuse
The term ‘problem substance use’ is used throughout this document and refers to both the consumption of dependence producing and non-dependence producing substances. Drug and alcohol use is considered problematic when it is illegal or when it causes harm to individuals, groups, communities or society at large.
Service User Involvement & Participation

involvement’ (Dept. of Health and Children, 2008 National Strategy for Service User Involvement in the Irish Health Service 2008-2013) and ‘participation’ (Health Boards Executive 2002 Community participation guidelines: Part 1: Health Strategy Implementation Project). For the purposes of this paper the terms may be used interchangeably and can be defined as a “process by which people are enabled to become actively and genuinely involved in defining the issues of concern to them, in making decisions about factors that affect their lives, in formulating and implementing policies, in planning, developing and delivering services and in taking action to achieve change."

Treatment

Treatment is broadly defined as ‘any activity which aims to ameliorate the psychological, medical or social state of individuals who seek help for their drug problems’. Treatment options include one or more of the following: brief interventions, addiction counselling, medication-free therapy, alternative therapy, psychiatric treatment, medication (detoxification for problem alcohol, opiate or benzodiazepine use, methadone substitution), and social and occupational reintegration.