

Scottish Healthy Care Network

Partnership Drugs Initiative:

Supporting projects working with
vulnerable young people

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- Outcomes for young people affected by drugs and alcohol?
- How do we know and how do we tell we are making a difference?

What is the Partnership Drugs Initiative?

PDI Aim

Children and young people at highest risk from drugs and alcohol related problems:

- **Children and young people in families in which parents misuse drugs / alcohol**
- **Pre-teen children who are at higher risk of developing problem substance misuse**
- **Young people who are developing or have established problem substance use**

[All based on the principles of The Children (Scotland) Act 1995]

What we do

- Relationship grant-making
- Promoting partnerships to ensure services meet local needs
- Involvement of young people in decision making process
- Focus on learning what works, promoting and sharing the learning

Types of Service delivery

- Intensive Support for Families
- Intensive Support for Young People
- Support for Young Carers
- Early Interventions
- Peer Education
- Mentoring/befriending

Culture of support

- Support to shape and develop proposal
- Training on how to evaluate the impact
- Newsletter, networking events
- Feedback to projects on reports and delivery

Outcomes for young people affected by drugs and alcohol?

- What are the outcomes we want to achieve for our young people?
- Are these the same key outcomes for helping young people affected by drugs and alcohol?

Our Experience

- All projects want to achieve similar aims for children and young people
- Outcomes range from increasing confidence to reducing substance use

Review of outcomes

- In-depth analysis of outcomes for projects offering intensive support for young people
- Focused on **FOUR** outcomes:
 - Increased knowledge of impact of substance misuse
 - Increased coping skills
 - Reduced substance misuse
 - Increased (or re-engagement in) education or employment

Review of outcomes

- Gained a better understanding of a pathway of support for young people
- Gained a better understanding of different elements that impact on achieving positive outcomes (links to housing situations)
- Gained a better understanding of what additional support projects need to demonstrate the outcomes

How do we know and how do we tell we
are making a difference?

- What are the best ways to help young people see the changes they are making?
- What are the best ways to tell your stakeholders and funders about the difference you are making to young people?

How do we show change?

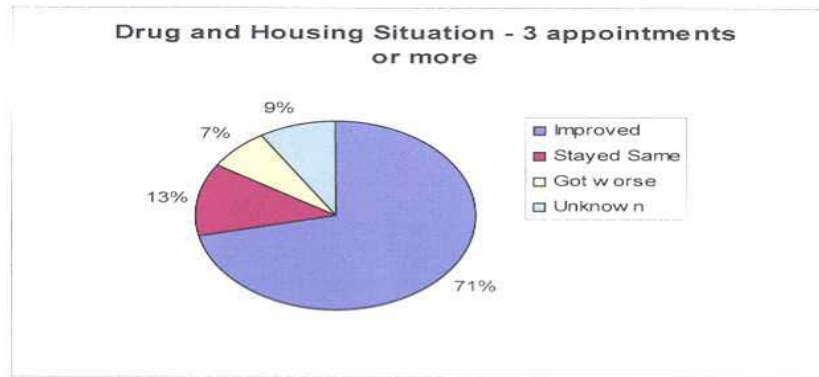
- Visual tools / action plans that help young people see the change
- Capturing this progression in a collective way to show funders the impact of the whole work
- Be realistic about the young person's journey and reflect this

Young people spent less money on alcohol

*Young people kept diary of their own alcohol intake
as a first step to reducing intake*

*Young people were able to make and maintain
positive relationships*

*Young person reduced their exposure to risky
situations*



Overall 71% of all clients who have worked with the Drugs Outreach Project, who have attended 3 appointments or more have said that their **drug** and **housing** situation has **improved** whilst working with the Drugs Outreach Project.

Louise was an outgoing 20 year old who has been in and out of homeless accommodation in West Lothian for a number of years. During this time she started smoking cannabis. Once she gained her own tenancy her cannabis use escalated and financial problems deepened, this caused her anxiety and paranoia to become a problem, leading to Louise being afraid to leave the house.

Louise was referred to the Drugs Outreach Project. She expressed her desire to help get her life back. She wanted to cut down on her drug use as well as preserving her new tenancy. After working to reduce her cannabis intake and attending various diversionary activities with the Drugs Outreach Project, Louise was then referred to the Cyrenians People with Potential to further help with her confidence and self esteem. After several months, Louise felt confident enough to start looking for work and a few months ago started work with a local company full time. Her cannabis use is now almost non-existent.

Louise continues to return to the Cyrenians on an informal peer support basis to provide guidance and pass on her message that anything is possible.

Clients who have worked with the Drugs Outreach Project have since gone on to further opportunities. These include:

- 2 clients have started full time employment
- 1 client has accepted full time employment – awaiting start date.
- 2 clients currently in part-time employment
- 1 client is currently volunteering
- 1 client is currently awaiting clearance to start volunteering

Who Cares? Scotland – Peer Education Project

- Feedback from young people involved in work
- Increased confidence through volunteering opportunities
- Increased awareness of substance issues through worker's observations, questionnaires

Springboig Substance Worker

- Increased confidence through involvement of young people in programme planning
- Use of the assessment framework to capture baseline and progression

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To learn more about evaluation and support:

Evaluation Support Scotland
(www.evaluationsupportscotland.org.uk)