

National Drugs Mission Funds Impact report 2025-26

Report for the Scottish Government on funded projects between April 2025 and March 2026

This report provides an overview of projects funded through the National Drugs Mission funds from 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026; their outcomes, progress, challenges and successes. It is based on progress reports shared by funded projects and supplemented by information received by Grant Advisors through meetings and project visits.



SEPTEMBER 2026

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Foreword by Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs

I feel privileged to provide the foreword to this year's Annual Report on the National Drugs Mission Funds.

This report comes at a point of transition, as we build on the learning and impact of the National Mission and look ahead to the next phase of Scotland's response to alcohol and drug use. It reflects both the progress made and the continued importance of providing compassionate, consistent support.

The National Mission was established to respond to this challenge through sustained investment and a shared commitment to working differently – bringing together national and local partners, services and communities to improve and save lives. The work set out here demonstrates what this approach can achieve in practice.

The work of grassroots organisations, community groups and third sector partners, supported through the National Drugs Mission Funds administered by Corra Foundation, continues to make a vital difference across Scotland. Through trauma-informed, relational and person-centred approaches, these organisations are supporting people to reduce harm, access services, rebuild connections and move towards recovery.

In 2025/26, 236 projects were supported, reaching 64,475 people across the country. Behind these figures are individual stories of change: people finding support at the right time, families being supported to stay connected, and communities working together to create safer and more inclusive environments. This reflects not only the scale of delivery, but the depth of care and commitment involved.

The experience reflected here highlights what makes a difference. Across Scotland, third sector organisations are working in joined-up, flexible and person-centred ways - bringing services together around individuals, rather than expecting individuals to navigate multiple systems. This continues to be a key strength of the work supported through the Fund.

At the same time, the challenges faced by individuals and organisations remain significant. Increasing demand, pressures on workforce capacity, gaps in wider support services, and the ongoing impact of poverty and inequality continue to shape the context in which this work takes place. Addressing these challenges requires continued collaboration and a long-term approach.



The joint publication with COSLA of Preventing Harm, Promoting Recovery: Scotland's Alcohol and Drugs Strategic Plan (2026–2035) sets out the long-term ambition we are working towards. This includes a continued commitment to multi-year funding for grassroots organisations. I am pleased that Corra Foundation will continue its central role through delivery of the new Alcohol and Drugs Fund, providing continuity and stability for organisations and communities across Scotland.

These foundations – strong partnerships, community-led delivery and a focus on dignity and respect – provide a solid basis for the next phase of this work.

I would like to thank the Corra Foundation, all funded organisations, and the staff and volunteers whose dedication makes this work possible. I would also like to recognise the individuals, families and communities who share their experiences and continue to shape how support is designed and delivered.

Together, this demonstrates the difference that sustained investment, partnership and compassion can make – supporting people, strengthening communities and helping to create the conditions for recovery and hope.

Ms Todd, MSP

Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs

Introduction

Overview of the past year

Corra Foundation has administered the National Drugs Mission funds on behalf of the Scottish Government since 2021. In 2025/26, Corra distributed over £12 million (out of the total £65 million budget) to funded projects working to support people affected by drug use across Scotland.

The National Drugs Mission funds have four strands; [the Children and Families Fund](#), [the Improvement Fund](#), [the Local Support Fund](#), and [the Local Support Fund Micro Grants](#). There were 236 active National Drugs Mission funded projects in 2025/26 and collectively they supported 64,475 people, an increase of more than 10,000 on the previous year.

During the reporting period, the four funds were open to continuation funding applications. 28 funded projects secured additional funds to extend their work until at least October 2026. The additional security of continuation funding has been essential to support the long-term, relational work being delivered by funded projects.

Corra supports funded projects to develop monitoring and evaluation systems that can record the impact of their work. This report draws on data and insights gathered through these systems, demonstrating the significant impact of funded work. The positive impact of this work is showcased throughout this report in the form of project case studies and quotes. These have been shared with Corra by funded projects through regular reporting and ongoing relationships between Corra staff and funded projects.

The funded work is crucial to the Scottish Government's mission to prevent drug related deaths and to support people affected by drugs. The funded projects detailed in this report work directly, and often intensively, with people who use drugs and their families. Funding has supported front-line work ranging from providing crisis support to families and children affected by drugs, to outreach support to vulnerable individuals in prison and community settings.

The Scottish Government's Alcohol and Drugs Fund launched in June 2026. This fund will be administered by Corra and is open to all National Drugs Mission funded projects who are seeking to continue their work.

Many funded projects have had to adapt to external challenges and a difficult socio-economic landscape. The challenges brought about by the cost-of-living crisis continue to have a sustained negative impact on individuals, communities and funded projects.

This report outlines key outcomes and progress reported by the National Drugs Mission funded projects in 2025/26.

Headline figures

Key figures, as reported by National Drugs Mission Funded projects in 2025/26, are shown in the infographic.



64,475

people supported between
April 2025 and March 2026



£12,663,774

Total grant payments made
in 2025/26, with an average
grant payment of £53,209

236

funded projects
reported during
2025/26

23

funded projects
began in 2025/26

33

funded projects
finished in 2025/26

How to read this report

This report is divided into five main sections.

- **Section one** outlines key findings emerging from progress reports and visits this year.
- **Section two** looks at project results under six outcomes. These represent the overarching achievements of projects funded through the National Drugs Mission Funds.
- **Section three** looks at how funded projects are addressing the Scottish Government's six cross-cutting priorities.
- **Section four** explores several external challenges which have affected project development.
- **Section five** outlines the additional support provided by Corra to support funded projects.

Appendices provide a full list of all funded projects and illustrations of the work that has been delivered.

This report details both qualitative and quantitative data collated and analysed from project reports, supplemented with information shared with Grant Advisors during regular meetings with funded projects. This provides insight into the scale of the work delivered, examples of different project approaches, and case studies which demonstrate the positive impact of these funded projects.

To protect individual clients, we have changed the names in the case studies throughout the report.



Overview of Projects

Funded projects

The National Drugs Mission Funds aim to support increased and secure funding to funded projects which support individuals, families and communities impacted by drug use, focusing on work aimed at reducing drug related harm and the number of drug-related deaths. Each fund has different priorities and specific criteria. This allowed the funding to reach a wide range of funded projects and support a large portfolio of work across treatment and care, recovery and support for children and families.

236
active funded projects
in 2025/26

The Improvement Fund, Children and Families Fund, Local Support Fund and the Local Support Fund Micro Grants were all open to applications for continuation funding this year. Twenty-eight funded projects received continuation funding, taking the number of active funded projects to 236 in 2025/26. This is slightly higher than the number of active funded projects in the previous year (225).

The number of active funded projects for each of the four National Drugs Mission Funds is detailed in the donut chart (Fig. 1).

A detailed list of all 236 active funded projects, including the total grant amount and geographical base, is included in [Appendix 1](#).

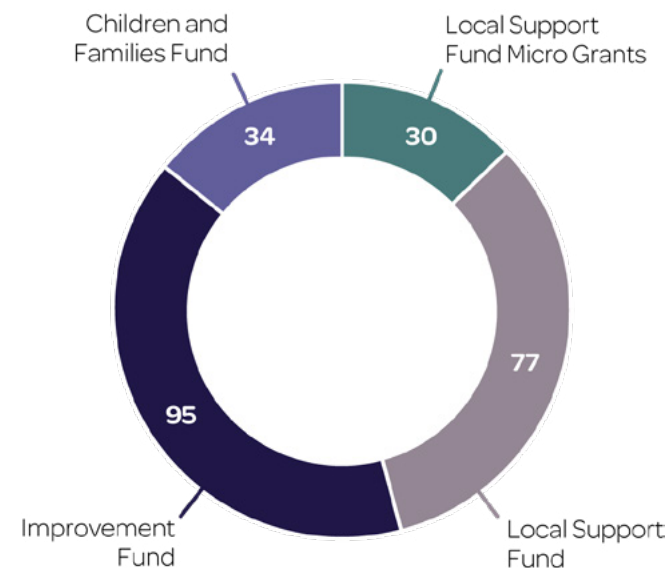


Figure 1

Geographical spread

The map (fig. 2) shows the location of 236 funded projects that were active this year, grouped by the primary Local Authority area in which they were delivered. Only 4% of funded projects delivered services Scotland-wide. There continues to be a larger number of funded projects in areas with greater population density¹ and/or larger numbers of drug-related deaths².

Key for geographical coverage

- Highest 10 for population and drug deaths
- Highest 10 for population coverage
- Highest 10 for drugs deaths
- Other areas

1 [Mid-2024 population estimates - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#). August 2025

2 [Drug-related deaths in Scotland, 2024 - National Records of Scotland \(NRS\)](#). August 2025

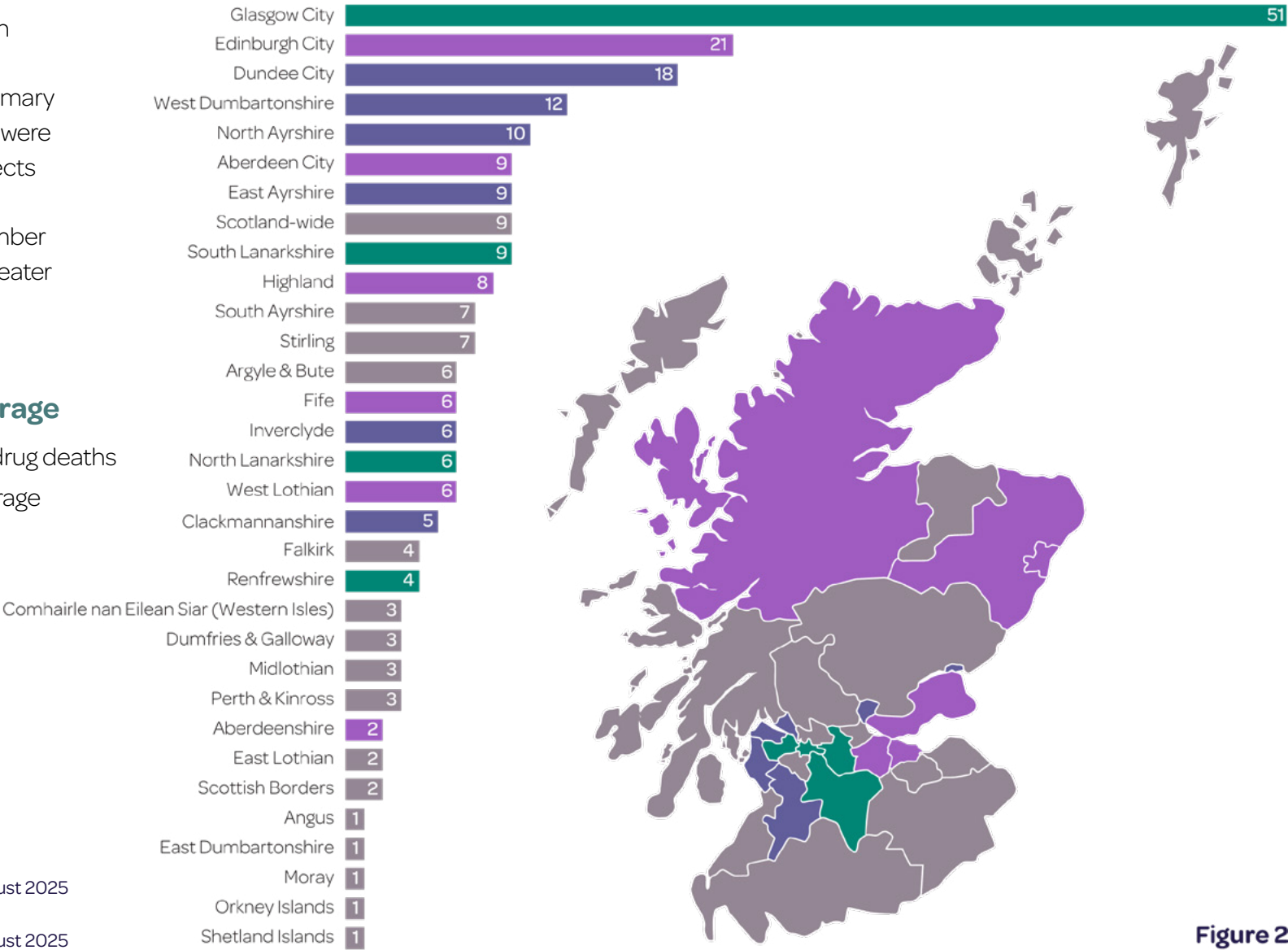


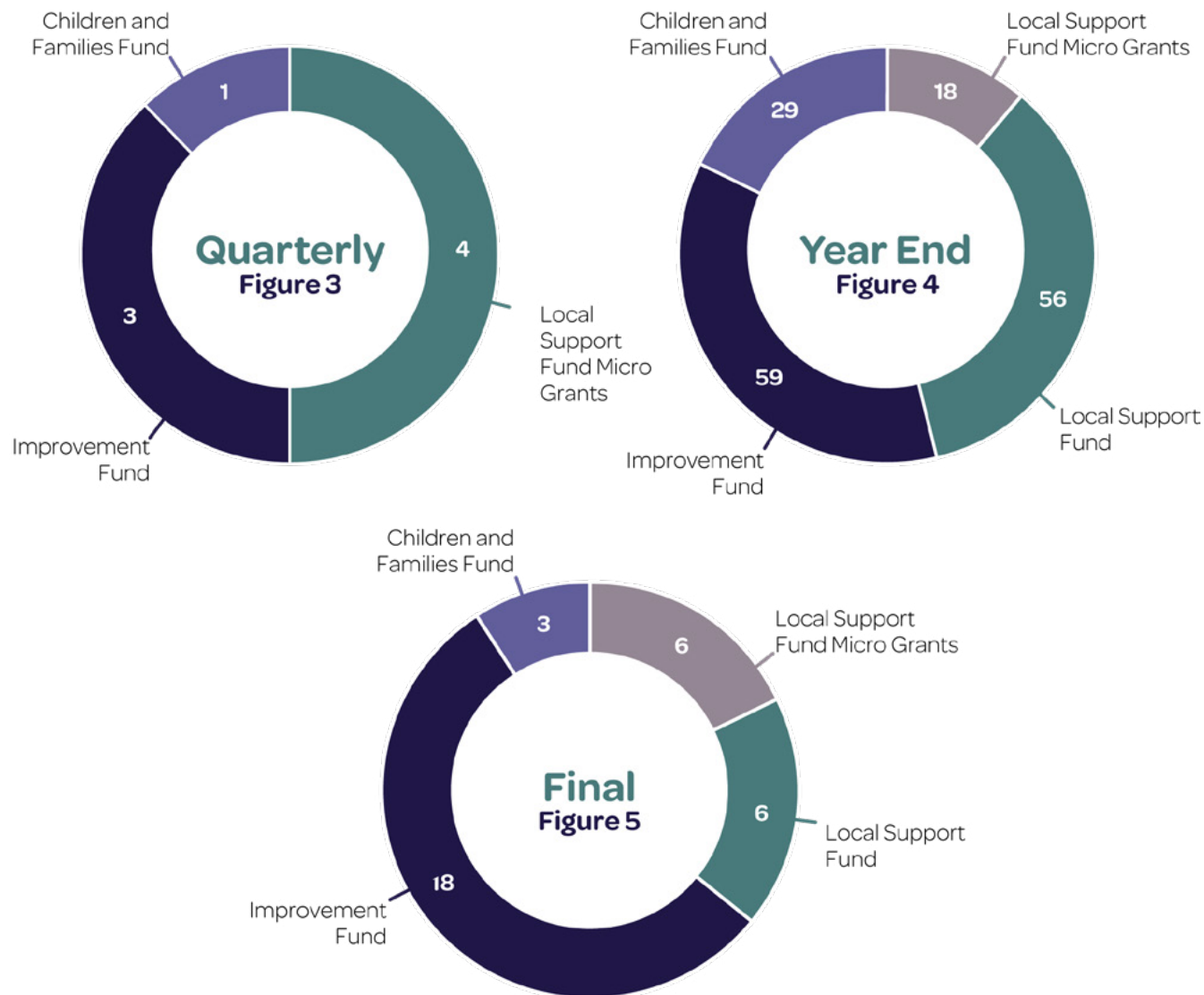
Figure 2

Reports received

This report is comprised of data from **203** project reports, received between 1 April 2025 and 31st March 2026. This includes **8** quarterly reports (fig. 3); **162** year-end reports (fig. 4); and **33** final reports (fig. 5). The breakdown of the types of reports received and reviewed is shown in the charts (fig.3-5).

Where both a quarterly report and a year-end/final report were received, we only include data from the most recent report so as not to count reporting data twice. Data from 34 reports was removed from the analysis on this basis.

Breakdown of reports reviewed



Key Findings

We have drawn on information from the progress reports sent by funded projects, alongside evidence and insights gathered through regular meetings with funded projects. The combined data has been analysed and used to shape the findings in this thematic report. This section explores several key themes that emerged but do not align directly with the categories of outcomes, priorities, or challenges in this report.



People supported

There is a consistency in terms of numbers of people being supported through each of the six outcomes, with slight increases overall year on year.

“Many clients require more than 26 sessions to fully engage in and benefit from the therapeutic process.”

Extract Funded Project progress report

Whole person approaches

The importance of relational approaches remains a strong element across all funded projects. As in previous years most funded projects deliver support in a person-centred way. Active listening and engaging with people where they are continues to be fundamental. Projects regularly report providing advocacy on behalf of people. This often relates to helping people to access other services or support. A primary example is the continuing need and support around housing, and/or looking to move on to other services.

“Working with people at their pace, building trust, supporting people to express and explore what assistance they are seeking. Being on the persons side, speaking to duty bearers, enabling people to claim & defend their Human Rights.”

Extract Funded Project progress report

The impact of housing and people's mental health continue to be consistently reported by funded projects. Over half (62% of funded projects) reported that their service users had support needs around housing. Over two thirds reported issues around mental health (80% of funded projects reporting in 2025/26). Long waiting lists, people feeling stuck in services or the complexity of navigating systems are often mentioned as some of the additional barriers faced by individuals.

Impact of Social Connections

Most funded projects talked about the importance of social connections (76% of funded projects reported), often through peer support, recovery groups and building opportunities to wider community activities. These community-led opportunities are stepping stone to help people develop self-believe, re-build relationships and increase their confidence.

Partnership Working

The reports we received recognise the importance of positive partnership approaches, often reflecting the need for joined up approaches to help people navigate the system, so that they find the right support for their needs. There are several good practice examples across the funded work where there were stronger, strategic multi-agency approaches across local areas and sectors (for example the Beacon Hubs in South Lanarkshire). However, it is also worth noting there were still a small number of funded projects that highlighted the challenges of partnership working (18% of projects reported). This was often due to lack of awareness or connections primarily with statutory partners.

People facing multiple barriers

As seen throughout the duration of the National Drugs Mission Funds, poverty is a constant and increasing issue for people affected by drugs. There are in-depth insights from funded projects on the impact of poverty and specific reference was made to those who face multiple barriers including people from Black and Racially Minoritised communities, people living in rural areas and people leaving prison. This is impacted by the cost-of-living crisis, which affects individuals supported and funded projects themselves.

“Many of our participants struggled with poverty. Some are not able to buy food so we make sure that food plus warm and waterproof clothing is available to them whilst on the programme. Support has also been given to apply for free bus passes plus help with housing issues. Partnership with the Fuel Bank, allows staff to arrange emergency fuel top ups on the same day. This service has proven to be a lifeline to some participants.”

Extract funded project progress report

In addition, several funded projects remain concerned about the impact of the cost of living on their ability to deliver. Many reflect on increased travel costs and in some instances the difficulty of recruiting suitable staff and available funding only covering part-time roles.

Service Standards

While only a small number of funded projects specifically mentioned Medication assisted treatment (MAT) standards (18% of funded projects that reported this year), there were funded projects that specifically reflected on enhancing practices and support that both reflected the MAT standards and the Charter of Rights.

Profile of Drug Use

In the last year approximately 17% of funded projects reported seeing an increase in synthetic/ other drug use. It is important to recognise that many funded projects reflected on the structure of services and identified gaps in service provision that can respond to these changing patterns of drug use. Similarly, 26% of funded projects had an increase in referrals.

Capacity within Funded Projects

Long-term funding is vital in enabling funded projects to be responsive in supporting people to achieve their personal goals (evidenced in the outcome section of this report). Secure funding continues to enable funded projects to provide the right support at the right time. Only 18% of funded projects that reported this year stated that they were worried about funding for the coming year, we believe this is as a direct result of the continuation funding provided across the National Drugs Mission Funds.

“This grant has significantly reduced pressure on our frontline CEO and enabled us to make meaningful improvements in our service delivery. We were able to match-fund salaries and increase our drug and alcohol link worker post from part-time to full-time. This expansion has allowed us to offer more one-to-one support, take on more referrals, deliver more group-focused sessions and advocate more effectively on behalf of our members.”

Extract funded project progress report

Projects continually have shown agility to meet the needs of individuals and their families. Over a third of funded projects spoke about the importance of keeping people safe. Projects have also been able to create space and time to develop meaningful engagement and relationships, 68% of funded projects reported how people have formed supportive relationships.

Conclusions

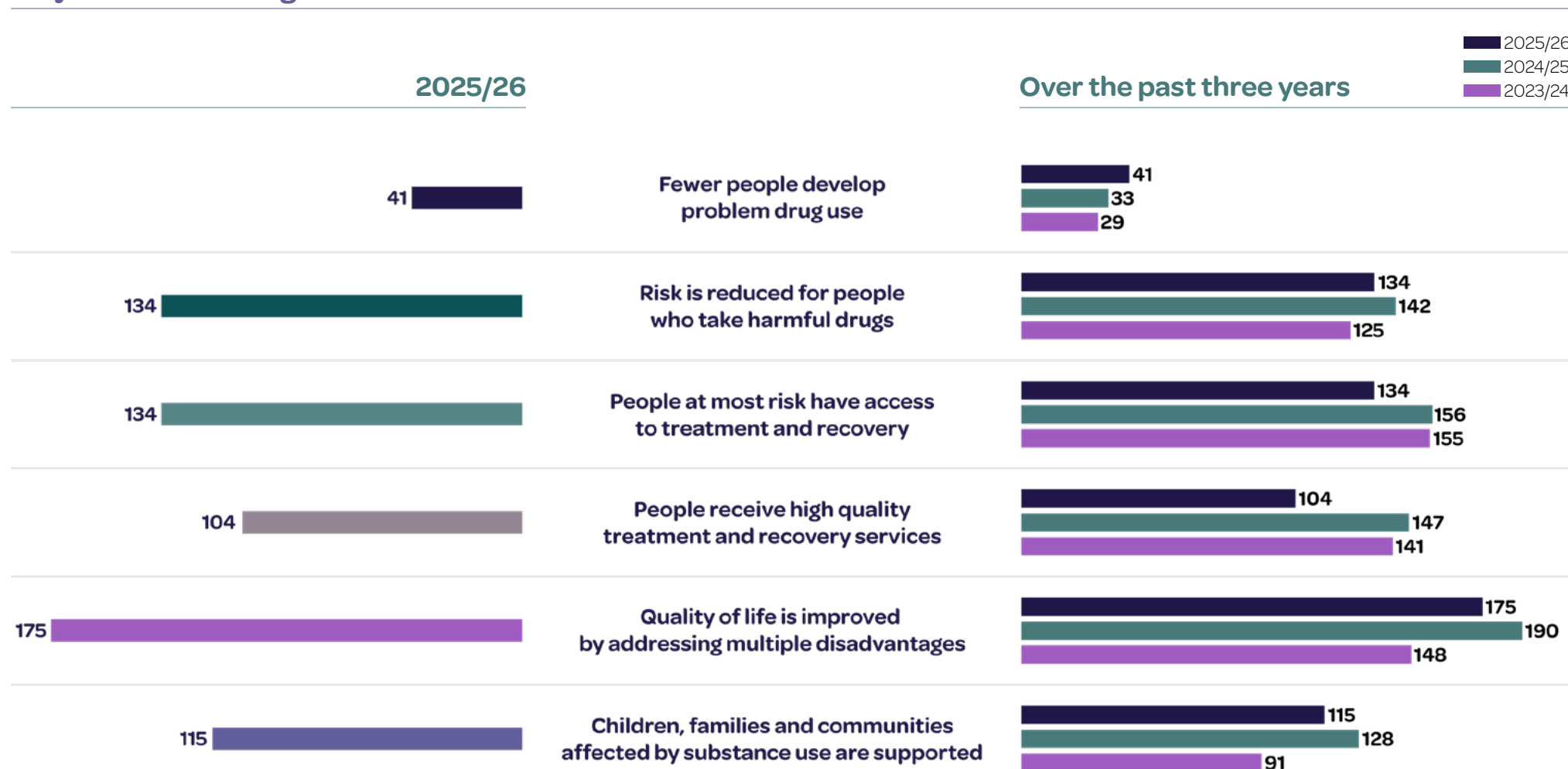
The findings from the reports and conversations highlight the positive progress being delivered across the country, with examples of strategic partnerships and pathways. Projects have been able to sustain and build services that meet the needs of people. Service delivery is trauma-informed and relational. This is critical in enabling individuals and families to access services, support and future opportunities. However, barriers continue to present especially in advocating and responding to the wider needs of people and their families, specifically mental health and poverty.



Part 1. Outcomes

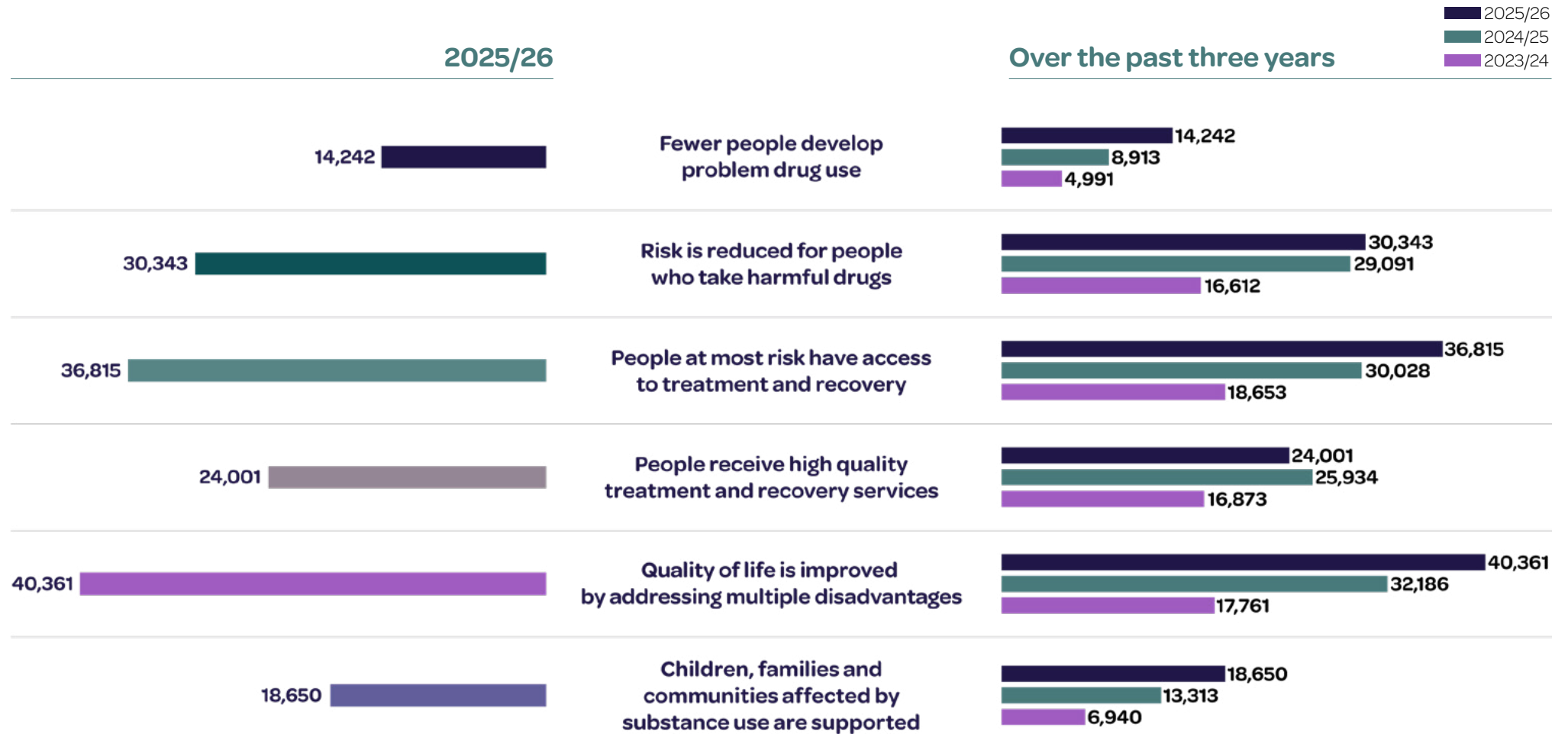
In this section, we share the numbers of funded projects contributing to the [Scottish Government's six outcomes](#)¹ for the National Drugs Mission.

Projects contributing to each outcome



¹ Scottish Government's approach to outcomes for the National Drugs Mission [5. National Mission: An outcomes focussed approach - National Drugs Mission Plan: 2022-2026](#) - gov.scot

Number of people supported under each Outcome Theme



Outcome 1: Fewer people develop problem drug use

Under this outcome, we analyse information from funded projects that aim to take an early intervention approach to drug use, and support people who may be at risk of harm from drugs, or at risk of developing problems with drugs.

Many of the approaches reported under this outcome target younger people. These primarily focus on awareness raising and creating opportunities and activities that direct people towards positive, engaging, and productive experiences. Many of the funded projects reporting under this outcome have seen a changing pattern of drug use. Projects have also highlighted a careful approach needed to both support an individual young person alongside engaging with parents and carers.

41

funded projects contributed
to this outcome

14,242

people were supported
under this outcome



Some examples of the funded projects working towards this outcome are detailed below.

The DRC Youth Project is funded through the Local Support Fund to employ a full-time Lead Worker and a part-time sessional worker to deliver an intense package of group and one to one support for young people, aged 14-26 who are using drugs.

The funded project runs diversionary group sessions, workshops and outdoor activities for young people who use drugs and are at risk of escalating their substance use and anti-social behaviour. The project's approach aims to promote healthy lifestyles, and positive use of time, empowering young people to take control of their lives and reduce the risk of drug related harm.

Hillcrest Futures is funded through the Children and Families Fund to deliver the Strive Project. Strive is a partnership project delivered by Hillcrest Futures and The Corner providing early interventions and prevention to young people aged 12-15 who are affected by substance use across Dundee. In this reporting year they have supported 450 young people.

Strive is responding to current trends and demands around changing patterns in drug trends and behaviours. An example of this has been the increased number of referrals for young people aged 12-15 who are using Ketamine. As a result, the Strive team have been proactive in creating a Ketamine poster campaign which was displayed within community and primary care settings. A QR self-referral code was attached so that young people could receive informal advice from the Strive website as well as make a self-referral into the service.



Crew 2000

Crew 2000 are funded through the Local Support Fund to deliver support to young people who use drugs. In addition to one-to-one support, they also provide drugs information, facilitate workshops, and provide training around drugs and harm reduction.

Crew 2000 have provided an evidence-based education service to 3,497 young people aged 16-25, in settings ranging from schools to nightclubs. Where a young person, their friends or family are using opiates, Crew 2000 provide Naloxone training and kits to reduce risk of overdose. Young people who use drugs are actively involved in the design of harm reduction materials and social media output, increasing the efficacy of these materials in engaging other young people.

This case study below explores a harm reduction-focused intervention with a young person, aged 15 following escalating concerns around polysubstance use, risk-taking behaviour, and vulnerabilities linked to exploitation. It highlights the importance of relationship-based, youth-centred practice. Meeting the young person “where they’re at” without judgement allowed trust to grow and created space for meaningful conversations around risk. Harm reduction acted as a bridge toward safer choices and increased safety, even when abstinence was not an immediate goal.

Charlie was referred to Crew 2000 by their Social Worker due to increasing concerns about their cannabis, alcohol, and potential Class A drug use. Other concerns included going missing from home, contact with older peers, and potential criminal or sexual exploitation. The young person was not engaged in education and presented with multiple complex needs including historical trauma, poor mental health, and ongoing instability at home.

At the point of initial contact, the young person was hesitant but willing to meet. The first sessions focused on building rapport and a trusting relationship. A trauma-informed and non-judgmental approach was central to engagement. The young person disclosed regular use of cannabis and alcohol, occasional MDMA use, and admitted that they had limited knowledge of safer use or the associated risks.

Through open conversation and harm reduction-focused tools, the following risks were identified:

- **Substance-related risks:** Regular cannabis use was impacting the young person's memory, mood, and motivation. There were signs of problematic use (using alone, needing substances to cope with emotions).
- **Physical and emotional safety:** Episodes of going missing and mixing with unknown adults increased the risk of harm and exploitation.
- **Mental health concerns:** The young person reported experiencing anxiety, low mood, and flashbacks from a past traumatic incident.
- **Lack of protective factors:** Disengagement from school and strained family relationships reduced the young person's access to safe adults and structured routine.

Crew 2000's Support Worker used motivational interviewing and harm reduction planning to empower the young person to take ownership of their decisions. Strategies included:

- **Substance education:** Age-appropriate information was provided around the effects of cannabis, alcohol, and MDMA, including how to reduce harm when using (hydration, dosage spacing, buddy system).
- **Risk mapping:** The young person mapped out situations, people, and places associated with increased risk. This helped them to reflect on patterns and triggers.
- **Safety planning:** A safety plan was co-created for when the young person planned to go out, including checking in with a trusted person and carrying a charged phone.
- **Exploring coping strategies:** Alternative coping tools were explored to support emotional regulation, including music, journaling, and breathing techniques.

Over several weeks, the young person demonstrated improved insight into the risks associated with their drug use and began to moderate use. They reported using cannabis less frequently, avoiding MDMA, and felt more confident in setting boundaries with risky peers. Engagement improved with both the support service and social work. Discussions began around re-engagement with education and accessing mental health support.

Outcome 2: Risk is reduced for people who take harmful drugs

Under this outcome, we look at funded projects that take a harm reduction approach. These aim to reduce negative consequences associated with drug use and help keep people safer. This includes funded projects that provide interventions to reduce the number of fatal overdoses.

Many of the funded projects reporting under this outcome are reflective on sustained services required to help people engage and re-engage, often at points of crisis. There is evidence from several funded projects of how effective strategic and joined up approaches are in helping people. There are several examples of 'hubs' providing a range of harm reduction services making support more accessible for people. However, this can be more challenging for those funded projects working in rural settings where outreach support is provided, as populations are spread more thinly, travel is costly and more difficult especially in providing group activities and workers need to cover a large geographical area.

Some examples of the projects working towards this outcome are detailed below.

NHS Dumfries and Galloway is funded through the Improvement Fund to deliver their Focus Hub and to employ three lived experienced support workers and a mental health practitioner. The Focus Hub also provides evidence-based harm reduction.

People using the hub receive targeted education on overdose risks, safer use practices and risk reduction strategies which includes; awareness of risk associated with polydrug use and reduced tolerance; naloxone provision and training and support to avoid using substances alone and use test doses where appropriate. People can also access opioid substitution treatment, including long acting injectable medication, facilitated by the Hub staff. In turn this has increased stability, reduced illicit drug use and significantly lowered overdose risk. These interventions reduce immediate and long term harm for people who continue to use substances.

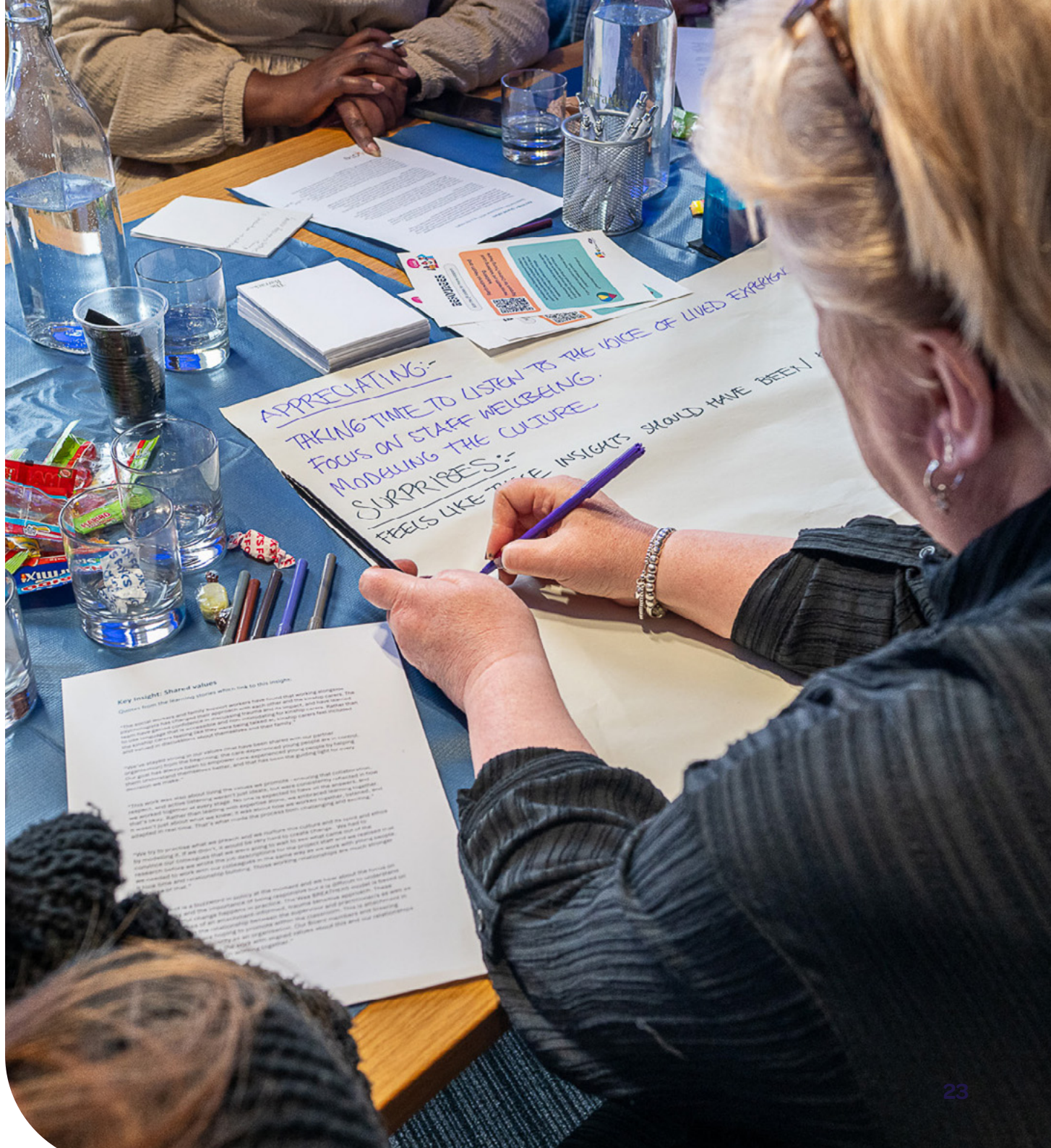
134
funded projects contributed
to this outcome

30,343
people were supported
under this outcome

Substances Support Scotland (formerly Fife Alcohol Support Service) is funded through the Improvement Fund to deliver a Non-Fatal Overdose Rapid Response Service across NHS Fife.

In this reporting year they have worked with 244 people who have been at risk of non-fatal overdose (NFO) and drug related death. 104 people experienced more than one NFO. People at risk are seen within 48 hours.

The majority of referrals to the service are male and a substantial number come from the Scottish Ambulance Service. Fife Addiction Service have recently established a direct referral route into the service for individuals who have received opiate replacement therapy or who they have deemed high risk.



Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA)

Alcohol and Drugs Action (ADA) is funded through the Improvement Fund to deliver a Sharp Response and Crisis Service across Aberdeen City to people in their homes, providing harm reduction and wrap around support that reduces drug related harm and supports people into treatment and recovery.

The case study shows Sharp Response ensures individuals are not only safer but are reminded that they matter by providing a person-centred approach.

River is a 53-year-old female, who has been dependent on heroin for over three decades. She lives in an area of Aberdeen City where transport links are limited, making it difficult for her to access injecting equipment. Despite her desire to stop using drugs, she faces numerous challenges.

With her consent, we may call her mobile or contact alternative numbers she has provided. Due to missed methadone appointments, her dose was previously reduced to 30 ml per day, which is insufficient, leading her to supplement with illicit substances. She finds change difficult and rapport-building takes time. However, once trust is established, she engages and communicates her needs clearly.

She often speaks about missing her granddaughter and wanting to improve her life but feels unheard in her current care setting. She is not getting on well with her current Community Mental Health Nurse and may consider a change. She has a history of sex work and has some support from Quay Services (specialist ADA service).

During phone calls and doorstep deliveries, we offer emotional support, discuss her current concerns, and ensure she feels valued and heard.

River receives sterile injecting equipment and condoms when needed through Sharp Response significantly reducing her risk of contracting BBVs. While ADA offers Duty drop-ins for clients to speak with a duty worker about mental health and other concerns, this approach does not suit her. Instead, Sharp Response offers more personalised contact both during when she places delivery orders and during the doorstep deliveries, providing a consistent point of connection. We also pick up any used needles for safe disposal for her (so they don't have to be kept in the house). She has been referred to Somebody Cares (a local food bank) for food parcels, some of which we sometimes deliver directly. This support has improved her physical health and sense of wellbeing.

River often speaks about wanting to change her life. When she is ready, the worker will be there to support her. Her story highlights the broader impact of Sharp Response in reducing the health risks of injecting drug use and sex work, but in helping clients feel valued and supported.

In recent months, she has shown significant progress. She is now committed to attending the pharmacy daily and has been titrated up to the correct amount of methadone. Her use of illicit substances has decreased significantly. We continue to monitor her attendance, and on two occasions, when she missed consecutive appointments, we intervened in time to prevent a third missed visit, which would have resulted in her dosage being reduced to 30 ml—a level she finds difficult to manage.

River's experience with Sharp Response demonstrates the effectiveness of harm reduction initiatives when personalised, consistent, and holistic support is provided. While challenges remain, the improvements in her health, engagement, and overall wellbeing are substantial.



Outcome 3: People at most risk have access to treatment and recovery

Under this outcome, we analysed information from funded projects supporting people who are often furthest from support and who face multiple complex challenges. These funded projects aim to reduce barriers to services so people can access the help and support they need, when they need it. This includes Near-Fatal Overdose (NFO) and pathways between justice and community settings.

Projects have reported the additional stigma and barriers that are presented for people who experience greatest barriers including those leaving prison, older drug users and people from Black and racially minoritised communities. Projects regularly tell us about additional difficulties people face in accessing other services and support including mental health services. Ongoing engagement and advocacy is integral in helping people under this outcome.

Some of the funded projects working towards this outcome are detailed below.

NEDAC (North Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Centre) is funded through the Local Support Fund to work with older people who use substances. They often have poor mental health, feel excluded and who historically find it difficult to engage and retain engagement with support, treatment and recovery.

Through NEDAC's Complex and Multiple Needs Service their staff work in a relational way to reduce harms and create supportive pathways. They provide assertive outreach, trauma informed psychosocial support and intensive case management, coordinating health, housing, benefits and social care so people aren't left to navigate fragmented systems alone. NEDAC operate a no-waiting-list approach to prevent people being left in service "limbo". They also have small caseloads to enable persistent and flexible contact.

134
funded projects contributed
to this outcome

36,815
people were supported
under this outcome

Recovery Coaching Scotland is funded through the Local Support Fund to deliver a recovery coaching programme to people affected by substance use at HMP Perth, Glenochil and Shotts, and to employ a full-time Recovery Coach to provide support to inmates at HMP Edinburgh.

The project works with individuals in custody who are often among those at highest risk of drug-related harm, relapse and reoffending. By delivering recovery coaching and structured recovery education in Perth, Glenochill and Shotts the programme ensures that people with complex needs have access to recovery focused learning and support while in custody. The course provides participants with practical tools, insight into addiction and trauma, and structured goal setting to support engagement in recovery both during and after their sentence.

Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership are funded through the Improvement Fund to deliver a drugs treatment, assessment and initiation service for the city of Edinburgh, allowing access to same-day Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).

Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership's recent independent evaluation of the service confirmed that it has been a key driver of MAT Standards and in particular, same day access to ORT prescriptions. It showed there has been a significant drop in waiting times for treatment and improved access.

The evaluation also highlighted some of the following outcomes were achieved:

1. Rapid initiation for high risk patients – demonstrating a new capacity to engage and initiate treatment.
2. Reduction in illicit drug use and improved stabilization has been enabled by getting patients onto adequate doses quickly, safely and in a structured way.
3. Improved retention and engagement with psychosocial supports. 80.6% of EdMAC (Edinburgh drugs treatment, assessment and initiation service) new starters in 2024 remained in treatment at six months, indicating strong short-term continuity for a low-threshold cohort.

Blue Triangle

Blue Triangle in South Ayrshire is funded through the Improvement Fund to deliver an Intensive Peer Recovery Support Service (IPRS) to reduce drug deaths in homeless accommodation settings and to provide pathways for vulnerable individuals to access all statutory and third sector addiction services. The service is called 'Roots' and the Peer Recovery Support Worker has lived experience of substance use.

Lara was referred to Roots due to complex gender-based issues. She primarily wanted to have her children back in her life and stated, "I just want to be a Mummy again." Lara understood in order to achieve her main goal she needed to stabilise her mental health and start recovery. Lara required a coordinated, multi-agency approach that prioritised safety, stability, and long-term recovery. Support needed to be trauma-informed, psychologically informed, and relationship-based, recognising the cumulative impact of abuse, grief, loss, addiction, and adverse life experiences.

Through her worker, Lara was supported to link back in with her psychiatrist and accompanied to initial appointments until she felt able to self-travel.

The IPRS team also linked in with Women's Aid to provide specialist domestic violence abuse support. Staff intensively supported Lara during wait times to access both detox and rehab, providing both practical and emotional support over several months. IPRS staff also provided visits in rehab and structured aftercare, to help her feel less isolated and supported throughout her recovery journey.

Lara achieved her main goal – being able to see her children again – eventually leading to overnights and her older child moving back in with her permanently for a time. Lara has accessed rehab and is now living in her own flat. She sees both her children and feels like a mum again. Lara continues to access community support.

“ [IPRS] was there for me when nobody else was.”



Outcome 4: People receive high quality treatment and recovery services

Under this outcome, we look at funded projects delivering effective drug support services, ranging from mutual aid meetings and recovery cafés to Residential Rehabilitation services.

Forming supportive relationships and social connections and receiving peer support are important indicators for this outcome. Several funded projects talk about the support needed to help people feel engaged and welcomed. This may include work building up to accessing residential rehabilitation services. Community based activities, including volunteering opportunities, play a key role in helping people to engage with services and receive the support they need.

104
funded projects contributed
to this outcome

24,001
people were supported
under this outcome

Some examples of the funded projects working towards this outcome are detailed below.

The Maxie Richards Foundation based in Argyll and Bute is funded through the Local Support Fund to support the delivery of their residential rehabilitation service (Kings Court) for men impacted by drug use.

In the last reporting year 13 men successfully completed residential rehab. The Maxie Richards programme delivered in partnership with We are With You includes overdose awareness, relapse prevention, building self esteem and cognitive behavioural approaches, all of which support residents to remain on their recovery pathway.

Broken Chains based in South Ayrshire is funded through the Local Support Fund to deliver a range of recovery services for individuals and families affected by drug use. Funding pays for their salary and running costs.

The testimonial opposite demonstrates how Broken Chains supported one person through residential rehabilitation.

“ I was caught up in a life of crime and addiction for three decades before reaching out to Broken Chains for support. I knew the work that Broken Chains were doing and had heard great stories of how people had changed their lives. Over the past 2 years I have volunteered with Broken Chains and it was during this time that they provided me with one-to-one support and helped facilitate my rehab journey.

While at rehab I was supported by Broken Chain's staff through regular visits. They also supported my family, during this time we planned what life would look like once I left. I came out of rehab and started volunteering with them and was also encouraged to volunteer with other funded projects such as Harbour Ayrshire. Unfortunately, I had an outstanding charge and had to go back to prison for a few months. Broken Chains went above and beyond and visited me in prison and accompanied me to the trial and wrote references for me. Fortunately, after my remand, the judge was lenient on me and saw the change in my life.

I have been working with Broken Chains for the past year, volunteering to help other people who are considering rehab. I am also studying to be a qualified counsellor. My family are all very grateful and many relationships have been restored because of the help I received.

Over 2 years sober and clean, I am now clear from all supervision orders and the justice team are amazed at the transformation in my life. I am grateful for the help I received from Broken Chains. I am big part of the Broken Chains team.”

Addiction Counselling Inverness (ACI)

Addiction Counselling Inverness (ACI) operating across Highland, is funded through the Local Support fund to provide talking therapy and group work programmes to people who use drugs, who are in recovery and to families who are affected by drug use.

Parker was in his late twenties and referred to ACI at a point where his life was beginning to unravel. What started as occasional cocaine use during weekends had escalated into near daily use, mixed with misuse of prescription sedatives he sourced online. His family were at breaking point. They had tried everything from confrontation to quiet monitoring, but nothing worked. Parker had not engaged with NHS support after a negative experience during his early twenties that left him feeling dismissed and stereotyped. By the time he arrived at ACI he was defensive, sleep deprived, and convinced counselling would be pointless.

He was matched with a counsellor trained specifically in substance use, trauma and emotional regulation. The first goal was stabilisation. His sessions focused on reducing the immediate harms, identifying the patterns that triggered his drug use, and helping him understand the emotional and physical cycle he was trapped in. His counsellor kept the work steady and relational, meeting him exactly where he was rather than demanding rapid change.

By week six, the shifts were clear. His cocaine use had reduced significantly, his sleep had improved for the first time in months, and he had enough emotional bandwidth to talk about the deeper issues beneath his substance use. He disclosed childhood neglect he had never spoken about before and began to understand how stimulants had functioned as a coping mechanism for anxiety, low self-esteem and panic. Naming these things out loud helped him feel less broken and more human.

At the halfway point of his counselling block he was introduced to Recovery Coaching for additional weekly support. This was essential. Recovery Coaching provided structure, accountability and practical check ins between counselling sessions, helping him maintain the progress he was making. The counsellor and recovery coach worked collaboratively, they kept Parker steady during withdrawal dips, workplace pressure and the emotional backlash that came when he stopped numbing everything with drugs.

He relapsed twice. Instead of being shamed or dropped, the response was grounded, boundaried and supportive. He came back the next week. He later said that moment was when he realised the service actually cared whether he made it through, rather than judging him for slipping.

At 18 weeks he had reached a place he previously thought impossible. He was abstinent from cocaine. He was using his medication safely and under medical guidance. He had restarted the gym and repaired some relationships he believed were beyond saving. Most importantly, he was no longer frightened of his own emotions. He had strategies, insight and people who understood the complexity of recovery.

He continued engaging through peer support meetings and occasionally checked in with the Recovery Coach during stressful periods. In feedback he described ACI as:

**“The first place that didn’t treat
me like a disaster waiting to happen...
It stopped me disappearing completely.”**



Outcome 5: Quality of life is improved by addressing multiple disadvantages

Under this outcome, we look at funded projects that support people in a holistic way using approaches that consider multiple aspects of individual wellbeing including physical, social and financial factors.

There is breadth of opportunities to help people develop their own wellbeing across the funded projects. The importance again of peer support, social connections to help rebuild relationships are indicators within the progress of this outcome.

The impact of poverty is prevalent across a significant proportion of funded projects, and many will be supporting and advocating for people. This will also often include connecting people with local food banks, housing or financial advice. Central or co-located hubs where services are delivered can be accessed within one space, are often critical. They provide safe spaces for people to access a range of advice and support without the need to navigate multiple systems.

175
funded projects contributed
to this outcome

40,361
people were supported
under this outcome



Some examples of the funded projects working towards this outcome are detailed below.

Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

is funded through the Improvement Fund to embed a Specialist CAB Advice service in addiction services across Forth Valley. The specialist CAB Addiction Advice Workers adopt a right-time, right-person, right- place approach within recovery cafes, recovery hubs, salvation army and also offer home visits across Clackmannan, Falkirk and Stirling Districts, colocated with services including Change Grow Live, Transform Forth Valley & the Salvation Army.

The workers advocate on people's behalf at medical assessments, preventing sanctions and income reduction. This has helped to bring their service users some financial stability, preventing relapse and improving their mental health. The areas of support included benefits, finance, debt, housing, relationships, employment rights, health, and community care. By addressing the multiple social and financial needs of people impacted by drug use enables individuals to cope better, live well and to be better able to sustain their recovery and access treatment and care. The CAB specialist addiction staff are able to concentrate specifically on these needs, freeing up addiction staff to focus on recovery, treatment and support.

Hope Connections is funded through the Local Support Fund to deliver outreach support to vulnerable individuals in prison and community settings, who are at the greater risk of drug related harm, supporting them on their recovery journey and to be better connected. Their service is delivered across Glasgow City.

They are needs-led. The service was designed, launched and delivered by and for people with lived experience of addiction and associated life challenges such as offending, homelessness, trauma and poor mental health.



Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR)

Aberdeen In Recovery (AiR) is funded through the Local Support Fund. AiR is a lived experienced recovery organisation (LERO) and deliver a range of recovery activities to their community in Aberdeen. They provide peer mentoring through the delivery of one-to-one and group support, and a range of training sessions including a weekly Medication, Recovery and Me workshops which inform and give people the tools to sustain their recovery.

AiR also delivers a regular radio broadcast going out once a week on SHMU FM. This allows them to make recovery visible to the wider community and in doing so helps to reduce drug related stigma and increase awareness of drug use and drug related harm. They recognise that it's not just about supporting people directly with their drug or alcohol use, it's about supporting them with every aspect of their life to help create a solid base to build on.

Don was introduced to AiR through a friend who attended. In addition to being in early recovery from drugs and alcohol, the main issue was housing. He had been placed in a temporary property but had received a letter from the council informing him that they were going to take back the flat and he had 21 days' notice.

The council decided he had made himself homeless and therefore was not entitled to support. On speaking to Don, this was clearly causing him a huge amount of stress and anxiety and was putting his recovery at risk.

AiR wrote a letter to his Housing Officer to review the decision and made them aware of the Charter of Rights for People who use Substances, highlighting specific rights relevant to Don's circumstances. The council reviewed their decision, and based on the appeal letter we wrote, overturned this. Thankfully he had not (re)lapsed as a result of the stress this caused him and the decision came, obviously, as a huge relief.

He has been able to continue on his journey and is now finally able to settle down and lay some good foundations for which he will build on.

Outcome 6: Children, families & communities affected by substance use are supported

All funded projects supported through the Children and Families Fund continue to align closely with this outcome, with a strong emphasis on whole-family approaches and prevention-focused support. .

115

funded projects contributed
to this outcome

18,650

people were supported
under this outcome

Across the National Drugs Mission Funds, funded projects consistently reported providing relational, trauma-informed support that addresses the needs of children, parents, carers, and wider family networks. Many funded projects created safe, non-judgemental spaces where families could share experiences, reduce isolation, and build confidence in supporting loved ones affected by substance use. This included the delivery of structured programmes such as Community Reinforcement and Family Training (CRAFT), family support groups, counselling, and resilience-building activities.

Projects also reported improved outcomes for families, including stronger relationships, increased understanding of addiction, and greater confidence in navigating services and supporting recovery journeys. In many cases, families were supported to rebuild trust, improve communication, and establish healthier boundaries. For children and young people, support helped improve wellbeing, strengthen family connections, and reduce the impact of instability associated with substance use.



Some examples of the funded projects working towards this outcome are detailed below.

NHS Fife Addiction Services, funded through the Improvement Fund, delivered an integrated family support service supporting 127 family members, alongside 800 one-to-one sessions, 48 CRAFT sessions, and new in-person group provision. Families reported improved communication, stronger boundaries, and feeling less isolated as a result of this support.

Phoenix Futures funded through the Improvement Fund operate across Scotland. They have delivered 59 family group sessions with over 700 family attendances across multiple locations. These sessions focused on family relationships, emotional regulation, and recovery support, helping families feel more confident in supporting their loved ones and strengthening engagement with wider services.



Quarriers

Quarriers are funded to provide a new specialist and intensive support, “Our Promising Futures”, for children and families affected by parental substance use within Moray.

Ellis was receiving support from Quarrier’s service due to the impact of her partner Kai’s alcohol use and mental health challenges. Ellis expressed concern about their 10-year-old son, Jay, who had become withdrawn and was not his usual self. She was unsure how to help him and asked if the ‘Our Promising Futures’ team could offer support.

The family support worker liaised with both Ellis and her son’s school to arrange regular sessions for him in a familiar and safe environment. The aim was to provide him with a confidential space to talk about his experiences and to help him understand addiction in an age-appropriate way.

During the initial meetings, he was quiet and hesitant to open up. The family support worker used a tool familiar to him from school, to help him identify and express his feelings across different areas of his life, including home,

school, emotional and physical health, and his wider world. He consistently chose colours that indicated sadness and worry. As trust developed, he shared he was deeply concerned about his dad’s drinking.

It became clear that his self-esteem and confidence were being affected by his father’s substance use. Over time, the support worker built a trusting relationship, helping him understand that his dad’s behaviour was not his fault and that he had no control over it. Support focused on building his self-esteem by identifying his strengths and encouraging self-care activities such as kickboxing and cycling. Using exercises from the Unworry Book, he learned coping strategies including breathing techniques and ways to challenge negative thoughts, which helped reduce his anxiety and stress. He engaged well with all activities and made substantial progress.

For several months, his father remained abstinent, and there were improvements in the family dynamic. It appeared Jay might no longer need ongoing support. However, a major relapse led to his father being admitted to rehab through support from our recovery

team. This was a significant emotional setback for Jay, as he had experienced a similar situation before. With consent from both Jay and his mum, the team arranged Exchange counselling through the school, which proved highly beneficial.

The family support worker continued working with Jay following his father’s return from rehab. He showed marked improvement in his emotional wellbeing, and became more talkative and positive, sharing stories about spending quality time with his dad, especially during school holidays, cycling and running together.

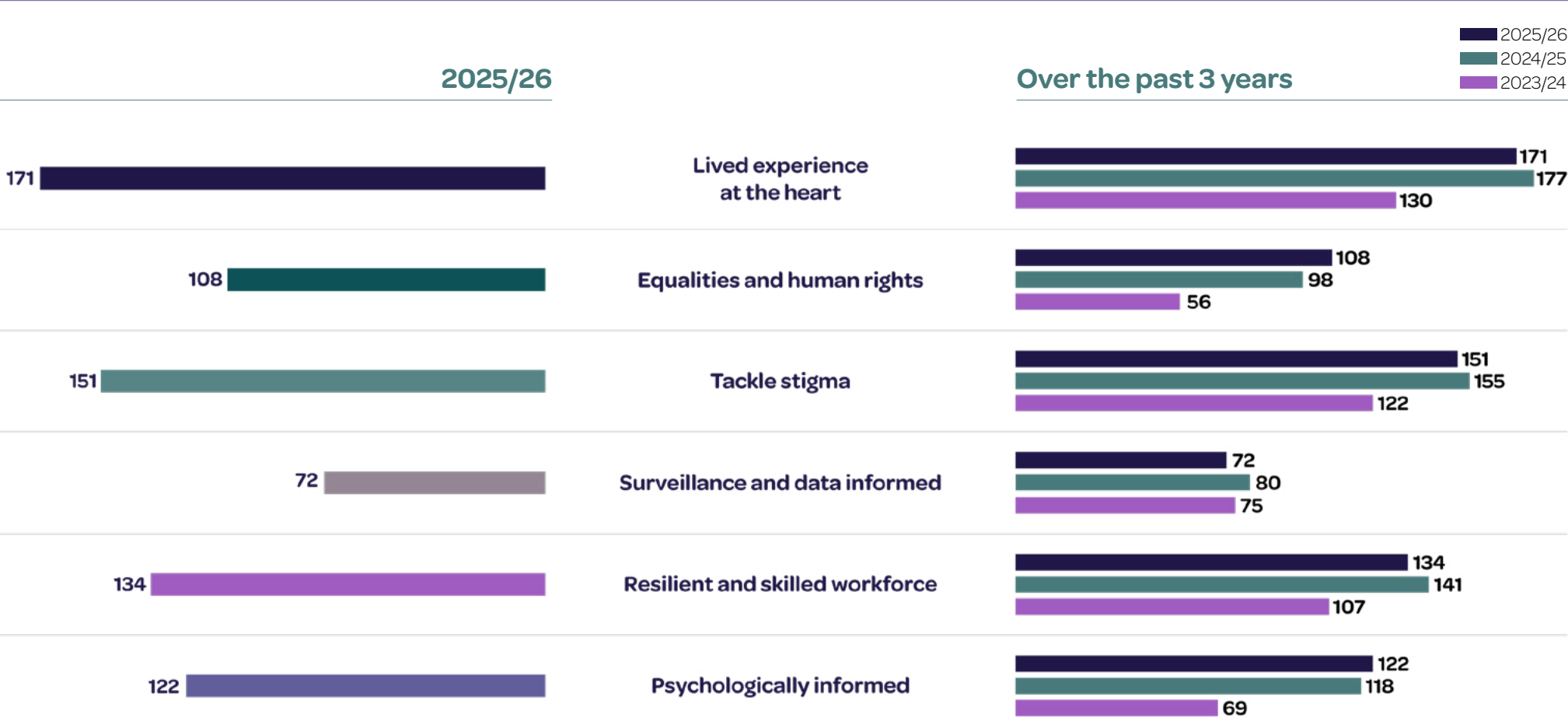
“ Thank you for all your support over the last few years, it really has meant a lot to us as a family. J has really benefited from your support when things were at their worst with his dad and I can really see his happy self-shining through again now that dad is doing a lot better. I cannot thank you and your colleagues enough for what you have given to us as a family.”

(quote from mum)

Part 2. Cross-Cutting Priorities

In this section, we share details of funded projects working toward six cross-cutting priorities, as identified by the [Scottish Government](#)¹. The number of funded projects contributing to each of the cross-cutting priorities is shown in the table below.

Projects contributing to each cross-cutting priority



¹ [Cross cutting priorities: 4. Our cross-cutting priorities - National Drugs Mission Plan: 2022-2026](#) - gov.scot

Priority 1: Lived experience at the heart

In **National Drugs Mission Plan 2022-2026**², the Scottish Government committed to “make the voices of lived and living experience central to the development, design and delivery of treatment and recovery services and interventions.”

The National Drugs Mission Funds continue to support funded projects that further this commitment.

17

active members of Corra’s Lived Experience Panel

6

lived experience panel meetings to assess applications to the National Drugs Mission funds

171

funded projects employ or involve people with lived experience in their work

² [National Drugs Mission Plan: 2022-2026](#) - gov.scot



Lived and Living Experience remains central to most funded projects funded through the National Drugs Mission Funds, particularly those led by Lived Experience Recovery Organisations (LEROs). During this reporting period, 171 funded projects aligned with this priority. People with lived experience continue to shape services and funded projects, as staff, board members, and volunteers.

Data from reports we received shows that lived and living experience plays a significant role in encouraging individuals to access and sustain engagement with support services. Funded projects consistently report that people are more likely to engage when services are delivered by staff and volunteers who bring their own lived experience. Individuals highly value the authenticity of these staff members, which helps create psychologically safe environments and offers opportunities to speak with someone who has faced similar challenges.

People with lived experience are working within funded projects to address common barriers to employment, including low confidence, limited education, and stigma from potential employers. Evidence gathered throughout the year highlights the additional support required for staff and volunteers who are in recovery, including the risk of vicarious trauma, as identified by nearly a third of Local Support Fund funded projects.

Many recovery funded projects invest considerable time in training service users to build employability skills, alongside making referrals to additional services for further training and professional development.

Some examples of funded projects contributing to this priority are detailed below.

South Lanarkshire Council are funded through the Improvement Fund in 2023 to recruit two Justice Social Workers as part of a multidisciplinary team to deliver the South Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Problem Solving Court (SLADPSC) within the Hamilton Sheriff Court. Workers with lived experience play a critical role in the delivery of this project. To date this project has enabled 49 people to access support through a structured Deferred Sentence (SDS). 35 individuals have already made good progress on their recovery journey.

The Nest Wellbeing Group is a community led charity delivering local health, wellbeing, and recovery services. They received a Local Support Fund grant to expand its Moving Up Moving On (MUMO) programme, which offers a range of recovery focused activities including creative writing, art therapy, personal development, mindfulness, Reiki, and Acu-detox sessions.

At the Nest, lived and living experience isn't an add-on, it is at the heart of everything they do. Their programmes are co-designed and co-led by people who've walked their own recovery journey. Their insight shapes the groups, guides partnerships, and ensures every voice matters. Staff, volunteers, and peer mentors bring authenticity and understanding, creating a space where people feel seen, heard, and safe to speak without fear or stigma.



Recovery Coaching Scotland CIC

Recovery Coaching Scotland CIC delivers recovery coaching for individuals affected by substance use and other addictive behaviours. Funded to employ a full-time Recovery Coach, the organisation provides tailored support to people within HMP Edinburgh, helping individuals at all stages of recovery, as well as those actively struggling with addiction, to build stability and move towards sustained recovery.

Wren is currently serving a long-term sentence and is now an active Peer Mentor within the prison's Recovery Hub, supporting other residents to engage with recovery services. However, his journey into recovery and peer support began from a very different place.

When Recovery Coaching Scotland first encountered him, his attitude towards recovery could best be described as ambivalent. He occasionally used substances when they were available within the prison environment and had been placed on report for this behaviour. At that time, he had little interest in engaging with recovery services and did not see himself as someone who would pursue a recovery pathway. Wren first met Recovery Coach during outreach

work carried out by Recovery Coaching Scotland alongside prison officers in the residential halls. He had been referred to the Self-Coaching course by NHS staff, but his initial response was sceptical and dismissive. What made a difference in this moment was his Recovery Coach's lived experience. As someone who has his own history of addiction and imprisonment, he was able to speak with Wren from a place of genuine understanding and credibility.

Wren later reflected that knowing his Recovery Coach had experienced prison himself made it easier to listen and consider the possibility of change. After some encouragement from his coach, he reluctantly agreed to join a cohort of the Self Coaching programme. During the early sessions he remained quiet and largely observed rather than participated. However, this began to change during the Cycle of Change session, where participants explore patterns in behaviour related to addiction and offending. Wren recognised similarities between his own experiences and those shared by others in the group, which helped him reflect more honestly on his own behaviour. From that point onwards, he became increasingly engaged. He completed

the course successfully and later approached the team to ask if he could complete it again, explaining that he felt he had not fully taken advantage of the opportunity the first time. He completed the course for a second time and has since developed into a Peer Mentor within the Recovery Hub.

Wren now encourages others to give the course a chance, sharing his own experience as an example of what change can look like. By his own admission, he would never have imagined himself in this role. Today, Wren is an asset to both Recovery Coaching Scotland and the wider recovery community within HMP Shotts, leading by example and helping others begin their own recovery journeys.

In addition to the lived experience within the funded projects, Corra has continued to embed and shape all elements of the National Drugs Mission Funds by people with lived expertise. The Lived Experience Panel have continued to support the decision-making process on funding applications and were integral in the creation and development of the Practitioner Awards at the National Drugs Mission Conference in March 2026.

Priority 2: Equalities and human rights

108

funded projects are delivering work with a focus on equalities and human rights

Projects highlighted in this section have an explicit focus on ensuring people's human rights are upheld by duty bearers. They ensure that specific rights of people in recovery, such as receiving the treatment of their choice are implemented. Many funded projects adopt a rights-based approach, assisting people to exercise these rights, especially those that face additional barriers. These funded projects aim to reduce barriers and challenges faced by people due to their race, ethnicity, nationality, migration status, disability, sex, sexual orientation, and economic status. Many recognised the disparity between rural service provision and large cities, highlighting the need for a more equitable approach in this area.

In addition, increasingly over the last year, there is more reference by funded projects on the implementation of the Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use in their services.

Advocacy

Advocacy plays a vital role across many funded projects supporting individuals to access essential services and navigate complex systems. This work helps ensure that peoples' needs are met and their rights are upheld. Advocacy is highly valued within a range of initiatives and has included targeted support around children and family relationships, as well as safeguarding family related rights.

Racial Equity

In July 2024, Corra delivered a thematic event exploring Racial Equity within substance use, addiction, and recovery services. The Racial Equity in Drug and Alcohol Services Report Insights identified several key considerations for improving equity within substance use, addiction, and recovery services. Conversations from the day highlight the importance of delivering support through more broadly framed 'wellbeing' services, rather than those explicitly labelled as drug, alcohol, or addiction services, to reduce stigma and increase accessibility. It also emphasises the need to develop a more inclusive and diverse workforce, with greater representation from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds, alongside strengthened targeted outreach to better reach underserved communities.

National Collaborative Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use

In 2025, Corra delivered a Learning Network event focused on the Scottish Government's National Collaborative Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use. The session supported 37 funded projects to build understanding of the Charter and its accompanying Toolkit, and to explore how a Human Rights Based Approach can be embedded within everyday practice across substance use services. The event provided an opportunity to share learning and emerging practice, supporting funded projects to reflect on how the Charter can be meaningfully applied to strengthen rights-based, person-centred approaches for people affected by substance use.

The funded projects listed below are all delivering work that draws out equalities and human rights focus.

Best Way Community Development is funded through the Local Support Fund Micro Grants. Developed by refugees working together to fight discrimination, racism, drug and alcohol misuse and cultural misunderstandings. They have created a platform for integration, in order to break down barriers between the wider community and ethnic minority populations in North Lanarkshire. Supporting people mostly from African backgrounds, Bestway report that there is intense cultural stigma attached to drug use.

“...after coming to our weekly workshops and one-to-one sessions, many people told us they feel emotionally stronger and safer in the community...”

Simon Community is funded through the Improvement Fund to train, support and develop the existing harm reduction champions. To help them build improved networks/partnerships at a local level and ensure staff are able to take a rights-based approach that supports the delivery of the MAT standards.

In the last year, 90% of staff reported they had increased confidence in challenging poor care and advocating alongside the people they support.

“Having the knowledge to challenge a breach of rights is empowering, not just for us, but for the people we support. We're seeing a real difference because of this.”

Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service (LAAS)

Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service (LAAS) is an established provider of independent advocacy across Argyll and Bute and West Dunbartonshire. Funded through the Improvement Fund to continue delivering advocacy for people affected by drug use in Argyll, LAAS supports some of the most marginalised individuals in local communities to have their voices heard and their rights upheld.

Chris, a 22-year-old woman who was referred to LAAS by We Are With You. She had a history of cocaine use, severe anxiety and depression. She had ADHD which was diagnosed as a teenager. She was self-medicating to calm down her mind as cocaine made her feel 'normal'. She had previously attempted to take her own life.

Chris was already in recovery when she met with the service, but she kept on relapsing. She desperately wanted help for her mental health, specifically treatment for her ADHD. She asked her LAAS worker to attend a mental health assessment with her. She was very anxious about the appointment, as she thought she would be judged for her substance use. They met beforehand to prepare. The LAAS worker explained that she had a human right to health and a life free from the harms of drugs. LAAS helped C to think about the outcome she wanted, and they wrote some notes of what she wanted to say during the assessment. This helped her to feel more confident.

LAAS attended the appointment with C. Having an advocate by her side enabled her to express her symptoms and needs effectively. The outcome was positive as C was later offered the treatment she had requested. This was life changing for her and helped her to address the root causes of her substance use.

Advocacy provided the support and understanding that she needed and ensured she was treated with dignity and respect. She was made aware of her human right to health and a life free from substance use. This enabled her to speak up and get the treatment she required on her recovery path. She continues to stay well on her recovery journey.



Priority 3: Tackling stigma

151
funded projects reported
doing work that tackles stigma
around substance use

Stigma refers to negative perceptions of an individual or group based on particular characteristics or behaviours, such as substance use, and it remains one of the most significant barriers to recovery.

The 2023 Drug Deaths Taskforce Response³, describes how stigma creates a significant barrier for people who use drugs, those in recovery and their families, when accessing treatment. Stigma fuels discrimination, damages mental health and can reduce life chances. Stigma affects not just individuals and families, but whole communities as well, leading to isolation and discrimination. The fear of stigma can prevent people from seeking help and accessing the support they need to rejoin and actively participate in the life of their communities.

In December 2021, the Scottish Government launched a national campaign to tackle the stigma of addiction⁴. This campaign recognised that addressing negative perceptions around substance use and addiction will help people to access the support they need.

This section highlights funded projects that are working to combat stigma and to champion the voices of people in recovery. They take a person-centred and holistic approach, taking time to build trust with individuals seeking support. These funded projects provide services that are free from judgement and challenge others to offer the same. They not only show that recovery is possible, but that people in recovery enrich our society.

In the reporting period, **151 funded projects** have delivered work towards this priority, **an increase of 33 on the previous year**. This continued growth shows that stigma is a major issue, and one that many funded projects are committed to tackling. Their reports highlighted that stigma continued to influence how people interact with the support services. Some people prefer to access services away from their local community to minimise the risks of being seen by their community members. This was often referenced by funded projects supporting people living in rural areas.

3 Scottish Government- 2023 Drug Deaths Taskforce Response- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/drug-deaths-taskforce-response-cross-government-approach/>

4 Scottish Government Campaign to Tackle the Stigma of Addiction- [Tackling the stigma of addiction](#) - gov.scot

The examples below illustrate the types of work being delivered by funded projects to tackle the issue of stigma around substance use.

Positive Steps Partnership is a Dundee based charity supporting vulnerable adults who experience a range of health and social inequalities. Funded to expand its Cuckooing Service in Dundee, Positive Steps works closely with Police Scotland to support individuals who are being sexually, emotionally, or physically exploited by drug gangs.

“Stigma around cuckooing and related exploitation often prevents individuals from seeking help, particularly when behaviours such as drug involvement are misinterpreted as ‘choices’ rather than survival strategies under coercion.

Our educational work with schools, chemists, community hubs, and statutory partners focuses on raising awareness to challenge these harmful misconceptions. For example, we have trained teaching staff to better understand and identify exploitation disguised as ‘lifestyle choices,’ improving referral pathways and safeguarding outcomes.”

Recovery Coaching Scotland CIC is received a Local Support Fund grant in 2023 to provide recovery support to inmates at HMP Edinburgh.

One of the people who engaged with this service, Fern had a long history of using drugs in the community and found it difficult to maintain recovery outside custody. Fern began using techniques from the programme, particularly those focused on challenging negative self-talk and unhelpful beliefs that had developed earlier in life. He reports that these tools have helped him regulate his thoughts and manage cravings more effectively. During one-to-one coaching sessions he spoke about ongoing feelings of guilt and shame relating to the impact his addiction had on himself and his family. Through coaching conversations and guided reflection, he identified a desire to explore a more spiritual pathway in his recovery. The Recovery Coach supported him to connect with external recovery support, including prison fellowship and the Narcotics Anonymous twelve-step programme.



In Cahootz Limited

In Cahootz Limited funded through the Local Support Fund delivers a creative recovery programme for people in recovery from substance use dependency. Funded to deliver the Creative Programme, it provides workshops in music, arts, filmmaking, and photography, creating inclusive opportunities that support confidence, creativity, and empowerment for people who have experienced marginalisation and exclusion.

In October 2024, Ivy was supported in attending the Creative Citizens Project by her key worker from an addictions support project. She was quite hesitant in participating in the project and was not comfortable in the larger group.

She said that the only reason she came along was that her worker had said that she had to try and do things that took her out of her comfort zone. She declared that she couldn't perform but that she would participate in the workshops. Ivy was a consistent attendee from then onwards. Her reason for coming back was that within 20 minutes she was laughing out loud and in her own words

'I've not belly laughed for years so it was worth coming back for that alone'

She started attending the project at the beginning of the production period and said that she didn't mind dancing in the performance but didn't want to say anything. Ivy's attendance for production rehearsals was 86%. When someone dropped out of the production in December and their lines had to be shared out amongst the performers she volunteered to take two lines. This is a clear indicator of an increase in confidence.

For our summer project 'Rerr Terr' we asked for volunteers to direct sketches that had been written by other participants. The only female to volunteer was Ivy who did a remarkable job of directing a one-woman act. Furthermore, when new participants arrive at the project, she is very good at welcoming them and showing them where the tea/coffee etc is. Ivy now fully participates in the workshops contributing ideas and having a laugh with other participants, she no longer looks uncomfortable.

She attributes applying for different courses and having an improved relationship with her daughter to coming to In Cahootz and learning to accept herself (her words). She has said that In Cahootz has built her confidence in just talking to other people as she usually keeps herself to herself. She says she has been encouraged (with realising it) to join in and express herself as an individual, not as a performer.

"Coming to In Cahootz has helped her as a human being, she feels like when she speaks, people listen and she feels connected."

Priority 4: Surveillance and data informed

72

funded projects reported delivering data-informed work

All funded projects supported through the National Drugs Mission Funds are based on detailed applications, setting out the need the proposed work aims to address supported by evidence gathered and presented by the applicant. As a result, all National Drugs Mission funded projects are underpinned by data, local intelligence, and an evidence led understanding of need.

Corra supports each funded project to develop an Evaluation Planning Grid at the outset of delivery. This tool enables funded projects to define clear outcomes, indicators, outputs, and targets, which act as benchmarks to assess whether activities are making a positive difference to peoples' lives and whether the project is achieving its intended aims. This approach ensures that funded projects are generating appropriate data to evidence their impact. Evidence typically draws on service delivery information, and feedback from service users, partners, and other stakeholders.

The 72 funded projects delivering work that meets this priority, have gone beyond the core requirements detailed above. These funded projects use in depth knowledge of their service users, best practice in service delivery, and ongoing analysis of trends (such as changes in drug consumption patterns) to shape responsive services and anticipate emerging needs.

Some examples of the funded projects delivering work relevant to this priority are detailed below.

Quarriers, funded through the Children and Families Fund, continued to deliver 'Our Promising Futures' providing support for children and families affected by parental substance use within Moray. These provided safe spaces for families to connect, reduce isolation, and build peer support networks. Quarriers uses referral data and attendance feedback to shape service delivery. For example, slow uptake in SMART sessions led to the creation of a targeted drop-in for families affected by ketamine use. Regular needs assessments and internal referrals help the group to respond quickly to emerging issues and ensure support remains relevant and effective.

East Ayrshire Health and Social Care

Partnership received a Children and Families grant in 2022 to contribute to the cost of a new Family Support Service, providing relational and longitudinal support to vulnerable families affected by parental substance use. The group continues to be dedicated to ensuring the data they collect provides insight that can inform the development of policies and strategies within the Health and Social Care Partnership. By securing this data they are able to provide more effective client evaluation and interventions. It also enables project workers to identify and manage risks.



Change Grow Live (CGL)

Change Grow Live (CGL) work in partnership with local health services to strengthen drug and alcohol treatment and recovery provision across NHS Forth Valley. Funded through the Improvement Fund to extend the reach of recovery hubs, CGL has worked closely with a GP practice to share data and develop effective referral pathways. This has improved access to support as is illustrated by the case study below.

CGL received a phone call from a GP during a consultation with a patient, Coral, seeking to make a referral, as they had been discharged from hospital earlier that morning following an unscheduled 3-day alcohol detox. Coral had presented to the GP looking for additional support. They were invited to attend the Recovery Hub in the CGL Stirling office that day. When they presented, staff observed that they were still in a hospital gown. Coral engaged with the CGL Recovery Coordinator to gather their information and begin an assessment which also involved the Advanced Nurse Practitioner, who offered clinical advice and support to them.

While in the Hub, Coral was introduced to a Peer Harm Reduction support worker who had lived experience of alcohol dependency. They were able to share their experience of recovery and treatment options. During their time in the Hub, and with the encouragement of the Peer Harm Reduction Support Worker, Coral expressed an interest in attending local recovery cafes. The Peer Harm Reduction Support Worker then made arrangements to support Coral to attend later that week.



Priority 5: Resilient and skilled workforce

134

funded projects invested in skills development of their workforce

Across funded projects, there is a strong and consistent focus on building a resilient, confident, and highly skilled workforce. Teams are supported through continuous professional development, structured supervision, and access to specialist training, particularly in trauma informed practice, mental health, and safeguarding. These projects demonstrate a commitment to reflective practice and psychological safety, recognising that staff wellbeing is fundamental to delivering safe and effective support.

A desire to support staff with lived experience, and factors such as increased safeguarding demands, and workforce capacity pressures have driven innovation in practice. Funded projects report improvements including clearer role boundaries and stronger support structures. Through co production, collaborative learning, and investment in qualifications and skills, funded projects are strengthening both workforce capability and long term resilience.

We Are With You - Levenmouth Outreach and Harm Reduction Service funded through the Improvement Fund has made significant investment in workforce development to ensure staff are confident, competent, and well supported in delivering high quality outreach and harm reduction support. Every staff member has an individual learning and development plan, regular access to training, and protected time for ongoing learning. Reflective practice sessions are embedded on a six weekly basis, providing space for staff to process complex work, strengthen wellbeing, and maintain consistent, trauma informed practice.

The service has exceeded its target for training the wider workforce, recognising that meaningful whole system change requires all professionals involved in local support pathways to be skilled in person-centred, trauma informed harm reduction. These combined structures have helped build a skilled, reflective, and resilient workforce capable of delivering safe, effective, and compassionate support across Levenmouth.

Case Study

A project funded through the Local Support Fund to provide one-to-one trauma informed counselling and recovery support shared this case study. The funded project's name has been removed to protect the identity of the individual.

During the reporting period, the funded project faced a significant internal challenge relating to the relapse of an employee with lived experience, requiring a thoughtful, compassionate, and safeguarding led response.

This situation highlighted the emotional and operational impact that unexpected workforce pressures can have on both individuals and services, and reinforced the importance of prioritising wellbeing, safety, and continuity of care for service users at all times.

The experience prompted valuable learning around the importance of clear professional boundaries, robust support and supervision structures, and realistic expectations within complex and emotionally demanding roles. In response, the project reviewed and strengthened internal processes, including supervision arrangements, role clarity, and approaches to supporting staff wellbeing alongside professional responsibilities.

More broadly, the service has continued to face capacity pressures and ongoing challenges related to recruitment and workforce development. To mitigate this, there has been a strong emphasis on reflective practice, regular supervision, training opportunities, and progression through relevant qualifications. A team based delivery approach has also been further embedded across service strands to promote shared responsibility, peer support, and resilience.

While workforce pressures remain an ongoing reality, the learning gained during this period has contributed to stronger policies, improved practice, and increased resilience. These developments have supported the service to continue delivering safe, ethical, and effective trauma informed support.



Priority 6: Psychologically informed

122

funded projects delivered
psychosocial interventions
that supported people to
develop positive relationships
and new ways of coping

Alongside funded projects aiming to advocate and support people to access mental health services, there is a growing commitment to psychologically informed practice, characterised by safe, non stigmatising environments, trauma aware approaches. This helps create a deeper understanding of individuals' emotional and psychological needs.

More staff are being trained in trauma, vicarious trauma, and psychologically informed models, enabling them to build empathic, respectful, and therapeutic relationships. This approach is evident not only in emotional support but also in the way services deliver practical assistance. Collectively, these practices contribute to more compassionate, effective, and person-centred support for individuals with diverse and often complex experiences.

TCUK Scotland Limited embed a Psychologically Informed Practice approach across service delivery, recognising the impact of trauma on behaviour, relationships, and engagement with support. All staff receive training that reflects this approach, either through dedicated subjects such as trauma awareness and compulsive behaviours, or through the integration of psychological understanding within broader training programmes. The involvement of a professional counsellor further strengthens this model, enabling them to offer enhanced, emotionally informed support directly to service users, while also building the psychological awareness, confidence, and reflective practice of the wider staff team.



Penumbra Intensive Support Service

Penumbra Intensive Support Service is funded through the Children and Families Fund to employ two Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners who work directly with families in Aberdeen.

A kinship carer raised increasing concerns about a close family member's substance use and the negative impact this was having on the household, particularly two children in their care. The family member attended the home at unpredictable times throughout the day and night, significantly disrupting routines and causing the children to feel unsafe both at home and within their local community.

Initial support focused on establishing clear boundaries and improving safety and emotional comfort within the home environment for both children. However, one young person was experiencing significant anxiety, difficulties managing emotions and thoughts of self harm, and accepted additional one-to-one support from the service. Prior to engagement, the young person had not successfully accessed or remained engaged with mental health services.

They identified that many of their difficulties were linked to early adverse experiences and expressed a wish to begin addressing these.

Penumbra staff supported the young person to build understanding around emotional regulation, reinforcing that emotions are valid and can be expressed safely within supportive relationships. Trauma informed principles were embedded throughout all interactions, alongside psychoeducational approaches to help explain emotional responses, thought patterns, and nervous system regulation, including discussion of the window of tolerance.

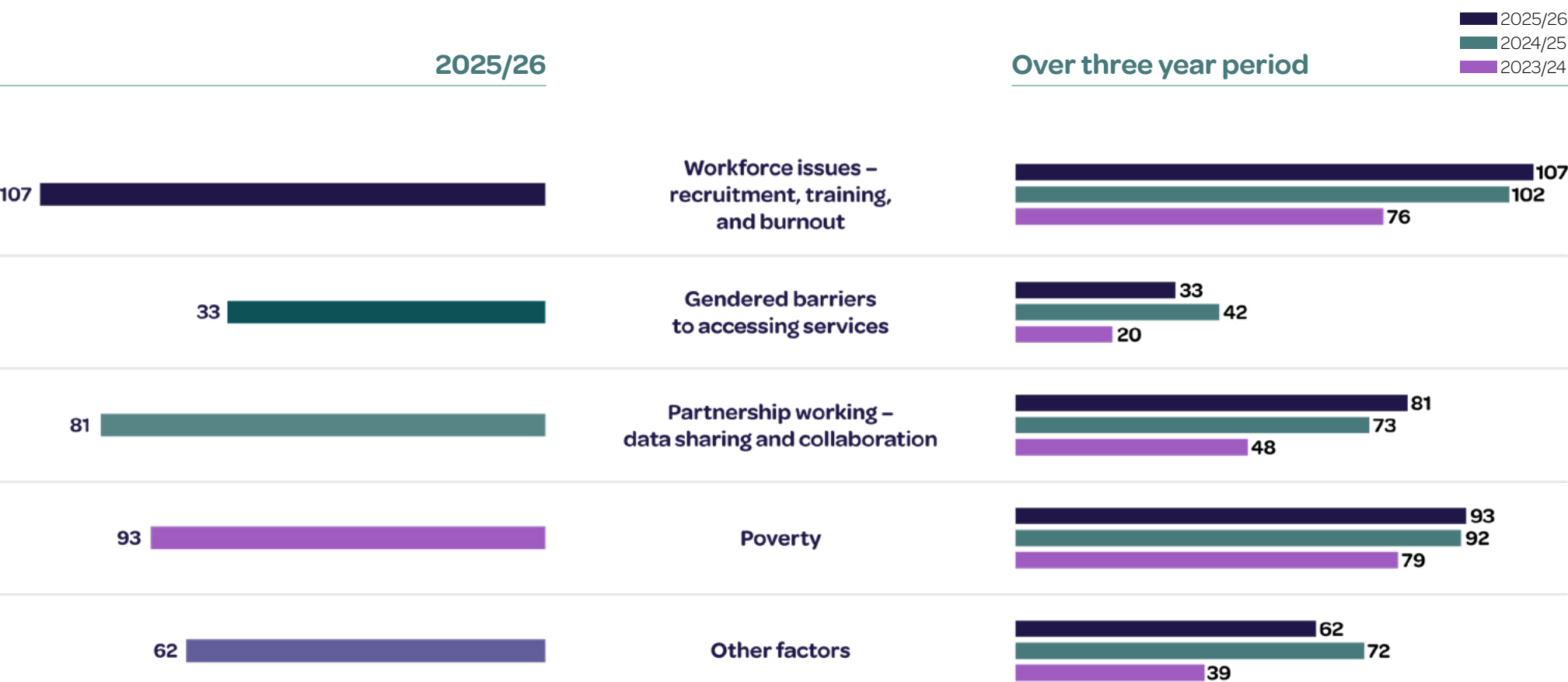
To strengthen practice, the Penumbra staff member undertook additional training related to self harm awareness, allowing for more informed and confident support. Positively, throughout the young person's engagement with the service, no incidents of self harm were disclosed or observed. The family member with substance use difficulties was also offered support but engaged only briefly. Sadly, this individual later passed away, and the focus of the work shifted to supporting the household through bereavement and adjustment.

The family continues to engage positively and is progressing well with ongoing support. Current work with the kinship carer is focused on future planning and practical preparations for later life transitions, including assistance with relevant administrative processes.

Ongoing support for the young person has included structured outcome focussed conversations to identify personal goals and to collaboratively develop a support plan. Staff have promoted independence through discussions around life skills such as budgeting, managing bills, maintaining routines, and planning for the future. Practical assistance has also been provided to support access to education related financial support and opportunities for voluntary work, including help with applications and references.

Part 3. Challenges

Projects reporting external challenges



Challenge 1: Workforce issues – recruitment, training and burnout

107

funded projects reported
workforce challenges

A significant proportion of funded projects reported challenges related to recruitment, staff capacity, burnout and workforce resilience across the reporting period. While these issues were evident in earlier reporting, they remain a key and persistent challenge in 2025/26, with increasing demand and complexity of need placing additional pressure on staff teams.

Recruitment Challenges

A substantial proportion (39%)
of funded projects reported challenges
linked to recruitment, including:

- Prolonged vacancies and difficulties recruiting suitable candidates – notably, a limited pool of suitable applicants, particularly for specialist or trauma-informed roles
- High staff turnover and disruption to continuity of care
- Reduced capacity due to staff absence, reduced hours, or restructuring, resulting in loss of skilled and experienced staff
- Increased reliance on small teams managing high-demand services

Many services described operating at, or beyond, capacity, with demand continuing to rise.

In several cases, funded projects reported having to pause elements of delivery, narrow their focus, or prioritise more intensive support for fewer families as a direct result of workforce constraints.

Recruitment challenges remain particularly acute in:

- Rural and remote areas (due to restricted rural housing and workforce availability)
- Specialist roles (e.g. trauma-informed, therapeutic or peer roles)
- Third sector services competing with statutory salaries and conditions

80

funded projects reported
significant challenges related
to recruitment

Short-term funding and job insecurity were also identified as contributing factors to turnover, with staff seeking more stable employment. Staff changes and vacancies during delivery also posed additional challenges. The departure of experienced workers was particularly significant, both in terms of organisational capacity and the impact on service users where relationships had been established.

In addition, in the last year, funded projects have also talked about the increased impact of the cost of living on the staff. Projects have reflected on the importance of the ability to also offer full-time roles. This would suggest that being able to offer staff a living wage and sufficient hours is important to attract and retain staff.

Staff and Volunteer Burnout

Staff burnout is consistently reported (19% of funded projects reported), often both a cause and consequence of limited capacity and increasing demand.

The data from reports received this year provides evidence of the drivers and impacts of burnout, notably:-

- High caseloads and sustained demand
- Exposure to complex trauma, safeguarding concerns, and crises
- Emotional intensity of supporting families experiencing grief, addiction, poverty and abuse
- Pressure associated with safeguarding responsibility and system gaps

Several services explicitly reference:

- Vicarious trauma and secondary traumatic stress
- Staff requiring long-term absence or stepping away from roles
- Emotional strain on peer workers drawing on lived experience

Many funded projects described the emotional demands of the work, with staff regularly supporting individuals and families experiencing trauma, substance use, poverty and mental health challenges. They have also highlighted the impact of vicarious trauma (17% of funded projects) and emotional exhaustion. This often results in people needing to spend time away from work, in smaller teams, this had further implications for capacity and service delivery. With many funded projects reliant on volunteers, volunteer burnout is also identified, especially in maintaining engagement and managing expectations.

39

funded projects reported
challenges related to burnout

PART 3: CHALLENGES

A key insight from reports in 2025/26 is the clearer link between workforce challenges and the increasing complexity of cases. Services report:

- Individuals/Families presenting at crisis rather than early intervention stage
- Higher levels of co-occurring issues (mental health, trauma, poverty, safeguarding risk)
- Increased need for intensive, longer-term support

This has intensified pressure on staff and contributed to burnout, while also making recruitment more difficult due to the skills and resilience required. There is also evidence that pressures in partner services (e.g. statutory services, mental health provision) are cascading into funded projects, leaving them:

- Managing higher-risk cases
- Carrying additional responsibility
- Acting as “gap-fillers” within stretched systems



Good Practice in Mitigating Challenges (Challenge 1)

Despite these challenges, funded projects demonstrated a strong commitment to supporting staff wellbeing and sustaining delivery.

Common approaches include:

- Enhanced and regular supervision, reflective practice and debriefing processes
- Access to counselling, psychotherapy and wellbeing support
- Workload redistribution and flexible working arrangements
- Increased focus on team culture and peer support
- Investment in training and development, particularly trauma-informed practice

There is also evidence of services adapting strategically by:

- Redesigning delivery to align with capacity (including focusing on more intensive support)
- Strengthening partnerships to share risk
- Investing in workforce development (e.g. peer roles, training pipelines)

Despite the challenges reported, many funded projects highlighted the dedication, flexibility and resilience of their staff teams. They emphasised the importance of strong team relationships, mutual support and a shared commitment to delivering positive outcomes for the individuals and families they support.

My Support Day has explicitly linked vicarious trauma to lived experience roles and adjusted its support model to focus on staff wellbeing and reflective practice, including regular supervision and debriefing sessions, and clear boundaries around workload.

WRASAC Dundee & Angus has recognised the emotional impact of trauma-informed, gender-based violence work and mitigated this through external clinical supervision, line management support, protected wellbeing time and structured peer support.

The Shed Project responded to burnout and morale concerns by redistributing workload to senior staff, increasing support for volunteers managing complex cases, and planning additional management capacity.

North Lanarkshire Council mitigated capacity risks associated with staff absence by introducing cover arrangements and ensuring families continued to receive coordinated support through partner agencies.

Challenge 2: Gendered barriers to access

33

funded projects reported challenges because of gendered barriers to service provision

A significant number of funded projects reported challenges relating to gendered barriers to accessing services. While these challenges were highlighted in previous reporting, they remained a key issue in 2025, with evidence indicating that gender continues to shape how individuals engage with support, alongside differences in need, risk, and service experience.

Gendered barriers to engagement

Many services reported that patterns of engagement continue to differ significantly by gender. Women were often described as less likely to engage due to stigma and fear, particularly where involvement with services might lead to scrutiny from statutory agencies.

For example, **Children 1st (Midlothian)** highlighted that concerns around child protection and fear of child removal acted as a barrier to engagement for parents, particularly mothers. Similarly, **Barnardo's (Dundee – FLIP project)** reported that mothers were often reluctant to self-refer due to concerns about statutory involvement and being judged, illustrating how fear can prevent early engagement.

Multiple funded projects also highlighted that women may require additional time and trust-building before engaging with support, particularly where previous experiences have led to mistrust of services.

For some funded projects they identified challenges engaging men. **Circle (Edinburgh)** noted that while a mothers' support group was well attended, a corresponding fathers' group failed to engage participants, with men demonstrating a preference for one-to-one support over group-based approaches.

These differing patterns highlight the need for flexible, gender-responsive engagement models that recognise how gender influences help-seeking behaviour.

Gender-based trauma and additional vulnerabilities

Many funded projects emphasised the impact of gender-based trauma as a significant barrier to participation.

Women accessing services were often described as having experienced:

- Domestic abuse or coercive control
- Sexual violence or exploitation
- Complex trauma linked to relationships or caregiving roles

In addition, women were frequently described as facing multiple and intersecting disadvantages, including poverty, poor mental health and caring responsibilities, which compound barriers to access. For example, **Circle (Clackmannanshire)** noted that mothers—particularly those with children with additional needs or those in unstable housing—faced compounded challenges in engaging with support services.

Childcare also continues to be a key barrier. Several funded projects reported that the absence of childcare provision limits the ability of women to attend appointments, groupwork or structured programmes.

Lack of female representation among staff

The composition of staff and volunteers was also identified as an important factor influencing engagement. Several funded projects reported that service users may prefer to engage with workers of a particular gender, especially where trauma has been experienced. For example:

Glasgow City Mission actively addressed this by increasing female staff representation to improve engagement with women.

Circle (Parent Peer Support funded projects)

highlighted the importance of appropriate support and preparation for peer workers, particularly where lived experience intersects with gender and trauma.

Other funded projects noted imbalances in participation. For example, some funded projects reported predominantly female participation in family-focused work, reflecting wider societal expectations around caring roles. This highlighted the importance of ensuring diverse, representative staff teams, as well as providing choice in worker gender where possible.



Barriers for women accessing residential rehabilitation

Some funded projects reflected on how aspects of service design can unintentionally reinforce gendered barriers.

Projects noted that:

- Women may feel unsafe or uncomfortable in mixed-gender spaces
- Men may disengage from services perceived as therapeutic or group-based
- Traditional delivery models do not always align with gendered engagement preferences

For example, **Simon Community Scotland (Edinburgh)** identified that many women did not feel comfortable accessing mixed-gender environments, which limited their engagement with support services.

Similarly, **Edinburgh Community Yoga** reported ongoing challenges in attracting male participants, with yoga perceived as a female-oriented activity despite efforts to widen access.

There was also evidence of structural gaps in provision. Some funded projects identified limited availability of gender-specific pathways, including within residential rehabilitation, where women were often underrepresented.

Limited provision of gender-specific spaces

Gendered barriers to accessing services remain a consistent and complex challenge across the reporting period.

The updated data highlights that:

- Women continue to face barriers linked to stigma, trauma and caring responsibilities
- Men may be less likely to engage with traditional or group-based service models
- Service design, workforce composition and system structures can all influence engagement

There is evidence of growing awareness of the unique needs of women affected by drug or alcohol use. Many funded projects are developing more trauma-informed, gender-sensitive and flexible approaches, including women only spaces, tailored interventions and varied delivery models. Despite progress, gender remains a significant factor shaping access to services, and continued attention is required to ensure that support is accessible, inclusive and responsive to the diverse needs of all individuals and families.

Good Practice in Mitigating Challenges (Challenge 2)

Many funded projects emphasised the importance of providing gender-specific spaces and pathways to improve accessibility and engagement.

Examples of practice include:

Positive Steps Partnership recognised that women experiencing crisis and trauma face additional barriers to engagement and responded by introducing Trauma and Gender-Specific Workers through its Crisis Response Outreach Service, enabling more tailored and accessible support.

WRASAC Dundee & Angus addressed gender-based trauma and stigma by continuing delivery of the Women's Hub in Dundee, providing holistic, women-only support in a safe, accessible location and co-developing resources alongside women with lived experience.

Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership – Martha's Mammies mitigated barriers faced by women who have lost care of their children by creating dedicated Support Worker posts, offering trauma-informed, gender-sensitive support focused on trust and relationship-building.

Recovery Scotland mitigated gendered engagement barriers by developing women-only recovery groups, recognising that mixed-gender environments can limit participation for women affected by trauma.

Dundee Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service worked to increase women's access to residential rehabilitation by partnering with local women's funded projects and assigning female staff to support women through the pathway.

There were also examples of services recognising different engagement preferences, including offering one-to-one support as an alternative to group-based models for men.

Overall, the reports indicate that gender-sensitive provision is increasing, with services adapting approaches to better reflect the needs and lived experiences of those they support.

Challenge 3: Data sharing and other barriers to collaborative working

82

funded projects reported barriers to collaborative working

There was an increase in funded projects reporting challenges relating to collaborative working during the year. While partnership working remains central to effective delivery, many funded projects identified ongoing barriers linked to information sharing, referral processes, and differences in systems and culture between funded projects. These challenges were particularly evident at the interface between third sector and statutory services.

Data sharing and information governance

Issues relating to data sharing were most attributed to inconsistent or cautious confidentiality policies, including differing interpretations of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). Funded projects reported that, in some cases, information was withheld despite existing protocols or service user consent, creating delays and fragmentation in support.

Common challenges included:

- Inconsistent or limited information sharing processes between organisations
- Delays in sharing key risk or safeguarding information
- Poor quality or incomplete data being passed between services
- People being repeatedly required to share their stories, increasing the risk of retraumatising people as they seek support

Several funded projects highlighted that these issues were particularly problematic where individuals were at risk or where staff were working alone. For example, one funded project described difficulties obtaining timely confirmation of an individual's attendance at other services, despite safeguarding concerns. This was primarily down to variable interpretations of data protection rules.

Funded projects working with people from Black and Racially minoritised communities also noted that cultural differences and mistrust around information sharing could further complicate engagement and collaboration.

28

funded projects reported barriers to collaborative working due to restrictions around data sharing

Referral pathways and access to services

Alongside data sharing, 6% of funded projects reported raised concerns about ineffective or inconsistent referral pathways.

Common issues included:

- Referrals lacking essential information, such as accurate contact details or risk indicators
- Referrals being made too late, often at crisis point
- Low referral rates from statutory services into third sector provision
- Inconsistent thresholds for support between agencies

For example, funded projects have reported that referrals were often received at crisis stage, with incomplete information and limited follow up from other services. In some cases, partner agencies subsequently withdrew, leaving the project as the sole source of support and increasing safeguarding risk.

Several funded projects also highlighted difficulties accessing statutory mental health services, particularly for individuals who were not registered with a GP, resulting in delays and additional pressure on third sector staff to provide interim support.

13
funded projects reported
raised concerns about ineffective
referral pathways



Cross sector working and system pressures

Funded projects reported ongoing challenges in cross sector working, particularly where third sector and statutory services operate under different structures, priorities and constraints.

Key barriers included:

- Different information sharing systems across NHS boards and local authorities
- Slow responses and long waiting times within statutory services
- Rigid, appointment based models that limited re-engagement for people with complex needs
- High staff turnover and changing priorities within partner funded projects

36

funded projects reported ongoing challenges in working with cross-sector working

Several funded projects reported that statutory services had reduced their level of engagement since the pandemic, with lingering impacts on partnership working. This was felt to undermine continuity of care and, in some cases, hinder progress towards the implementation of MAT Standards.

There were also reports that third sector staff and volunteers were sometimes undervalued within multi agency settings, with peer workers or staff from smaller funded projects not always recognised as professional contributors.

Impact on service users and staff

Challenges within collaborations ultimately impacted on people accessing services.

The barriers reported included:

- Delays in accessing treatment or support
- Increased frustration and disengagement
- Reduced trust in services

Similarly, there was also a direct impact on staff. This included increased workload, managing risk without full information, and filling gaps left by other parts of the system. Several funded projects noted that these pressures compounded existing capacity and wellbeing challenges.

Good Practice in Mitigating Challenges (Challenge 3)

Despite these challenges, many funded projects demonstrated proactive approaches to improving collaboration.

Examples include:

Blue Triangle Housing Association report adopting an integrated multidisciplinary approach to ensure continuity of support even when information sharing was limited.

North East Glasgow Alcohol and Drug Recovery Services, working alongside **We Are With You**, have reported inviting third sector partners into multidisciplinary meetings where residential rehabilitation funding decisions are made, resulting in more joined up care planning and earlier identification of risk.

West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Services mitigated data-sharing limitations caused by incompatible IT systems by establishing clear request-based information-sharing processes between statutory and third-sector partners, enabling coordination despite system constraints.

Access to Industry addressed re-traumatisation caused by limited data sharing by working closely with referrers to improve the quality of initial information and reduce the need for individuals to repeatedly recount their experiences.

Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau mitigated delays caused by statutory systems by embedding advisers directly within addiction services, allowing real-time advocacy and faster resolution of benefit, housing and welfare issues.

Several funded projects also highlighted the value of strong informal relationships between workers, regular communication, and clear consent processes in overcoming systemic barriers.

Reports from this year reinforce that improving collaboration requires:

- Clear and consistent approaches to information sharing
- Timely, high quality referrals
- Mutual recognition of roles across statutory and third sector services
- Ongoing investment in partnership structures

Despite ongoing challenges, many funded projects continue to demonstrate commitment, creativity and persistence in navigating complex systems to support individuals and families affected by drugs and alcohol use.

Challenge 4: Poverty

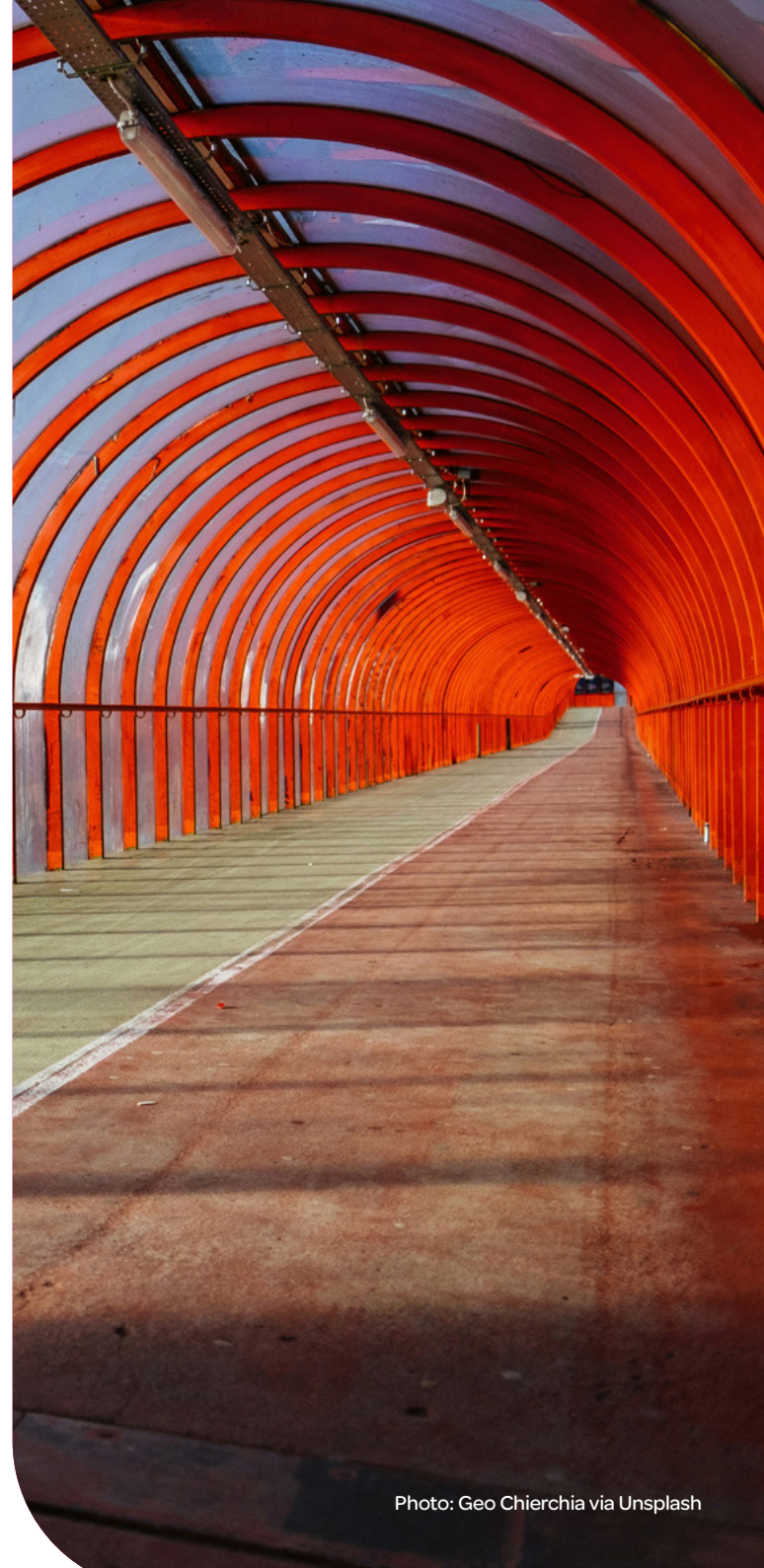
93

funded projects reported
challenges related to poverty.

Poverty continues to be one of the most significant and widespread barriers to recovery for individuals across Scotland. The number of funded projects reporting this challenge has risen to 93 this year (46% of funded projects that reported). Those who experience challenges in relation to drug use will often experience other underlying difficulties in relation to poverty and this can profoundly impact their health and wellbeing.

With the cost-of-living continuing to impact peoples finances, funded projects report that poverty does more than limit access to support services; it also influences the wider conditions in which people live, affecting their overall health, wellbeing, and ability to maintain recovery. Poverty continues to act as a key driver, increasing vulnerability and, in many cases, contributing to the onset of addiction.

Many funded projects recognise that poverty underpins a wide range of the challenges they encounter and understand its role as a key driver of issues related to drug use. They also observe that those most in need of recovery support are often the least likely to engage. This is frequently linked to a loss of hope and purpose, alongside experiences of isolation and marginalisation.



This report illustrates that poverty creates multiple overlapping barriers to recovery.

The most common factors identified by services and research include:

- **Unstable housing or homelessness**
Many funded projects report that without safe, secure accommodation, it's extremely difficult for service users to engage in treatment or maintain routine and stability. Waiting lists remain persistently long with the wider housing crisis continuing in Scotland.
- **Food insecurity and poor nutrition**
Lack of consistent, healthy meals affects energy, mood, and the ability to engage with support services.
- **Digital exclusion**
Limited access to phones, internet, or data makes it harder to stay in contact with services or access online support.
- **Stigma and social exclusion**
Funded projects will also report on the impact of people who feel further stigmatised when seeking support from other services e.g. Food Banks. This leads to further isolation and reluctance to ask for help.
- **Unemployment and lack of meaningful activity**
A lack of structure, purpose, and opportunity can make recovery harder to sustain.
- **Complex life circumstances**
As highlighted throughout issues like involvement with the justice system, family breakdown, or caring responsibilities are more common and harder to manage when people are experiencing poverty.
- **Reduced access to consistent support services**
Funded projects report that poverty combined with other additional complexities mean people struggle to engage regularly or meet eligibility requirements.
- **Financial insecurity and debt**
Daily survival pressures—rent, food, bills—often take priority over attending appointments or focusing on recovery.
- **Limited access to transport**
The cost or availability of travel can prevent people from reaching treatment centres, especially in rural areas.
- **Poor physical and mental health**
Poverty is closely linked to worse health outcomes, which can complicate recovery and reduce resilience.

Recovery isn't just about addressing substance use, it also requires tackling the broader social and economic conditions that supports people in sustained recovery.

Good Practice in Mitigating This Challenge (Challenge 4)

Many funded projects demonstrated resilience and continued efforts to mitigate the impact of poverty. Examples of good practice are outlined below.

Occupational Therapy North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP) commented:

‘Poverty is a big barrier in North Ayrshire, in particularly relating to travel. It’s been ensured that individuals are assessed for the National Travel Card and if appropriate a quick application is made. They also signpost to other services to assist with travel. Within NADARS they have a Money Smart Worker who works with individuals to ensure their benefits are maximised. They also link in with food banks and signpost to Cafe Solace and other community food provision areas.’

Transform Forth Valley has continued to respond to families experiencing poverty. They have provided support to families and young people through the Connecting Scotland project (digital). Each family provided with a £20 voucher over the festive period. In addition, they prepared and distributed 15 large Christmas Day food hampers, ensuring that 73 individuals across Forth Valley enjoyed a special meal with all the trimmings. These hampers helped make Christmas Day joyful and memorable for families who needed it most.

West Dunbartonshire HSCP describe how their Winter Warmer packages provided essential support during the festive period. A time when many vital services are closed and individuals facing addiction and poverty are particularly at risk. For those living in poverty, access to basic necessities such as warm clothing, hot drinks, food, and hygiene products is often limited, and these packages helped meet those urgent needs during one of the coldest and most emotionally challenging times of the year.

Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) addiction advice service has been impacted by the barriers service users face around poverty, cost of living crisis, poverty of opportunity & digital exclusion. Thankfully, through a consistent income maximisation approach, and by accessing a wide range of grants, charitable support & local assistance, the team have helped service users engage, become more financially capable and financially resilient. This has in turn reduced isolation due to economic factors that impact on inclusiveness in society and access to social justice. They reported:

‘The project has helped to significantly mitigate this challenge by providing income maximisation, financial/benefit security, crisis food, and crisis fuel support to clients. The reported client financial gain for the project was £667,822, an average gain of £1,556 per household.’

Challenge 5: Other factors

62

funded projects reported challenges which did not directly fit into the other four categories.

Funding

Several projects continue to feel funding pressures, and while lower than last year (18% of funded projects), due to the offer of continuation funding, we know that securing funding is an ongoing challenge. Funding pressures continue to significantly impact service delivery across funded projects.

Many of the funded projects refer to a lack of alternative funding options, and reduced capacity to prepare successful applications. These are particularly pronounced among funded projects in the final year of their National Drugs Mission grant. This instability adversely affects people by weakening established relationships and creating barriers to sustained engagement. At the same time, rising demand for services is placing additional pressure on already constrained budgets, limiting the ability of funded projects to respond effectively.

This is further impacted by increased costs including national insurance employer contributions, which have created additional strain on organisational budgets, particularly for charities operating within tight financial constraints. More broadly, reduced funding across the third sector has limited capacity for service development, while the time and resource required to pursue funding opportunities remains a significant challenge. In response to financial uncertainty, funded projects report taking steps to reduce internal expenditure. However, this has often come at the cost of reduced capacity for innovation and long-term planning.



Mental health

A persistent gap in mental health provision remains a major concern with 80% of funded projects reporting on this. Funded projects have reported that service users feel inadequately supported by statutory mental health services. In addition, reflections on issues including access, long waiting times and limited availability. In response, many funded projects are attempting to address unmet need directly. However, while peer support initiatives provide important supplementary support, they are not a substitute for clinical mental health care. Concerns also continue regarding insufficient coordination between mental health and addiction services.

Rural Communities

Rural inequality remains a significant barrier to equitable service access. Funded projects report that limited local provision in rural and remote areas of Scotland forces individuals to travel long distances to receive support, reducing accessibility and engagement.

Additionally, higher levels of stigma in rural communities present further challenges, including difficulties in securing appropriate venues for delivering community-based support and in the event that appropriate service is available, people do not wish to use them due to fear of stigma of someone finding out.

Change in Drug Use Patterns

Funded projects with strong partnerships fare well because they can share information and resources on new drugs in their area. Those that do not have a good partnership are forced to adopt as best as they can, creating their own systems, such as staff making individual calls to service users on their database to inform them of new BBV outbreaks, new drugs in the area or relying on service users providing this information to the funded projects.

Service Delivery

Service delivery challenges are further compounded by resource pressures. Maintaining open cases for individuals who are temporarily disengaged can place strain on staff capacity, yet closing cases prematurely risks losing opportunities for re-engagement. This is contributing to staff burnout, including emotional exhaustion and vicarious trauma.

Support for funded projects

Relational support is built into each grant made through the National Drugs Mission Funds. Each funded project is supported by a named Corra Grant Advisor, offering tailored support throughout the life of the grant.

Corra hosts Thematic Learning Network events for National Drugs Mission funded projects several times each year. These events enable funded projects to network and share good practice. Three events were held this year focusing on:

1. Staff Wellbeing;
2. The Charter of Rights; and
3. Celebrating Frontline Workers.

The third of these events was delivered as a large conference for funded projects, held in Edinburgh in March 2026. The event was a great success, with over 200 funded projects in attendance. Highlights from the event are detailed in the next section of this report.

Where funded projects identify specific support needs, Grant Advisors connect them to the most appropriate resources and, where possible, facilitate introductions. More in-depth support was provided by the Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) and the Scottish Recovery Consortium (SRC).

Scottish Recovery Consortium has worked alongside a range of recovery groups, communities and funded projects to support their development and growth. They provided the following feedback-

“Recovery Communities play a crucial role in supporting individuals, providing a network of emotional, social, and practical support that can significantly enhance the chances of successful recovery. Like an individual’s recovery journey, we see a similar journey for recovery communities and organisations, support during each phase is essential in the growth and development.”



The Scottish Recovery Consortium provide support through three phases of development-

Phase 1 – Inception

“At this stage SRC supports the groups to consider the structure they want to adopt, formal or informal, what their future aspirations are. This then determines the legal structure; Charity, CIC or constituted group. SRC then supports develop the constitution, charity application or CIC application. We work with the committee/ board to understand and develop roles, understanding their legal obligations.”

Phase 2 - Sustainability

“To ensure sustainability, recovery funded projects need to develop policies to support volunteers and participants. They need to access funding to deliver activities. It’s at this point SRC supports funded projects understand the policies it needs, how to develop and understand them so they are more than a piece of paper. We support funded projects and groups find suitable funding and support then through the application process. If successful we continue to work with groups to develop mechanisms to gather information on their impact and needs.”

Phase 3 – Growth

“Many of the recovery organisations we work with have become established within their local areas, they have multiple funding streams and staff and are looking to grow. SRC works with Recovery funded projects to develop organisational strategies. This allows recovery communities to plan their growth, taking into account core costs as well as project costs, demonstrating outcomes, sustainable funding, governance and quality but it also strengthens the lived experience organisational values.”

Reflections from funded projects supported by Scottish Recovery Consortium

I would like to thank SRC for all the help and support they have given me and the group. We would not have achieved the success we have re funding applications, the goals we set and the achievements we have had without them supporting us to make this happen.

-Midlothian Families

Over the past year, we've worked alongside the Scottish Recovery consortium, to co-produce a new three-year strategy, shaped by lived experience, our values and the voices of the communities we serve. This gives us a shared plan for the future and helps us make sure our growth stays focused, sustainable, and grounded in what really matters.

-Harbour Ayrshire



Scottish Drugs Forum's Local Support Team

works flexibly and responsively with small and medium-sized funded projects that reduce harm among people who use drugs, people in recovery, and their families. This year, the Local Support Team supported 33 funded projects (including groups funded through the Local Support Fund and Micro Grant Fund), to enhance their development and long term sustainability. They provided the feedback below.

“The current funding environment continues to present significant challenges for grassroots and community-based funded projects working to achieve the outcomes within the National Drugs Mission. Rising operational costs, increased competition for supplementary funding, short-term funding cycles and uncertainty across the wider third sector have placed considerable additional pressure on smaller funded projects, many of whom are operating with limited infrastructure and capacity. Alongside this, funded projects are responding, at pace, to changing patterns of drug use, increasing complexity of need, and growing demand for community-led support services.

In response, the support offer by the Local Support Team has evolved beyond traditional funding advice and bid development into broader organisational development. This has included governance and safeguarding reviews, programme design, funding applications, monitoring and evaluation, and sustainability challenges. This support has been delivered flexibly and through relationship-based approaches that recognise differing local contexts, experience levels, infrastructure, and organisational capacity.

Over the past year, a key focus has been helping funded projects strengthen safeguarding cultures beyond standard “off-the-shelf” policies. This has involved supporting funded projects to embed safeguarding across governance, leadership, operational practice, staff and volunteer wellbeing, financial oversight, and organisational culture.

Support has also included raising awareness of the Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use and helping funded projects consider how rights-based approaches can be reflected in practice. While many grassroots funded projects already deliver community-led, rights-based support, additional support is often needed to evidence this within policies, frameworks and funding applications.

Engagement with funded projects has shown that challenges often develop gradually and are linked to limited capacity, informal structures, evolving governance arrangements, and gaps in organisational knowledge. Enhanced support has therefore focused on early intervention, practical problem solving, and helping funded projects strengthen resilience and accountability while maintaining their community-led ethos.

The team's relationship-based approach has enabled funded projects to access tailored development support that addresses both immediate operational pressures and longer-term organisational needs.”

Reflections from funded projects supported by the Scottish Drugs Forum's Local Support Team

"We are a grassroots organisation delivering services on less than £100k a year, including salaries, rent and running costs. The support from the Scottish Drugs Forum's Local Support Team has been vital to our sustainability. Without that support, we can't do what we are doing."

Funded Project

"We are so grateful cause I wasn't getting that help anywhere else and I really needed it while setting the place up, keeping young people involved and then building the community from what we were trying to do. We wouldn't be here if didn't have the help because we got three years funding from National Lottery Community Funding."

Previously Funded Project



National Drugs Mission Conference 2026

The National Drugs Mission Conference 2026 was held on 4 March 2026 in Edinburgh. Over 200 funded projects from across Scotland's drug and alcohol support ecosystem attended to mark five years of the National Mission Fund and recognise the achievements of frontline workers and services.

The day combined reflection, celebration, learning and creative engagement, with inputs from expert panels, five sector-led workshops, and lived experience voices. The Minister for Mental Wellbeing, Public Health, Sport, Alcohol and Drugs, Maree Todd, gave the opening address.

She highlighted both the scale of the work undertaken and the progress that has been made since 2021. She reaffirmed the Scottish Government's commitment to supporting funded projects delivering life saving work and announced that Corra had successfully secured responsibility for delivering the new **Alcohol and Drugs Fund**. This fund was launched in June 2026. This was an important announcement, particularly in light of the challenges in the funding landscape as highlighted throughout this report. In the feedback survey, funded projects told us this announcement was a key moment of the conference for them.

In the post-event survey, delegates responded overwhelmingly positively, describing the event as useful, affirming, collaborative, and energising.

The conference generated deep insights into what matters for funded projects, communities, and staff delivering the National Mission. People attending highlighted the value of long-term funding, the need for system coherence, the importance of rights-based and trauma-informed practice, and the centrality of lived and living experience. These delegates shared a collective vision for a more equitable, better integrated system of support with a secure funding base.

The conference stood out not only as a learning event but as a key milestone in the life of the National Drugs Mission – a moment of recognition, connection, and shared purpose for a sector deeply committed to saving and improving lives. The event closed with a Recognition Awards ceremony, celebrating 27 frontline workers, nominated by their peers, for the life-changing work they deliver. Many of these workers are people with lived experience, who are on their own recovery journey.

One of the participants at the event shared a highlight of the event for them:-

"Hearing in the room that the work we do is valued and that our practice is effective, appreciated and recognised. Third sector does not equate to inexperience - I would argue quite the opposite. At Corra events there is a real sense of our value and that is important".

Conclusion

The 236 National Drugs Mission funded projects active in 2025/26 delivered life-changing support to individuals, families and communities affected by drug and alcohol use across Scotland. This report illustrates the scale and nature of this impact on the lives of those engaging with these funded projects, and the value this represents for the resource invested.

Many of the active funded projects entered their fifth year of service delivery in this reporting period. Thanks to sustained funding, they have continued to grow, engaging more people each year and consistently achieving their intended outcomes. Sustained relational support from trusted workers has been key to keeping people on their recovery journey.

Together, the funded projects have supported 64,475 people, an increase of 13,096 on the number supported in the previous year. This growth in the scale of delivery would not have been possible without the secure, long-term funding provided through the National Drugs Mission.

The diversity of funded projects has remained very high this year. Support has been provided through outreach teams, drug counselling, recovery support-groups, community hubs, mobile harm-reduction clinics and residential rehabilitation. Projects have provided employment to hundreds of workers, many of whom are people with lived experience. The increasing visibility of lived experience in the workforce has been a source of hope to those starting their own recovery journey through these services.

All funded projects have helped to deliver Scottish Government commitments, such as the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Standards, Whole Family Approaches and the Charter of Rights for People Affected by Substance Use.

This report marks both a reflection on the achievements of the projects supported by the National Drugs Mission Funds and a transition to the next phase of investment. While it was not launched during the reporting timeframe 2025/26, the Alcohol and Drugs Fund successfully opened in early summer 2026, building on the learning, partnerships and approaches developed through the National Mission. Investment made through this new fund will provide further funding to organisations as they continue supporting people, families and communities across Scotland.

Corra is proud to support this diverse and important family of funded projects.

Appendix 1. Grant holder List

Children and Families Fund

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported this year	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Quarriers	Moray	90	29-09-22	£484,189.00	£384,913.00	to provide a new specialist and intensive support, "Our Promising Futures", for children and families affected by parental substance use within Moray
My Support Day	South Lanarkshire	50	18-07-22	£218,600.55	£218,600.55	to contribute towards the staff and running costs of a new outreach service, which will be delivered as a test of change for three years
East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	East Ayrshire	60	11-11-22	£500,000.00	£400,000.00	to contribute to the cost of a new Family Support Service, commissioned from a third sector partner, which will provide relational and longitudinal support to vulnerable families affected by parental substance use
South Lanarkshire Council	South Lanarkshire	72	16-01-23	£487,340.00	£292,404.00	to fund the salary costs of support workers to work with families affected by the substance use of a parent
Rosemount Lifelong Learning	Glasgow City	90	20-06-22	£346,730.00	£277,584.00	to fund the salaries and running costs of a Child Development Worker and Young Person Development Worker who will deliver one-to-one and group support to children and young people in northeast Glasgow, whilst committing to a whole family approach
Penumbra	Aberdeen City	40	01-02-23	£502,494.00	£294,500.00	to fund the salary and support costs of two Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners who will, alongside other services, work directly with families in Aberdeen
Hillcrest Futures	Perth & Kinross	80	04-07-22	£182,950.00	£143,090.00	to contribute to salary and running costs and develop Hillcrest's Young Person's drug and alcohol service in Perth and Kinross
West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Services	West Lothian	360	08-08-22	£496,508.00	£396,508.00	to fund a new 3-post multi-agency team to provide support to families and young people affected by substance use in West Lothian

Children and Families Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported this year	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
North Lanarkshire Council	North Lanarkshire	270	03-07-23	£400,000.00	£300,000.00	to contribute to the cost of Family Support Workers who will provide early and relational help to vulnerable families affected by the substance use of a parent
Transform Forth Valley	Falkirk	200	01-06-23	£397,691.00	£294,856.00	to increase capacity of the Time 4 Us service which supports children, young people and families affected by someone else's drug or alcohol use
Medics against Violence (Youth Navigator)	Aberdeen City	400	02-10-23	£216,771.00	£141,408.00	to establish a service of Youth Navigators in Aberdeen City's Emergency Department, covering Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire
CrossReach Community Connections (SCIO)	Edinburgh City	52	04-09-23	£400,000.00	£300,000.00	to continue to deliver and extend existing services, specifically the Sunflower Garden (therapeutic support, counselling and group work) for children and young people affected by drug and alcohol use in their families and to provide counselling and assistance for adults in recovery
Glasgow HSCP	Glasgow City	80	01-08-23	£398,660.00	£298,995.00	to continue the establishment of the Martha's Mammies service by creating two support worker posts to assist women who have lost care of their children, on a recent, short term or long-term basis
South Ayrshire Council (On behalf of South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership)	South Ayrshire	88	01-09-23	£385,804.00	£286,181.00	to develop a team who will support young people and families with substance use problems

Children and Families Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported this year	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Space at Broomhouse Hub	Edinburgh City	200	01-08-23	£397,482.00	£286,442.00	to expand the current befriending programme to become an Edinburgh-wide service
Hillcrest Futures	Dundee City	250	04-12-23	£414,369.00	£203,327.00	to deliver support for 12-15-year-olds to address their own or a family member's substance use, and remain in education
My Support Day	South Lanarkshire	90	07-10-25	£76,519.00	£76,519.00	to continue the delivery of support to individuals and families through one-to-one support, group-based activities, and outreach work
The Shed Project	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	50	12-07-22	£155,846.25	£155,846.25	to contribute to the cost of establishing the new Safe Families Western Isles programme
Children First	Midlothian	240	01-10-22	£482,997.00	£382,997.00	to contribute to the cost of running the Family Hub which provides support to parents and children affected by parental substance use
Children First	North Ayrshire	160	01-09-22	£487,124.00	£387,124.00	to fund two additional full-time support workers to provide more intensive support to families who need it
Children First	Glasgow City	240	01-06-22	£1,020,584.00	£805,439.00	to continue the Recovering Families service in South Glasgow and expand delivery to the North East and North West of the city
Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs	West Dunbartonshire	120	13-06-22	£482,334.00	£382,334.00	to deliver the 'Routes' project which works with 12-26 year olds affected by substance use in East and West Dunbartonshire
Action for Children	Highland	100	04-07-22	£500,000.00	£400,000.00	to cover the salaries and running costs for delivery of the "Families First" project in the Highlands

Children and Families Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported this year	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
The Corner	Dundee City	100	03-10-22	£447,320.00	£353,245.00	to work with young people whose lives are affected by their own and/or a family member's substance use and who are finding it difficult to manage their accommodation, including those who are homeless, experiencing tenancy issues or are having difficulties living with family members
Barnardos	Dundee City	150	01-07-22	£300,000.00	£300,000.00	to deliver whole family support for families affected by substance use across Dundee. Activities will include emotional support, practical advice, confidence building, mentoring, and peer support
Impact Arts Projects Ltd	North Ayrshire	50	13-04-22	£430,898.00	£342,133.00	to deliver a tiered support therapeutic programme for children, young people and families in North Ayrshire affected by alcohol and drug use
Aberlour	Dumfries & Galloway	110	31-03-22	£500,000.00	£383,561.00	to expand the Intensive Family Support Service to Annan and Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, and support families affected by substance use
Circle	Edinburgh City	174	01-07-22	£470,030.00	£376,024.00	to develop a peer support service for parents and their families affected by substance use in Edinburgh
Circle	East Lothian	60	02-06-22	£499,350.00	£399,480.00	to fund the salary and support costs of a new Family Peer Support project and a Children's Resilience project
includem	Stirling	24	01-04-22	£500,000.00	£400,000.00	to deliver one-to-one support for young people, aged 12-26 years, affected by substance use in Stirling
Action for Children	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	60	01-11-23	£399,133.00	£299,137.00	to provide a new service of intensive support for children, young people and their families affected by alcohol and drug use in an area where there is currently an identified gap in service provision

Children and Families Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported this year	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Circle	North Lanarkshire	80	01-10-23	£399,496.00	£199,748.00	to deliver an intensive whole family support, therapeutic counselling and children's resilience service, in response to the complex health and social care needs experienced by children and their families due to their experience of substance use, domestic abuse and poor mental health
Circle	Clackmannanshire	80	01-10-23	£399,496.00	£299,622.00	to deliver whole family support, therapeutic counselling and children's resilience services in Clackmannanshire
Partners in Advocacy	Glasgow City	50	01-06-23	£334,255.00	£250,831.00	to restart the Glasgow Youth Independent Advocacy service which provides free impartial 1:1 independent advocacy to children and young people affected by alcohol and drugs

Improvement Fund

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Ayrshire Justice Services Partnership - Drug Treatment & Testing Order Service	North Ayrshire	90	09-05-23	£232,567.90	£169,418.00	to employ two Peer Recovery Workers with lived experience of addiction to support individuals on a DTTO, to engage with treatment and recovery
Substances Support Scotland	Fife	150	01-08-22	£386,041.00	£386,041.00	to deliver a Non Fatal Overdose Rapid Response Service
North East Recovery Community N. E. R.C	Glasgow City	250	03-10-22	£272,475.00	£272,475.00	to continue employing 2 full-time Outreach Workers to engage and support vulnerable individuals in the community, who are at greatest risk of drug-related harm, into and through treatment and recovery
South Community Recovery Network	Glasgow City	250	03-10-22	£269,300.00	£272,475.00	to continue employing 2 full-time Outreach Workers to engage and support vulnerable individuals in the community, who are at greatest risk of drug-related harm, into and through treatment and recovery
Northwest Recovery Communities	Glasgow City	250	03-10-22	£269,300.00	£269,300.00	to continue employing 2 full-time Outreach Workers who will engage and support the most vulnerable individuals in the community who are at greatest risk of drug related harm; supporting these individuals into and through treatment and recovery
NHS Fife Addictions Psychological Therapies Service (APTS)	Fife	650	29-08-22	£286,258.00	£286,258.00	to embed the delivery of Tier 1 to 4 Psychological Interventions into Fife Intensive Rehabilitation and Substance Use Team (FIRST)

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	South Ayrshire	60	06-07-22	£212,408.00	£212,408.00	to extend the Intensive Peer Recovery Support Service
Health in Mind	Midlothian	100	01-07-22	£312,572.00	£184,758.00	to employ a Peer Worker to support the delivery of a rapid response service delivered in partnership with the Midlothian Substance Misuse Team, and to employ a Peer Development and Support Worker to facilitate group work in homeless hostels
Alcohol and Drugs Action	Aberdeen City	400	01-07-22	£497,835.00	£398,268.00	to deliver a Sharp Response Service to individuals in their homes, providing harm reduction and wraparound support to reduce drug-related harm and support individuals into treatment and recovery
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	Dumfries & Galloway	200	20-01-23	£520,335.00	£416,268.00	to contribute to salary costs supporting the development of NHS Dumfries and Galloway's first Recovery and Wellbeing Hub and mobile hub, delivered in partnership with We Are With You
Alcohol and Drugs Action	Aberdeen City	75	01-12-23	£386,128.00	£191,198.00	to deliver Pre-Residential and After Care Support, by employing two 1.0 FTE Recovery Workers and Sessional Peer Support to support people impacted by drug use who wish to engage in residential rehab
Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd	Stirling	300	04-09-23	£141,360.00	£141,360.00	to embed a Specialist CAB Advice service in addiction services across NHS Forth Valley

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	Argyll & Bute	50	03-07-23	£166,765.00	£166,765.00	to continue delivering a 'Transition and Connection' Service, supporting 50 individuals to engage with treatment and recovery
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	West Dunbartonshire	30	11-07-23	£206,982.00	£206,982.00	To continue delivering an Intensive Floating Support Service to vulnerable individuals in secure tenancies and in the community, supporting them to engage in treatment and recovery and to reduce drug related harm
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	East Ayrshire	100	01-08-24	£694,823.00	£296,189.00	to deliver a supportive living recovery housing service to people in recovery from drug use; providing support as they move through and exit residential rehabilitation in East Ayrshire
Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd	Stirling	300	04-09-25	£200,000.00	£100,000.00	to continue to provide a Specialist CAB Advice service in addiction services across NHS Forth Valley
Transform Community Development	Dundee City	70	01-08-24	£241,304.00	£158,834.00	to increase IEP vending machine provision, deliver intense one-to-one support, and facilitate engagement with mainstream recovery services
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	North Lanarkshire	50	01-08-24	£279,610.00	£182,609.00	to continue delivery of the Breakthrough Service, providing intense one-to-one and group support, and access to recovery communities, through the employment of two Intensive Support Workers with lived experience of substance use

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Murray's Initiative	Glasgow City	70	01-04-22	£398,405.00	£398,405.00	to offer opportunities for women most at risk from addictions, homelessness, social isolation and poverty, focusing on engaging with individuals and their families across Glasgow, particularly in areas of high deprivation
Waverley Care	Glasgow City	150	01-06-22	£210,749.00	£167,825.00	to link prisoners who are living with a blood-borne virus into a body of support as they approach liberation, at the point of liberation, and after liberation
Glasgow City Mission	Glasgow City	90	01-04-22	£366,646.00	£366,646.00	to work intensively with people to get them into the rehab programmes of their choice; to continue to support them through rehab; and to work with them to create and implement an aftercare plan upon leaving rehab
North Ayrshire Health & Social Care Partnership	North Ayrshire	160	31-03-21	£49,147.00	£49,147.00	the salary of a Modern Apprentice and associated costs to develop the Child & Adolescent Specialist Substance Team (CASST) services
Moving On (Inverclyde) Ltd	Inverclyde	350	01-06-23	£390,148.00	£292,611.00	to enable organisational development and increase capacity for one-to-one support and trauma counselling
Just Bee Productions	Dundee City	100	01-06-23	£233,513.00	£169,795.00	to provide a free-to-use community launderette and tailored support to individuals and families who are affected by substance use
Access to Industry	Dundee City	30	01-08-23	£190,665.00	£138,039.00	to provide an employability project for people in recovery from substance dependency, helping them progress towards and into work
The Marie Trust	Glasgow City	70	01-10-23	£120,000.00	£90,000.00	to employ a new counsellor who will act as an addictions counselling lead

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Street Connect	Glasgow City	510	01-06-23	£115,433.00	£115,433.00	to increase provision of outreach and support work in Glasgow, expanding to two new locations in the City each year
Apex Scotland	Highland	65	01-06-23	£143,019.00	£105,666.00	to deliver an auricular acupuncture course, a SMART Recovery Group and a weekly SMART Family & Friends session in Invergordon
Angus Integrated Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service (AIDARS)	Angus	250	01-10-24	£298,754.00	£96,840.00	to expand delivery of wellbeing support and signposting to people affected by substance use, through four 'Wellbean' cafes in Angus
Street Connect	Glasgow City	276	01-06-25	£199,938.00	£82,705.00	to increase provision of outreach and support work in Glasgow, expanding to new locations in Glasgow each year
Integrated Substance Misuse Service from Alcohol, Drugs & BBV Service	Dundee City	30	01-04-22	£305,562.00	£305,562.00	to fund staff costs associated with the Dundee Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, providing pre- and post-rehab support
Simon Community Scotland	Glasgow City	600	01-06-22	£282,000.00	£282,000.00	to deliver the 'We See You' project, providing psychosocial group work, harm reduction interventions and pathways into treatment for people using drugs in Glasgow city centre

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership	Edinburgh City	60	01-04-23	£1,000,000.00	£600,000.00	to deliver the Milestone House Intermediate Care Unit (MICU) for homeless people at high risk of drug related death
Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership	Edinburgh City	100	01-11-22	£600,000.00	£600,000.00	to deliver a drugs treatment, assessment and initiation service for the city of Edinburgh, allowing access to same-day MAT
West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Services	West Lothian	120	01-04-22	£241,227.00	£241,227.00	to deliver the 'Family Matters' support service for people with substance dependency and their families
Police Scotland (Positive Outcomes Project)	Glasgow City	250	01-04-22	£290,028.00	£290,028.00	to deliver the POP Plus project, to engage people in custodial settings and offer immediate support
Hillcrest Futures	Perth & Kinross	700	01-08-22	£90,000.00	£90,000.00	to employ lived experience practitioners to work alongside SPS Recovery workers and NHS staff in HM Prison Perth, to engage inmates in recovery and treatment and enhance the existing Recovery Hub
Simon Community Scotland	Edinburgh City	400	01-09-23	£408,022.00	£289,585.00	to deliver a new Edinburgh-based project, 'We See You (Edinburgh)', offering people who are homeless and using substances a safe space and access to a range of support services
Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action	Dundee City	30	25-09-23	£88,475.00	£88,475.00	to expand the Gendered Services Project which works with substance use services in Dundee, improving their understanding and implementation of a gendered approach

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Scottish Drugs Forum	Glasgow City	24	01-06-23	£400,000.00	£300,000.00	to extend the reach and delivery of SDF's National Traineeship (formerly Addiction Workers Training Programme) to people with lived and living experience of addiction across Scotland
Simon Community Scotland	Scotland-wide	350	22-08-23	£121,874.00	£121,874.00	to employ a Practice and Partnership Lead to train, support and develop the existing 25 harm reduction champions, build improved networks/ partnerships at a local level and ensure staff are able to take a rights-based approach that supports the delivery of the MAT standards
Positive Steps Partnership	Dundee City	200	01-07-23	£588,000.00	£434,000.00	to deliver a new Crisis Response Outreach Service (CROS), primarily to people using substances
Community Help and Advice Initiative	Edinburgh City	75	01-09-23	£279,886.00	£207,366.00	to deliver free advisory services (including financial and housing advice) to people at risk of drug death in Edinburgh
Hillcrest Futures	Scotland-wide	200	01-09-23	£144,338.00	£95,226.00	to employ a Training & Practice Development Coordinator who will expand harm reduction approaches and embed best practice within the front-line teams
Reach Advocacy Ltd	Scotland-wide	120	01-04-23	£480,000.00	£480,000.00	to deliver training to increase the number of Human Rights-Based Advocates, and support locality-based teams with the incorporation of MAT standards
Positive Steps Partnership	Dundee City	50	01-04-24	£344,015.00	£224,664.00	to expand provision of the Cuckooing Service in Dundee
Cyrenians	Edinburgh City	154	01-10-24	£277,898.00	£109,297.00	to sustain and support the further development of Edinburgh Recovery Housing (ERH), including the creation of a new women's recovery house

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
We Are With You	Dundee City	40	01-11-25	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	to continue providing pathways in and out of residential rehabilitation through a package of continuous and intensive support
Sacro	Glasgow City	275	07-10-25	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	to continue to deliver the POP Plus project, to engage people in custodial settings, offering immediate and ongoing support
Hillcrest Futures	Perth & Kinross	700	01-01-26	£30,000.00	£30,000.00	to continue to employ lived experience practitioners to work alongside SPS Recovery workers and NHS staff in HM Prison Perth, to engage inmates in recovery and treatment and enhance throughcare
Simon Community Scotland	Scotland-wide	130	01-11-25	£58,633.00	£58,633.00	to continue to deliver the Practice and Partnership Project to train, support and develop harm reduction champions, build improved networks/ partnerships at a local level and ensure staff are able to take a rights-based approach that supports the delivery of the MAT standards
Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre - Dundee & Angus	Dundee City	60	01-04-22	£454,060.00	£356,173.00	to establish a women's hub in Dundee to support women with substance use problems and additional complex needs
The Salvation Army	South Lanarkshire	200	01-06-22	£274,235.00	£274,235.00	to fund staffing and other costs associated with setting up a multi-agency hub within the organisation's 'Eva Burrows Lifehouse' in Cambuslang, providing specialist support to local people who use drugs and their families
FIRST	Fife	150	31-03-22	£480,425.00	£384,340.00	to deliver community rehabilitation and residential rehabilitation support services

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Phoenix Futures	Scotland-wide	200	01-08-22	£380,000.00	£380,000.00	to improve the residential rehabilitation service through enhanced access, aftercare and family support provision
Change Grow Live	Stirling	700	01-09-22	£298,500.00	£298,500.00	to support the delivery of a Harm Reduction Assertive Outreach Service in Stirling, reaching the most vulnerable individuals who use drugs and supported by the employment of 12 Peer Harm Reduction Navigators (4 per annum) with lived experience of addiction
Inverclyde HSCP	Inverclyde	30	01-01-24	£299,991.00	£299,991.00	to employ an Advanced Practitioner, Band 6 Nurse and part-time Admin post to support the development of a new residential rehabilitation model in Inverclyde based on the FIRST model
Cyrenians	Edinburgh City	200	01-07-22	£51,201.00	£51,201.00	to employ a part-time worker to further develop Edinburgh's Addiction Recovery Community Hub and establish new pathways to services
Occupational Therapy North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	North Ayrshire	140	01-09-22	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	to employ a Band 7 Occupational Therapist to deliver bespoke 1:1 and group support to women with problem drug use and additional complex needs
RightThere	Orkney Islands	30	01-04-22	£288,207.00	£263,588.00	to deliver 1:1 outreach support to people who have problems with drug use in Orkney
Change Grow Live	Falkirk	1600	01-09-23	£248,747.00	£248,747.00	to extend the reach and provision of recovery hubs across NHS Forth Valley
South Lanarkshire Council	South Lanarkshire	200	15-09-23	£200,000.00	£200,000.00	to recruit two Justice Social Workers as part of a multidisciplinary team to deliver the South Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Problem Solving Court (SLADPSC) within the Hamilton Sheriff Court

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Liber8 Lanarkshire	South Lanarkshire	22	01-09-23	£398,083.00	£191,789.00	to recruit mentors with lived experience and deliver a new Rehabilitation to Reintegration (R2R) service, supporting people returning to South Lanarkshire, post-residential rehabilitation
CrossReach	Highland	80	01-06-23	£135,614.00	£135,614.00	to recruit a Family Liaison Worker with lived experience to deliver individual and group support
CrossReach	Glasgow City	100	01-06-23	£270,789.00	£270,789.00	to continue the delivery of the peer volunteering programme by the Peer Volunteer Coordinator and recruit a Family Liaison Worker with lived experience
South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership	South Ayrshire	200	01-04-24	£356,045.00	£158,700.00	to deliver a Recovery Hub in Ayr; this will include the recruitment of a Hub Coordinator and Peer Worker (Navigator)
East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action	East Ayrshire	1200	14-10-23	£300,000.00	£300,000.00	to continue the delivery of the Recovery Hub in Kilmarnock
Cyrenians	Edinburgh City	40	01-09-23	£152,613.00	£152,613.00	to deliver a holistic service at the Access Place, helping people to overcome barriers to treatment and supporting them to attend health-related appointments
Change Grow Live	West Lothian	210	01-10-24	£227,332.00	£149,533.00	to expand delivery of the Arrest Referral Service through continued employment of the Enhanced Early Intervention (EEI) Coordinator and employment of a EEI Group Worker to deliver the 'Foundations of Growth' programme

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	North Ayrshire	100	01-09-24	£137,742.00	£68,871.00	to increase capacity within the North Ayrshire Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service to support people through the residential rehabilitation pathway
Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service	Argyll & Bute	140	17-04-24	£294,165.00	£294,165.00	to continue to provide independent advocacy for people who are impacted by drug use in Argyll
CrossReach	Glasgow City	50	01-07-24	£357,816.00	£228,680.00	to enable people transition from residential rehabilitation to further support by engaging with aftercare provision and community resources
Venture Scotland	Glasgow City	27	01-10-24	£289,194.00	£189,304.00	to continue to deliver the Venture On To Recovery programme, a 12-week outdoor-based programme of support for people in recovery (3 times per year for groups of 10 people)
Phoenix Futures	Glasgow City	24	01-06-24	£273,471.00	£215,487.00	to enhance the delivery of the Glasgow Recovery Housing Service through employing a Living Skills Worker and renovating 10 of the Recovery Housing flats
South Lanarkshire Council	South Lanarkshire	150	01-10-25	£126,160.00	£126,160.00	to continue the delivery of the Pan-Lanarkshire Drug and Alcohol Court at the Hamilton Sheriff Court
Change Grow Live	Stirling		05-01-26	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	to continue the delivery of the Peer Harm Reduction Support Worker project in Forth Valley through employment of three Peer Harm Reduction Support Workers with lived experience

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Occupational Therapy North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	North Ayrshire	103	01-10-25	£26,405.00	£26,405.00	to continue to employ a Band 7 Occupational Therapist to deliver bespoke 1:1 and group support to women with problem drug use and additional complex needs
Occupational Therapy North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	North Ayrshire	140	01-09-22	£748,652.00	£197,331.00	to employ a Band 7 Occupational Therapist to deliver bespoke 1:1 and group support to women with problem drug use and additional complex needs
Simon Community Scotland	Glasgow City	15	27-11-25	£300,000.00	£300,000.00	is awarded to deliver the 'Soft Edges' Project in Glasgow, providing critical support for women who use drugs
We Are With You	Argyll & Bute	24	01-07-22	£1,060,000.00	£1,020,000.00	to establish a multi-disciplinary, decision making panel to support people to access residential rehabilitation, and to provide wraparound pre- and post-rehab support for individuals
We Are With You	Glasgow City	120	01-07-22	£75,000.00	£75,000.00	to fund staffing and other costs in order to provide pathways in and out of residential rehabilitation through a package of continuous and intensive support
Bethany Christian Trust	Highland	40	01-04-22	£500,000.00	£300,000.00	to continue to deliver the Bridge to Freedom (BTF) recovery programme in Inverness
We Are With You	Dumfries & Galloway	750	01-04-22	£832,037.85	£665,530.95	to develop an Assertive Peer Support Service working across Dumfries and Galloway that will support people to engage with treatment and recovery services

Improvement Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
TCUK Scotland Limited	Aberdeenshire	50	01-04-22	£247,296.00	£247,296.00	to improve, expand and increase the capacity of the residential rehabilitation centres Sunnybrae and Benaiah, through increased staffing, improvements to equipment and minor refurbishments
Bethany Christian Trust	Edinburgh City	60	01-04-22	£528,000.00	£528,000.00	to provide two rehabilitation beds and associated recovery support services at Bethany Christian Centre; recovery orientated support provision at Anne Hope House; and the Bridge to Freedom service in Leith and Edinburgh
Alternatives WDCDS	West Dunbartonshire	55	01-04-22	£1,664,834.00	£1,320,951.00	to improve and expand on Safe As Houses
Turning Point Scotland	Glasgow City	1200	18-09-22	£500,000.00	£300,000.00	to extend the existing WAND outreach initiative currently operating in Glasgow City Centre, to three locality areas in Glasgow, East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire
Penumbra	Aberdeen City	750	01-02-23	£496,000.00	£197,000.00	to contribute to the salaries of 5 full-time dedicated support workers, who will provide practical and social support to people who are currently engaging with drug treatment services
West Dunbartonshire HSCP (Health & Social Care Partnership)	West Dunbartonshire	60	01-04-24	£129,865.00	£96,607.00	to develop a collaborative approach to access to treatment, and develop improved pathways to treatment for people with multiple and complex needs, using a rights-based approach
Alternatives WDCDS	West Dunbartonshire	75	10-07-23	£60,000.00	£45,000.00	to create the role of National Pre-Admission and Resettlement Officer (NPRO) who will provide pre and post-rehab support and help to build new referral pathways

Improvement Fund continued

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Bethany Christian Trust	Aberdeen City	15	01-06-23	£144,000.00	£108,000.00	to deliver the Bridge to Freedom recovery programme in the Torry area of Aberdeen
Bethany Christian Trust	Glasgow City	35	01-06-23	£399,720.00	£299,790.00	to support the delivery of the Bridge to Freedom and Bethany Homes Glasgow funded projects
We Are With You	East Ayrshire	30	01-08-23	£399,424.00	£199,712.00	to provide a pre and post-rehabilitation delivery model to sustain residential placements and improve people's recovery chances in East Ayrshire
We Are With You	Fife	300	01-11-23	£297,369.00	£198,368.00	to deliver a bespoke outreach and harm reduction model within Levenmouth
Elevate-Glasgow PSP	Glasgow City	250	10-04-24	£25,000.00	£25,000.00	to support the continued delivery of Elevate Glasgow PSP, enabling 250 individuals per year to engage with employability support, achieve employability goals and address social isolation
Bethany Christian Trust	Dundee City	20	31-10-25	£50,000.00	£50,000.00	to deliver the Bridge to Freedom (BtF) recovery programme in the Menzieshill and Downfield Mains areas of Dundee

Local Support Fund

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Street Fit Scotland	Edinburgh City	50	03-01-22	£104,057.10	£104,057.10	to work with individuals who use substances, to help build structure, increase confidence, build coping strategies, connect to supportive social networks, through participation in a programme of physical and social activities
Group Recovery Aftercare Community Enterprise	East Dunbartonshire	120	05-09-22	£210,000.00	£210,000.00	to employ a Peer Support Worker and Pathway Development Worker who will support individuals and families with aftercare support and improve referrals pathways into the organisation
Recovery Ayr	South Ayrshire	50	08-06-22	£187,425.00	£187,425.00	to support the delivery of Recovery Ayr's Volunteering Involvement Experience Work (VIEW) delivered by a Volunteer Coordinator and Sessional Peer Workers
The Maxie Richards Foundation	Argyll & Bute	16	02-05-22	£209,757.44	£209,757.44	to support the delivery cost of the residential rehabilitation service
New Way	Argyll & Bute	100	01-08-22	£168,000.00	£168,000.00	to provide a peer-led volunteer befriending service, delivered by individuals with lived experience of addiction
Restoration Fife	Fife	200	01-08-22	£207,402.25	£207,402.25	to support the delivery of services, including group programmes, activities and harm reduction work across Fife, and in particular rural areas of high deprivation and drug harm
Steps to Hope SCIO	Edinburgh City	30	01-08-22	£209,761.65	£209,761.65	to extend the existing Recovery Programme which supports people who are homeless and dependent on substances

Local Support Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
HOPE Connections	Glasgow City	1000	05-09-22	£206,857.35	£206,857.35	to deliver outreach support to vulnerable individuals in prison and community settings, who are at the greater risk of drug related harm, supporting them on their recovery journey and to be better connected
Broken Chains	South Ayrshire	350	07-11-22	£203,784.00	£203,784.00	to support salary and running costs associated with the delivery of recovery services for individuals and families impacted by drug use in South Ayrshire
Crew 2000 Scotland	Edinburgh City	3000	06-04-23	£190,068.00	£140,272.00	to support the delivery of Crew 2000's drop-in service in Edinburgh, supporting young people who are using drugs
North Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Centre	Edinburgh City	60	02-09-24	£120,126.13	£80,417.42	to continue working with older individuals who use substances and who have poor mental health, who feel excluded and who historically find it difficult to engage or retain engagement with support, treatment, and recovery.
The DRC Youth Project	Glasgow City	150	22-05-23	£199,400.00	£149,550.00	to employ a 1.0 FTE Lead Worker and a 20 hour per week Sessional Worker to deliver an intense package of group and one-to-one support for young people who are using drugs aged 14-26 years
Thurso Community Cafe	Highland	200	03-07-23	£94,700.00	£94,700.00	to employ three part-time staff, who will deliver one-to-one and group support activities for people affected by substance use
New Rhythms for Glasgow	Glasgow City	300	15-05-23	£127,989.75	£127,989.75	to deliver a programme of therapeutic and creative work to women in recovery, with support provided to family members.

Local Support Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Harbour Ayrshire	South Ayrshire	500	08-05-23	£133,500.00	£133,500.00	to support the delivery of Harbour Ayrshire's range of services, from one-to-one and group support to their residential rehabilitation pathway support and aftercare service.
The Scheme Livi	West Lothian	1100	01-03-25	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	to continue delivering a a creative group work programme, outreach and drop in service to people impacted by drug use, residing in West Lothian
The Reconnection Project	Dundee City	24	28-11-24	£97,508.51	£97,508.51	to continue providing recreational group work activities to people who are impacted by drug use, supporting individuals on their recovery pathway, and helping them to have greater structure in their lives
thurso community cafe	Highland	20	03-07-25	£97,200.00	£48,600.00	to continue employing two part-time staff, who will deliver one-to-one and group support activities for people affected by substance use
ACI - Addictions Counselling Inverness	Highland	214	15-11-24	£143,847.00	£100,000.00	to continue providing talking therapy and group work programmes to people who use drugs, people who are in recovery, and their families
UK SMART Recovery	Scotland-wide	622	02-10-25	£96,118.40	£47,387.20	to continue delivering SMART Recovery Programmes in Scotland to veterans who are impacted by drug use, alongside group programmes for their families
Aberdeen in Recovery	Aberdeen City	526	03-10-24	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	to continue developing and delivering Recovery Community work across the city of Aberdeen for individuals who use drugs, who are in recovery and their families

Local Support Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Street Fit Scotland	Edinburgh City	124	06-11-25	£31,954.00	£31,954.00	to continue working with individuals who use substances; to help them build resilience and connect to supportive social networks, through participation in a programme of physical and social activities
Youth Inspired	Renfrewshire	50	01-12-21	£184,615.20	£184,615.20	to provide 1 to 1 recovery support for young people who use substances and are at risk of becoming dependent
Transform Forth Valley	Clackmannanshire	50	01-12-21	£261,033.15	£261,033.15	to support people who use substances, and who have backgrounds of offending or other challenging behaviour, through the Social Inclusion Project (SIP) in Stirling and Clackmannanshire
My Support Day	South Lanarkshire	35	01-12-21	£253,260.00	£101,304.00	to provide a Homework Club, wider family support, and opportunities for family bonding for children and families impacted by substance use
Street Connect	Glasgow City	20	01-04-22	£208,293.00	£208,293.00	to provide accommodation and support to individuals who are seeking to build an independent life, free from substances, following completion of a residential or community recovery programme
Street Connect	Renfrewshire	225	31-03-22	£86,058.00	£68,846.40	to support the delivery of Street Outreach to those who are most at risk of drug related harm in Paisley, alongside supporting these individuals into treatment and recovery
Street Connect	Inverclyde	130	01-04-22	£51,087.75	£40,870.20	to support the delivery of Street Outreach to those who are most at risk of drug related harm in Greenock, alongside supporting these individuals into to treatment and recovery
Hebrides Alpha Project	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	20	01-04-22	£126,000.00	£126,000.00	to provide a community based residential recovery facility in the Western Isles of Scotland

Local Support Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Street Connect	West Dunbartonshire	130	01-04-22	£94,641.75	£75,713.40	to support the delivery of Street Outreach to those who are most at risk of drug related harm in West Dunbartonshire, and supporting these individuals into treatment and recovery
Moving On (Inverclyde) Ltd	Inverclyde	230	01-04-22	£256,951.80	£204,708.00	to provide a 'second stage' service for people who have achieved initial abstinence or a degree of stability in their substance use
The Croft (Visitors' Support & Advice Centre, Barlinnie)	Glasgow City	560	01-02-23	£165,284.00	£121,512.00	to increase the range and depth of support available to Croft service users through appointing an Outreach Development & Drugs Support Worker (ODDSW)
Argyll & Bute Rape Crisis	Argyll & Bute	200	01-06-22	£261,194.85	£208,955.88	to develop the Cowal Hub beyond its pilot period in partnership with Argyll and Bute ADP
SISCO	Glasgow City	2000	01-08-22	£210,000.00	£210,000.00	to provide a recovery cafe three days a week within HMP Barlinnie, offering a safe environment and helping service users move away from the criminal justice system
Banchory & District Initiative Ltd	Aberdeenshire	50	01-09-22	£47,292.00	£47,292.00	to expand the range of services provided through the Banchory and Ballater recovery groups
Just Bee Productions	Dundee City	400	01-09-22	£209,269.20	£209,269.20	to provide a proportion of the salaries of four staff members who will deliver a range of services for people affected by substance use
The Sorted Project	Edinburgh City	100	01-12-22	£106,698.90	£78,087.45	to support people in recovery from substance use in the Lothians by providing one-to-one and group support on the canal boat, Panacea

Local Support Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Shetland Methodist District	Shetland Islands	20	01-05-23	£78,857.00	£78,857.00	to support the 'Food for the Way' Project, providing social contact, activities and practical support to people impacted by substance use
The Haven Kilmacolm	Inverclyde	100	01-04-24	£150,000.00	£100,000.00	to deliver group sessions, outreach, and one-to-one support for people who use drugs and their families, including people in prison.
Spiral Arts Therapy	Glasgow City	25	01-06-23	£92,099.00	£92,099.00	to provide individual and group arts psychotherapy sessions for children and young people in Kinship care impacted by substance use
Moving On (Inverclyde) Ltd	Inverclyde	75	23-06-23	£90,000.00	£90,000.00	to deliver the SMART Inside/Out programme within HMP Greenock
Heavy Sound	East Lothian	150	01-05-23	£150,000.00	£150,000.00	to provide mentoring and throughcare services in HMP Edinburgh 2.5 days per week and provide services to communities throughout East Lothian 2.5 days per week
Transform Forth Valley	Clackmannanshire	1000	01-04-23	£200,000.00	£200,000.00	to support people in Clackmannanshire who are vulnerable and use substances to access the services that best meet their needs
Transform Forth Valley	Falkirk	1000	01-04-23	£200,000.00	£200,000.00	to support people in Falkirk who are vulnerable and use substances to access the services that best meet their needs
Transform Forth Valley	Stirling	1000	01-04-23	£200,000.00	£200,000.00	to support people in Stirling who are vulnerable and use substances to access the services that best meet their needs
Spiral Arts Therapy	Glasgow City	35	01-06-25	£98,838.00	£48,838.00	to deliver individual and group art psychotherapy sessions for children and young people who are in kinship care due to parental drug and substance use

Local Support Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Dundee Independent Advocacy Support	Dundee City	100	02-12-24	£141,667.00	£100,000.00	to provide independent advocacy support for people who use drugs
The Zone initiative limited	East Ayrshire	100	21-11-24	£22,794.00	£14,822.00	to continue supporting people in recovery through activities at the Dalmellington Recovery Hub
Youth Inspired	Renfrewshire	20	20-02-26	£28,206.00	£28,206.00	to continue to provide 1:1 therapeutic recovery support to YP affected by substance use and their families
Healing for the Heart	Glasgow City	90	01-05-23	£200,000.00	£150,000.00	to provide one-to-one counselling and group support to people directly affected by substance use
The Skylark IX Recovery Trust	West Dunbartonshire	25	01-07-23	£71,149.00	£71,149.00	to provide skills training in heritage craft (traditional boat building/ wood craft) and water-based physical activities for people in recovery, supporting people to develop practical life and employability skills in a team-based environment
The Nest Wellbeing Group	East Ayrshire	30	04-09-23	£124,047.00	£124,047.00	to employ a full-time Recovery Coordinator to develop and expand the MUMO programme
Liber8 Lanarkshire	South Lanarkshire	50	01-04-22	£209,659.80	£209,659.80	to provide trauma therapy to people with substance dependence and their families
Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service	West Dunbartonshire	140	05-04-22	£258,720.00	£206,220.00	to provide independent rights-based advocacy support for 5 years across West Dunbartonshire, for individuals affected by problematic substance use, including those in recovery

Local Support Fund continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Minority Communities Addictions Support Service (MCASS) SCIO	Glasgow City	220	01-06-22	£153,912.15	£153,912.15	to deliver the Family Life Matters project to families and individuals affected by substance use dependency in the greater Glasgow area
Dundee Law Parish Church (Church of Scotland)	Dundee City	40	01-09-22	£191,444.40	£191,444.40	to recruit a male Support Worker with lived experience, offer a counselling service, and from Year 2 to recruit an additional part-time Parish Nurse with experience in mental health and substance use
In Cahootz Limited	Glasgow City	90	01-09-22	£209,704.95	£209,704.95	to deliver the "Creative Programme", including workshops in music, arts, filmmaking and photography for people in recovery from substance use dependency
Recovery Scotland	Falkirk	140	01-11-22	£207,192.90	£157,266.60	to deliver the Assertive Recovery Outreach service in the Falkirk area
Recovery Scotland	Clackmannan-shire	90	01-11-22	£209,899.20	£157,424.40	to deliver the Assertive Recovery Outreach service across Clackmannanshire
Recovery Scotland	Stirling	90	01-11-22	£209,899.20	£157,424.40	to deliver the Assertive Recovery Outreach service in the Stirling area
Spiral Arts Therapy	Glasgow City	35	01-06-25	£120,653.40	£120,653.40	to deliver individual and group art psychotherapy sessions for children and young people who are in kinship care due to parental drug and substance use

Local Support Fund Micro Grants

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Thurso Community Cafe	Highland	35	01-09-21	£47,775.00	£47,775.00	to provide stability for the existing drug support service and allow for the development of a 12-step recovery programme.
Southwest Kinshipcare Group	Glasgow City	49	01-12-22	£12,540.17	£12,540.17	to support children in kinship care and their families, impacted by substance use
Scottish Alcohol Counselling Consortium	Scotland-wide	16	13-01-25	£10,000.00	£10,000.00	to train and support volunteer counsellors with lived experience of drug use, across the membership funded projects of the Scottish Alcohol Counselling Consortium
West Lothian Recovery Activities	West Lothian	300	29-11-24	£15,800.00	£15,800.00	to deliver a range of social activities to individuals impacted by drug use across West Lothian.
The Recovery Collective	Glasgow City	2000	29-11-24	£35,574.00	£35,574.00	to organise and deliver the annual Recovery Connect Music Festival in the Queens Park, Glasgow
Dumbarton Rock Recovery	West Dunbartonshire	145	29-11-24	£26,748.00	£26,748.00	to deliver a recovery cafe, support and activities for individuals impacted by drug use in West Dumbarton
Aruka	North Lanarkshire	647	01-07-24	£57,017.00	£37,062.00	to establish the organisation's work in Motherwell and Cumbernauld by employing a Recovery Pathways Development Worker
Knowetop SCIO	West Dunbartonshire	300	01-07-24	£40,000.00	£40,000.00	to deliver a range of supportive activities for adults, children and young people who are affected by drug use in West Dunbartonshire

Local Support Fund Micro Grants continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
New Life Recovery Hub CIC	Glasgow City	120	01-03-23	£40,000.00	£30,000.00	to provide holistic, structured interventions to people who use drugs and their families, particularly those from Black and Minority Ethnic communities
Rocky Road Support Group	West Dunbartonshire	20	01-07-24	£16,180.00	£10,180.00	to develop the weekly support group by offering residential weekends
Nature Unlimited CIC	Scottish Borders	30	01-03-25	£18,000.00	£18,000.00	to provide an outdoor programme for people in recovery which improves wellbeing, builds resilience and strengthens social connections
Two Shires Woodland Craft Group	East Ayrshire	60	01-12-24	£8,020.00	£8,020.00	to deliver 12 woodland based craft skills group sessions to people in recovery from substance use
Build Recovery	Glasgow City	120	18-11-24	£2,395.00	£2,395.00	to support organisational development and the delivery of facilitated Lego building workshops to people impacted by substance use
Minds of Recovery	North Ayrshire	138	01-12-24	£37,440.00	£37,440.00	to support the cost of employing a Community Coordinator to develop and deliver a range of interventions for individuals and groups impacted by substance use, including the Mentoring Individuals for New Destinations and Support (MINDS) thematic groups
Build Recovery	Glasgow City	350	18-11-25	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	to support organisational development and the delivery of facilitated Lego building workshops to people impacted by substance use
Fair Justice System for Scotland Group	West Lothian	20	01-05-24	£40,000.00	£40,000.00	to deliver support to members of the Black African community living in West Lothian who are impacted by substance use

Local Support Fund Micro Grants continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Oor space	Fife	750	01-08-23	£9,200.00	£9,200.00	to provide drop-in hubs, workshops, and training to support individuals and families who are impacted by drug use
Best Way Community Development	North Lanarkshire	20	15-06-23	£20,000.00	£20,000.00	to deliver group workshops and support to individuals and families affected by substance use
Mindfulness Scotland	Glasgow City	100	01-05-23	£26,510.00	£18,012.00	to increase provision of Mindfulness Based Recovery (MBR) courses in recovery venues in Northwest Glasgow, start new activity in South East Glasgow, and offer greater numbers of additional drop-in sessions across the city
Dundee Community Craft CIC	Dundee City	20	01-04-25	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	To deliver jewellery-making workshops with women affected by substance use at the Bella Centre in Dundee.
Let The People Sing	Edinburgh City	30	13-02-25	£14,674.00	£14,674.00	to support delivery of The Bothy, a recovery hub in Craigmillar, providing a range of services and groups for people affected by substance use
COG (Community Outreach Group) Aberdeen	Aberdeen City	250	08-11-24	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	to continue to provide outreach and drop-in services to homeless and vulnerable people affected by substance use
Best Way Community Development	North Lanarkshire	23	07-10-25	£16,093.00	£16,093.00	to deliver group workshops and one-to-one support to individuals and families affected by substance use

Local Support Fund Micro Grants continued.

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
COG (Community Outreach Group) Aberdeen	Aberdeen City	200	15-01-26	£15,320.00	£15,320.00	to continue to provide outreach and drop-in services to homeless and vulnerable people affected by substance use in Aberdeen city
Midlothian Family Support Group	Midlothian	300	11-11-24	£12,100.00	£12,100.00	to provide peer support to people affected by a family member's addiction, through support groups, social activities and CRAFT training
T.O.A.D.S (Trauma of Alcohol and Drugs Support)	Glasgow City	40	01-12-24	£11,096.00	£11,096.00	to provide peer support to family members affected by a loved one's addiction
Calton Athletic Recovery Group	Glasgow City	75	30-11-24	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	to continue delivery of recovery support services and activities
Greenbridge Ventures CIC	Clackmannanshire	50	30-11-24	£11,000.00	£11,000.00	to deliver the Fighting for Freedom programme within the Scottish Prison Service and community settings
GOLOT (Grieving our loved ones together)	Glasgow City	30	30-11-24	£6,660.00	£6,660.00	to deliver activities for family members who have lost a loved one to a drug related death
Calton Athletic Recovery Group	Glasgow City	85	01-12-25	£5,000.00	£5,000.00	to contribute to annual running costs for rent, utilities and factors fees to allow the delivery of recovery activities and support

About Corra Foundation

Corra Foundation exists to make a difference to the lives of people and communities. It works with others to encourage positive change, opportunity, fairness and growth of aspirations which improve quality of life. Corra wants to see a society in which people create positive change and enjoy fulfilling lives.

In 2020 Corra launched a ten-year strategy. It is long term because making a difference on the big challenges will take time. At its heart is the strong belief that when people find their voice, they unlock the power to make change happen.

Cover Photo: Giorgio Trovato via Unsplash
St Mungo Mural Artist: SMUG - Beyond Walls



www.corra.scot

(The) Corra Foundation is a charity registered in Scotland (No SC009481) and is also a company limited by guarantee (No SC096068)

Our ways of working

At Corra we have a set of principles that we strive to put into practice across our roles as an employer, independent funder, charity and partner, as well as in our influencing activity. We will:

- Listen and respond to people, communities and organisations and amplify voices that are less well heard – their wisdom is at the heart of Corra's approach.
- Build relationships, always working alongside others on the basis of shared power, mutual trust and shared learning.
- Pursue diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI), trying to challenge structural discrimination and contribute to radical shifts in the funding sector.
- Be an open, trusting and flexible grant maker.
- Ensure we contribute to tackling climate change, through our investments, operations and grant making and encouraging others to take action alongside us.
- Be bold, taking considered risks and supporting others to do the same.

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