

National Drugs Mission Funds Impact report 2023-24

Report for the Scottish Government on funded projects between April 2023 and March 2024

This report provides an overview of projects funded through the National Drugs Mission funds from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024; their outcomes, progress, challenges and successes. It is based on progress reports shared by funded organisations and supplemented by information received by Grant Advisors through meetings and project visits.



SEPTEMBER 2024

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Photo courtesy of The Maxie Richards Foundation



Foreword

Strong, compassionate, and resilient front-line services are a vitally important aspect of our National Mission to reduce drug deaths and improve lives. The five funds administered by the Corra Foundation on behalf of the Scottish Government play a vital role in supporting Scotland's third sector and grass roots organisations ensuring that this funding has a wide and deep impact on frontline services across Scotland.

This progress report summarises the outcomes, challenges and successes reported by each of the 197 projects across the country¹ which have been funded between April 2023 to March 2024 and shows how those projects have developed and grown over the last year. I have had the privilege of being able to visit some of these projects to see the positive impact made to the lives of people with drug and alcohol problems, their families, and to their local communities.

These projects are only possible with the commitment and determination of the people delivering these services, including people with lived and living experience involved in these projects at all levels. Their input helps projects tackle stigma through building capacity and raising the voices of the people they support, and by raising awareness and educating the communities that they work in. It is encouraging to see that this continues to be central to many of the projects featured in this report.

My thanks to the Corra Foundation for their ongoing support to these organisations not only as a funder but also through support in capacity building and in monitoring and reporting the activity supported. In addition, my thanks must also go to the members of Corra Foundation advisory panels members for their invaluable insight, knowledge, and expertise. Similarly, I would like to thank each, and every organisation involved in delivering all 218 active projects over this period, your staff, and volunteers for the work you have done and continue to do in support of the national mission; without your tireless efforts, this would not be possible.

These organisations have continued to play a significant role in the success of the national mission, and I look forward to another year of hard work and dedication to reducing drug deaths and improving lives.



Neil Gray, MSP
Cabinet Secretary for
Health and Social Care

¹ 197 of 218 funded projects reported on their work between April 2023 to March 2024. These are listed in [Appendix 1](#)

Introduction

Overview of the past year

The Corra Foundation administers five National Drugs Mission (NDM) funds on behalf of the Scottish Government; [the Children and Families Fund](#), [the Improvement Fund](#), [the Local Support Fund \(LSF\)](#), [the LSF Micro](#), and the Grassroots Fund. Through these funds, over £13 million of grant payments have been made this year to almost 200 organisations working to support people affected by problem drug use across Scotland.

The Local Support Fund, LSF Micro and Improvement Fund were open to new applications during this reporting period. 73 new grants were made, with an average grant size of £230,844 and an average term of three years. These grants allowed organisations to initiate or scale-up projects with the primary purpose of reducing drug-related harm and deaths.

This year, 218 NDM funded projects have delivered much-needed support to individuals, families and communities impacted by drug use across Scotland. The organisations delivering these projects range from large Public Sector bodies

to constituted community groups with a single member of staff. Together, these projects have delivered a diverse range of services, supporting people through periods of crisis, and at every stage of their recovery journey.

Corra supports funded projects to have robust monitoring and evaluation systems in place to record the impact of their work. This report is brimming with data captured through these systems, highlighting the difference the funded work is making to the 33,613 people supported this year.

Delivery of these projects has been made more difficult by factors including the cost-of-living crisis, the emergence of new substances, and recruitment challenges. We have been impressed by the resilience organisations have shown in adapting to these factors. These adaptations have included forging partnerships with other organisations, leading to more effective working.

The work carried out by funded organisations is crucial to the Scottish Government's mission

to reduce drug related deaths and to support people affected by drugs. The NDM has offered multi-year funding to support organisations working directly, and often intensively, with people who use drugs and their families. Funding has supported front-line work ranging from mobile harm reduction teams to aftercare support, helping individuals to reintegrate into communities and family life, after a stay in residential rehabilitation.

This report outlines key outcomes and progress reported by the NDM funded projects in 2023/24



33,613

**people supported between
April 2023 and March 2024**

How to read this report

This report is divided into three main parts.

- **Part one** looks at project results under six outcomes. These represent the overarching achievements of projects funded through the National Drugs Mission funds.
- **Part two** looks at how projects are addressing the Scottish Government's six cross-cutting priorities.
- **Part three** explores several external challenges which have affected project development to varying degrees.

In all parts, we have used data from project progress reports, supplemented with information shared with Grant Advisors during regular progress and update meetings with projects. This provides a mixture of insights and evidence giving a sense of scale, examples of different project approaches, and case studies which demonstrate positive change.



Overview of Projects

Funded projects

The five National Drugs Mission funds have the shared objective of increasing levels of support to individuals, families and communities impacted by drug use, and to reduce levels of drug related harm and numbers of drug-related deaths. Each fund has different priorities and specific criteria.

The Grassroots Fund closed in 2021. Most of the projects receiving a Grassroots Fund grant concluded their activities in 2022, with only four still active in this reporting period. The Local Support Fund (LSF) and the LSF Micro Grants were open to new applications this year, and many of the previously funded projects are still active. The Improvement Fund and Children and Families Fund received applications annually. The latest round of the Improvement Fund concluded in April 2024.

218 projects were active in this reporting period. This includes 34 Children and Families Fund projects, four Grassroots Fund projects, 86 Improvement Fund projects, 80 Local Support Fund (LSF) projects and 14 LSF Micro Fund projects. Of these, reports were received from 197 of these in time for inclusion in this report. A detailed list of the 218 funded projects across the five funds, including the total grant amount and geographical base, is included in [Appendix 1](#).



£13,298,687

Total grant payments made
in 2023/24, with an average grant
payment of £68,827



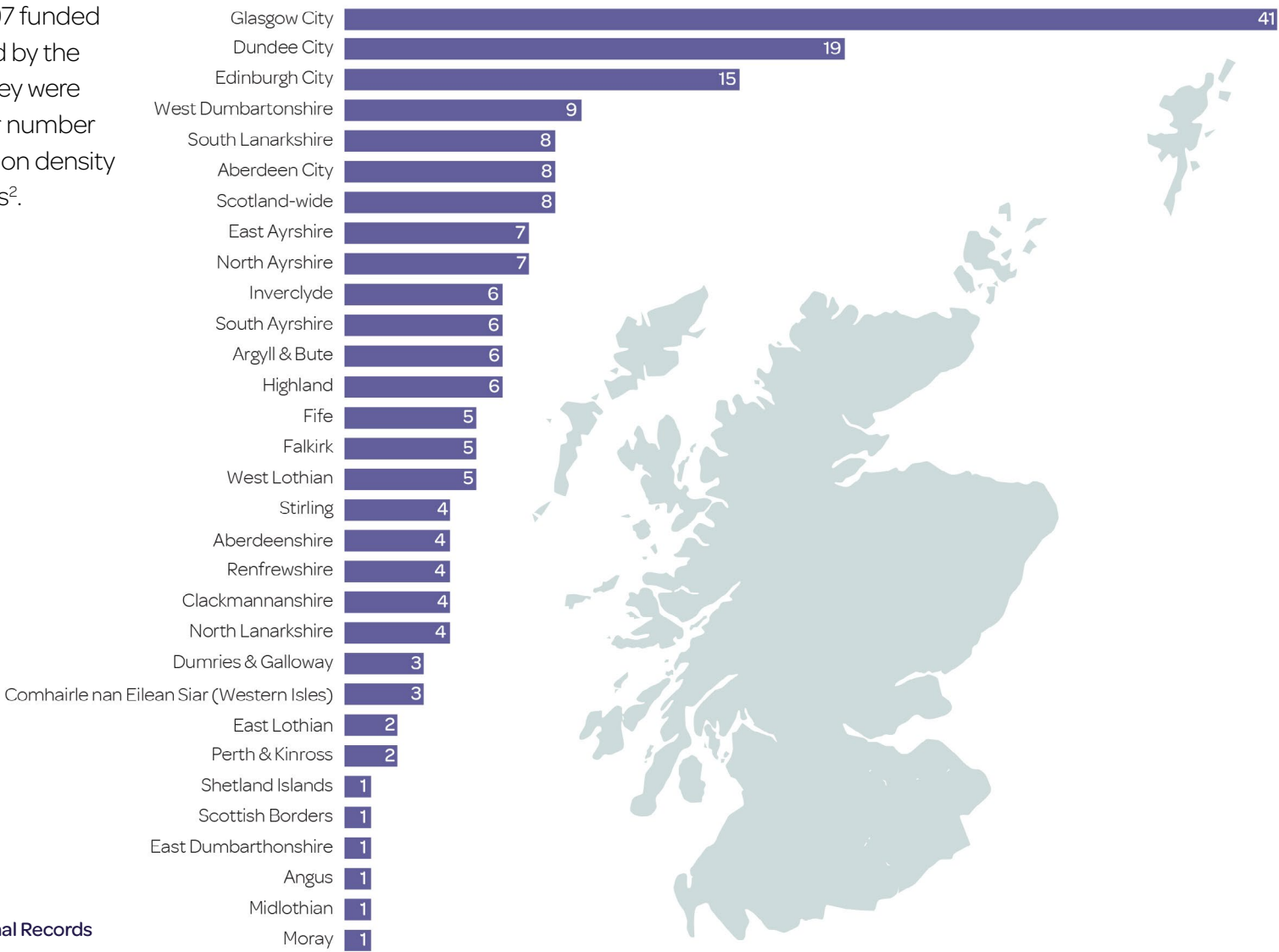
- Local Support Fund
- Local Support Fund Micro Grants
- Improvement Fund
- Children and Families Fund
- Grassroots Fund

68
projects commenced
in 2023/24

17
projects concluded
in 2023/24

Geographical spread

The map below shows the location of 197 funded projects that reported this year, grouped by the primary Local Authority area in which they were delivered. There continues to be a larger number of projects in areas with greater population density or larger numbers of drug-related deaths².

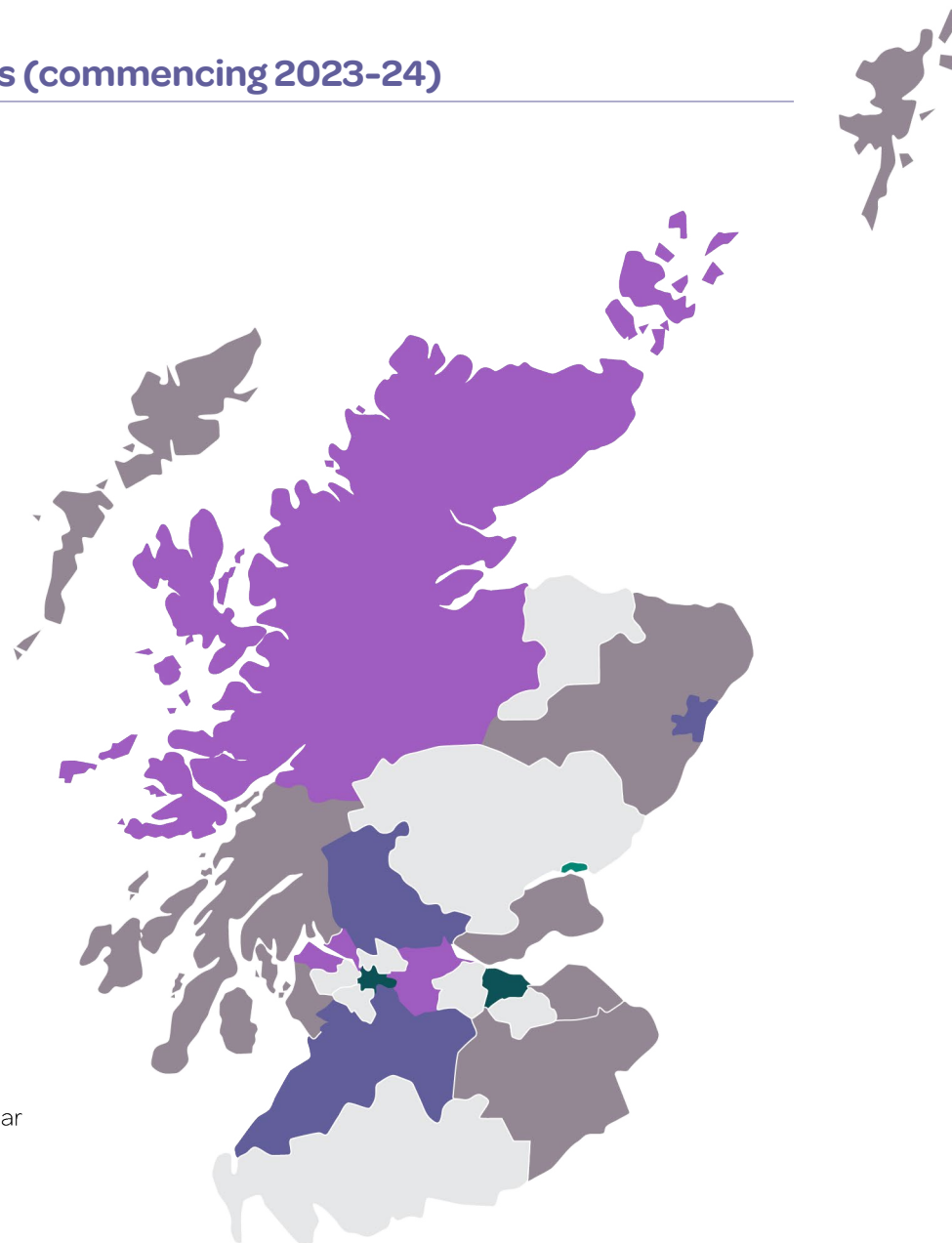


2 [Drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2023](#). National Records of Scotland. August 2024

The spread of the 68 new projects starting during 2023-24 was also reflective of population density and numbers of drug-related deaths³. Average grant size in 2023/24 was £230,844 and the average grant term is 3 years.

New NDMF Projects (commencing 2023-24)

- 7+** Glasgow City (13)
Edinburgh City (10)
- 6** Dundee City
- 4** Scotland-wide
- 3** Inverclyde
Falkirk
North Lanarkshire
Highland
West Dumbartonshire
- 2** Stirling
South Ayrshire
Clackmannanshire
Aberdeen City
East Ayrshire
South Lanarkshire
- 1** Shetland Isles
Scottish Borders
Aberdeenshire
Fife
Argyll & Bute
East Lothian
North Ayrshire
Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)



³ [Drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2023](#). National Records of Scotland. August 2024

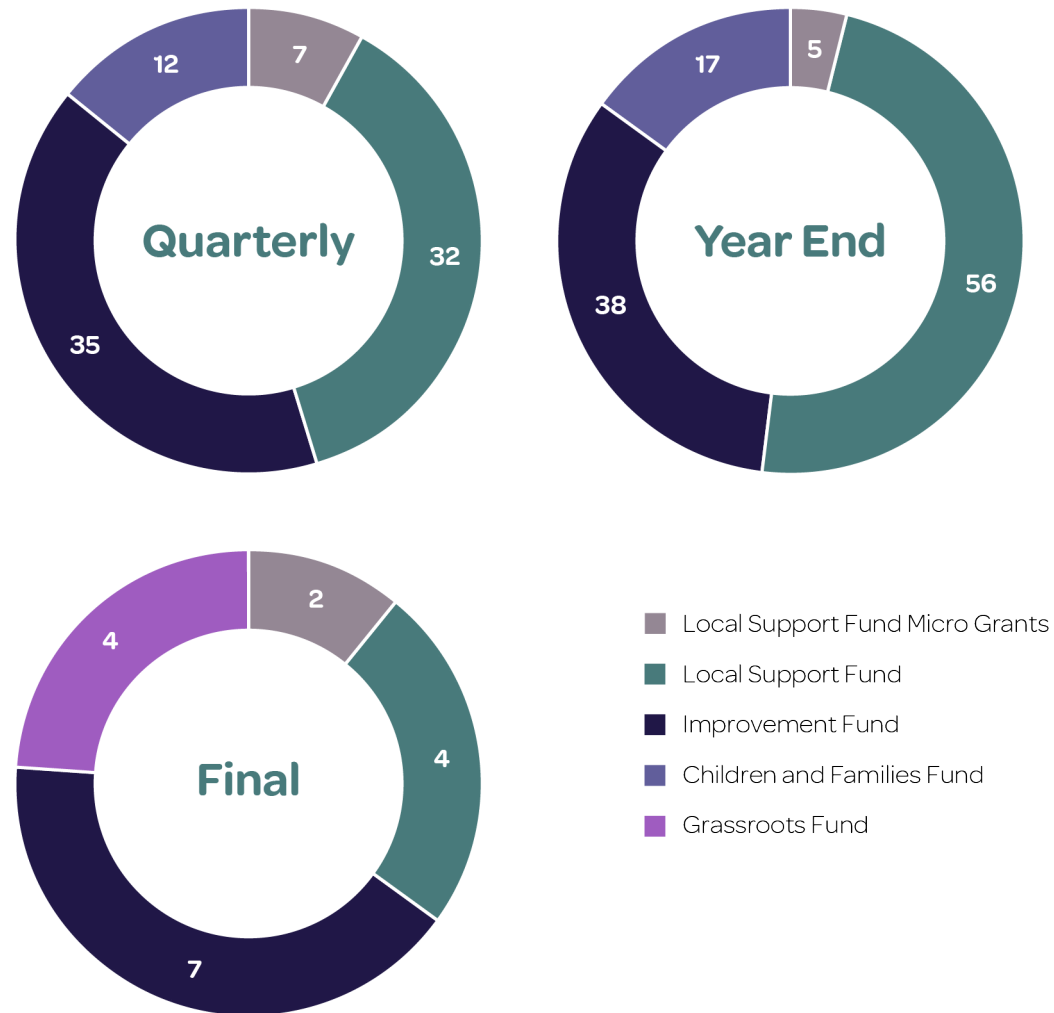
Reports received

This report compiled data from 197 funded projects, who provided Corra with 219 reports between 1 April 2023 and 31st March 2024.

This includes 86 quarterly reports; 116 year-end reports; and 17 final reports.

Where both a quarterly report and a year-end/final report were received, we are only including data from the most recent report so as not to count reporting data twice. Data from 22 quarterly reports was removed from the analysis on this basis.

The breakdown of the types of reports received is shown in the diagram below



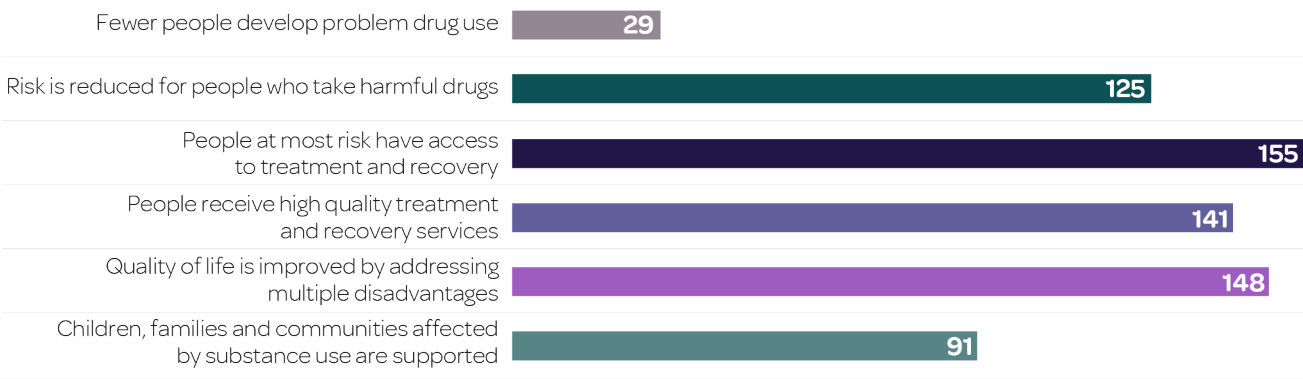
Part 1. Outcomes

In this section, we share the numbers of projects contributing to the six outcomes⁴ which Corra and the Scottish Government identified to monitor the implementation of these funds. The diagram in [Appendix 2](#) describes these outcomes.

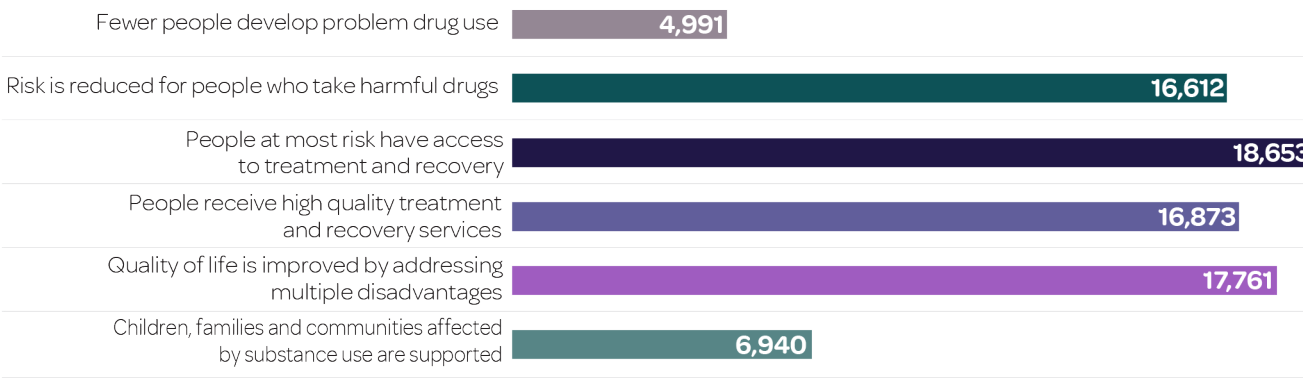
For each outcome, we will detail the numbers of people supported under each outcome and the number of projects delivering work that contributes to the outcome. We will also provide representative case studies showing the impact of projects on the lives of people who use them. Most projects are working with people across two or more of these outcomes, so the same person might be counted for more than one.

4 Further information on the outcomes is available on the [Scottish Government website](#).

The table below shows the number of projects delivering work that contributed to each of the six outcomes.



The table below shows the number of people supported through each of the six outcomes.



- Outcome 1
- Outcome 2
- Outcome 3
- Outcome 4
- Outcome 5
- Outcome 6

Outcome 1: Fewer people develop problem drug use

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

29

projects contributed
to this outcome

4,991

people were supported
under this outcome

Some examples of the projects working towards this outcome include:

Change Grow Live are funded through the Improvement Fund to employ a full time Enhanced Early Intervention Coordinator to improve the Arrest Referral Service.

The Early Intervention Coordinator is based in the Livingston Custody Suite engaging with first time offenders, where their offence is related to their substance use. Receiving support around substance use at this crucial stage can help prevent the issue from escalating. Their model combines medical, psychosocial, therapeutic and Harm Reduction intervention, with a “no wrong door” entry point.

The Corner funded through the Children and Families Fund work with young people whose lives are affected by their own and/or a family member’s substance use. These young people find it difficult to manage their accommodation, some are homeless, others are experiencing tenancy issues or are having difficulties living with family members.

The project provides holistic, one to one support for young people to help them address their substance use.

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.

They have provided this evidence-based education service to 1,563 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.



Recovery Enterprises Scotland receive funding through the Local Support Fund to deliver frontline support to people affected by substance use, including one to one and group support, community outreach, a drop-in service, and a prison in-reach service.

Early intervention and prevention are key elements of the Recovery Enterprises Scotland's work. Collaborating with Police Scotland and their prison colleagues in HMP Kilmarnock has allowed them to facilitate early intervention and prevention efforts. They have been able to identify individuals at risk of substance use, provide support, and intervene early to prevent the escalation of addiction-related issues.

South Lanarkshire Council received funding through the Improvement Fund 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.

The premise of the project is to adopt a public health approach to support those in conflict with the law, whose offending is related to their substance use. The long-term aim of this work

is to help these individuals to permanently exit the justice system.

The project delivers holistic, early interventions that reduce levels of drug-related harm and help to prevent drug-related deaths.

West Lothian Drug and Alcohol Service received funding through the Children and Families Fund to set up a new multi-agency team to provide support to families and young people affected by substance use in West Lothian.

Staff within the project attend local high schools and West Lothian College offering staff, pupils, and parents' information sessions, diversionary activities and counselling/support. They accept direct referrals, providing ease of access to the project.

Satellite drop-ins held within schools and colleges are used to provide brief interventions to young people who are beginning to experience a problem with their substance use.

Eildon West Youth Hub

Eildon West Youth Hub received £29,220 through the Local Support Fund to deliver weekly issue-based group work to young people who use substances. Many of these young people are at an early stage in their drug use and the focus is on delivering support to prevent their substance use becoming problematic.

The Youth Hub told us about one success they had with a young man, that demonstrated that they were providing the right level of support at the right time. The young man has a background of consistently using drugs (primarily cannabis) for 2 years. He is care experienced, did not complete school, and disengaged with all supports and services except that offered by Eildon West Youth Hub.

His primary carer and was concerned about his health and well-being. She encouraged him to reach out to discuss some health issues he had been having. Thankfully, he was willing to engage with the hub.

The Youth Hub supported him to access the doctors, advocating for him, and helping him to be honest around his drug use, as he found it challenging to tell them and was worried about being judged. Upon further investigation, doctors were able to diagnose that the cannabis use had impacted his physical health. Doctors advised him that to avoid being sick he had to dramatically reduce his cannabis use. This was a big challenge for the young person as he saw his cannabis use as a coping mechanism which enabled him to deal with his thoughts, feelings, and emotions in life.

They worked closely with him and put in place a package of support that met his needs, supporting him to decrease his cannabis use, with a longer-term plan of referring him to adult drug services if appropriate. The hub were also able to put in place practical solutions, and to work with him in a person-centred way to support him around the many issues he was dealing with.



DRC Youth Project

DRC Youth Project received £49,850 annually through the Local Support Fund to deliver intense one to one support and group work for young people who are using drugs aged 14-26 years.

A focus of their work is to deliver diversionary group sessions and workshops for young people who are exposed to drugs and are at higher risk of developing a substance dependency. The group work on offer includes outdoor activities aimed at improving mental health and physical health.

DRC Youth Project has provided the following case study:

“ R is 16 and has had a long history of drug use which ranged from regularly smoking weed to using benzos and cocaine. He had a lot of problems at school and was referred to our Strive Group back in April as part of the original pilot group. The referral was supported by the secondary school, from which he was barred, for violent behaviour and drug use. He wasn't allowed anywhere near the school grounds and was informed the police would be called if he showed his face.

We were in close talks with the school as to how the Strive Group could support him and help him gain accreditation, as he was bright and had the ability. The school were sceptical at first, but managed to send a Maths and English teacher to our offices one day a week and were happy for us to keep working with him during school time. We kept close links with the school so we could update them on R's progress.

Through the Strive Group we were able to discover R's interests; Music and Mountain Biking were his favourite things. We made sure he had access to enjoy both, but under the condition that he came to us every Tuesday morning for 2hrs of Maths and English. This was a massive success, with R gaining his English Nat4 and some modules for his maths. He was then accepted on to a construction course and left school. Our group worker is now supporting R with this, as he has the same ups and downs with his tutors that he had at school. We aim to continue to support him until he finishes here and then move him on to our Pathfinder employability programme.

R has drastically reduced his intake of drugs, and his attendance at the construction course is regular. We are confident he will turn a corner, as he continues to engage with the support we provide.

This intervention has not only helped R, and moved him towards a positive destination, but it has also strengthened DRC Youth Project's links with the local secondary schools, who are recognising the Strive Group and group work in general, as an effective way to support many other young people, like R. The number of young people with these issues has increased post-Covid, and DRC Youth Project's support here has attracted the attention of several other secondary schools.”

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

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

125

projects contributed
to this outcome

16,612

people were supported
under this outcome

Some examples of the projects working towards this outcome include:

Blue Triangle in North Lanarkshire are funded to deliver their Breakthrough Service, supporting individuals at the highest end of need to move into, and remain in their properties and to engage with treatment and recovery.

They carry out regular risk assessments, addressing all parts of a person's life. Where there is a risk of drug related harm, safety plans are put in place to reduce this risk. Service staff attend the Addiction Recovery Team's multi-disciplinary meetings, where complex issues are discussed, and support is put in place. Staff are trained in the provision of Naloxone, and they distribute kits to those who need them.

Health in Mind are funded to employ a Peer Worker to support the delivery of a rapid response service, delivered in partnership with Midlothian Substance Misuse Team, to those with greater risk of drug related harm. They also

employ a Support Worker to facilitate group work in homeless hostels. 38 people experiencing a Near Fatal Overdose (NFO) were engaged and supported in the reporting period.

Hillcrest Futures are funded to employ lived experience practitioners (Peer Support Workers) to work alongside Scottish Prison Service Recovery Workers and NHS staff in HMP Prison Perth.

The project is reducing risk associated with drug use through the provision of Nyxiod, and training residents in how to use this. The Peer Support Workers were taught how to train others in the administration of Nyxiod, allowing them to train and issue Nyxiod to the residents just prior to liberation. This is important, as the period just after liberation is known to be a time of higher risk of drug harm for individuals. The workers aim to have a team of Peer Champions, who will be residents from each Hall in the Prison. These champions will provide training to other residents and spread awareness of Naloxone/Nyxiod and Harm Reduction across the Prison.

Transform Community Development

are funded to provide a 24-hour Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) vending machine in their supported accommodation in Dundee. This is not delivered in isolation, but alongside other harm reduction interventions and support to access treatment and recovery services. These interventions have worked well together, reducing levels of drug-related harm, and helping individuals to better engage with addition services.

Change Grow Live are funded to support the delivery of a Harm Reduction Assertive Outreach Service in Stirling, reaching very vulnerable individuals who use drugs. This project is supported by 12 Peer Harm Reduction Navigators (4 employed in each year of the 3-year life of the grant) with lived experience of addiction.

In the first year of this project's delivery, Change Grow Live recruited 4 Peer Harm Reduction Navigators with lived experience to deliver assertive outreach and harm reduction. During this period, the number of service users engaging with the Harm Reduction Service

through assertive community outreach has increased by 36%, from 274 to 376.

The Peer Harm Reduction Navigators have helped to increase provision of harm reduction in partner settings, such as Springkerse Homeless Hostel, Salvation Army and Foodbanks, and are supporting access into treatment through their work at the Change Grow Live Recovery Hubs. All individuals supported by the Peer Harm Reduction Navigators are provided with Injecting Equipment, harm reduction advice and information around Naloxone.

Simon Community Scotland were funded through the Improvement Fund to establish the We See You Project in Glasgow. A key element of the service is the provision of harm reduction. Staff are trained to deliver the WAND interventions, which include wound care, assessment of injecting risk, naloxone supply and dry blood spot testing. This project has been very successful, engaging hundreds of people in its first year of service delivery.

Barnardos are funded through the Children and Families Fund to deliver whole family support for families affected by substance use across Dundee. Activities include emotional support, practical advice, confidence building, mentoring, and peer support.

The organisation takes a holistic approach to working with families, identifying risk at an early stage, and implementing appropriate harm reduction and support methods.

Fife Alcohol Support Services (FASS)

Fife Alcohol Support Services (FASS) were funded to deliver a Non-Fatal Overdose (NFO) Rapid Response Service engaging those at significant risk of Drug-Related Deaths (DRDs). In addition to this, FASS deliver training to partners who are in contact with people most at risk of NFOs and DRDs. They provide information to the public about NFOs, DRDs and about risk-related harm. They also distribute Naloxone in their community.

The case study below illustrates the positive impact of this service for one of the people who use it.

“ JP is a 39-year-old homeless man from the West Fife Area. He has dual addiction issues (Heroin and Alcohol) and had been sleeping rough for many years. For the last 3 years, he had been sleeping behind shops in the area he grew up in.

Our Non-Fatal Overdose (NFO) Team became involved due to a reported NFO incident. The information we received was that a male was found behind a bin by a bystander. No address, no name –

no concrete information. The NFO Team made a visit to the area that the incident was reported to have happened in and made direct contact with JP. They immediately assisted in securing Temporary Accommodation, Benefits and Medication for him. Daily contact was made in the first instance to ensure that JP knew he had consistent support. Various options of person-centered care were explored. JP needed to connect with numerous services due to the support needs that were identified, and our KY8 club was the perfect vessel to address these support needs.

JP started to attend the KY8 weekly with his NFO worker and has benefited from the support provided to him by partner agencies.

JP has now got his own tenancy and continues to work with the NFO Team, attending KY8 Club on a weekly basis. He is now on their in-house committee group where he helps arrange communal area activities and helps welcome new tenants with a settling in period.

He remains on his ORT and is actively reducing his methadone prescription with a view to moving on to alternative ORT. He is no longer using street opiates because his “medication is working”.

JP states- “Without the help of ADAPT and the NFO Team I don’t know where I would be, probably not alive. The kindness and genuine compassion I have been shown has kept me going. It was tough.

When the KY8 Club was mentioned to me I was reluctant to start with, but this has been a life saver for me.

It gives me a purpose to focus on week after week with my worker because I know that they look forward to seeing me and finding out how my week has gone. I am no longer lonely, and I know that if something is bothering me or I’m stuck with something there will be someone there that will be able to help me sort things out and help me cope a bit better”.

Turning Point Scotland

Turning Point Scotland received funding through the Improvement Fund to extend the existing WAND* outreach initiative currently operating in Glasgow City Centre, to three locality areas in Glasgow (North East, North West and South), East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire. Glasgow ADP secured three vans which had been fitted out to deliver a range of clinical and harm reduction interventions. This new grant would allow these vans to deliver the service to the new areas.

***WAND encourages people to participate in four key harm reduction interventions:**

- **Wound care**
early identification, treatment, and advice of possible problems
- **Assessment of Injecting Risk**
including technique and safer injecting advice
- **Naloxone and overdose awareness**
supply and encourage to carry on the person
- **Dry Blood Spot Testing for Hep C and HIV.**

The following is an example of the impact this service can achieve for those it supports.

“ X is a 36-year-old male currently living in temporary accommodation in Glasgow. He first encountered the Mobile Harm Reduction Service when the service visited the supported accommodation service where he was a resident. At the time, X was an injecting (IV) heroin user with combined use of street benzodiazepines, crack cocaine and marijuana. He reported that he had overdosed within the past year when combining street benzodiazepines and heroin. He had concerns that he may have contracted a BBV as he occasionally shared spoons, filters, and water with others.

At that time, he reported that he injected in his groin only and had experienced a deep vein thrombosis (DVT) when injecting in his right femoral vein. He wasn't actively linked in with any ADRS in Glasgow but had made a referral and was hoping to begin Buprenorphine treatment as soon as possible.

During the assessment of injecting risk, discussions took place around his injecting practice and the risks of injecting below the belt. Staff discussed safer injecting practice, particularly not sharing injecting equipment with others, and the possibility of using orange needles instead of blue needles in his groin to reduce the damage to his femoral vein if he decided to continue to use it.

He had previous knowledge of Naloxone but didn't have a supply available to him, so refresher training and a supply were provided as well as needle exchange. A BBV dry blood spot test was conducted and sent to the lab for analysis. When X was given a positive result for Hepatitis C, MHRS staff discussed treatments options and onward referrals with him. X was willing to accept a referral to begin treatment.

Sometime later, X came back for a new WAND assessment. In the time elapsed from his initial assessment, he had been linked in with an addiction's worker at his local ADRS and had started on a suboxone prescription. He also advised that he had gone through a full course of Hepatitis C treatment and that his bloods were currently showing as negative for the virus. He stated that his injecting practices had improved since he had been given advice at his first assessment, as he no longer shared spoons, filters, or water with anyone, and he had cut down his heroin use.



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

Under this outcome, we look at projects supporting people who face multiple complex challenges. These 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) pathways and pathways between justice and community settings.

155

projects contributed
to this outcome

18,653

people were supported
under this outcome

Some examples of the projects working towards this outcome include:

Ayrshire Justice Services Partnership Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO)

service are funded to employ two Peer Recovery Workers with lived experience of addiction to support individuals on a DTTO, to engage with treatment and recovery.

The embedding of lived experience workers has improved both the DTTO service and the support offered to individuals, allowing the organisation to take a more holistic and relational approach to supporting people with a complexity of need. The two workers support individuals to engage with the recovery community and with wider social support.

Community Help and Advice Initiative (CHAI)

deliver free advisory services (including financial and housing advice) to people at risk of drug-related death in Edinburgh.

Through delivery of these advice services, people who face multiple disadvantages have access to services that address their social needs, which are often a barrier to their recovery.

North East Recovery Community (NERC)

receives funding through the Improvement Fund to employ two Outreach Workers to engage and support vulnerable individuals in the community, who are at greater risk of drug-related harm. The aim is to support them into and through treatment and recovery.

Project staff work alongside the wider NERC team using local knowledge to follow up on any lived experience volunteers or participants who disengage with the recovery cafes. A drop in engagement may indicate that an individual is facing challenges and may have had a lapse/relapse. Through the project, these individuals are re-engaged and given person-centered support. This includes support to attend community addiction teams, contact a GP, or attend a fellowship meeting.

Salvation Army have been supported through the Improvement Fund to set up a multi-agency Hub in Cambuslang, providing specialist support to local people who use drugs and their families.

The Hub engages with people who are at high risk, including those who are homeless and are not in touch with any support services. The Hub is open from Monday to Sunday, including out-of-hours provision. The Hub has developed very strong relationships with local drug treatment services such as the CARES team, rehabilitation services, Turning Point Scotland and the GIVIT (young person service). This gives staff members an in-depth knowledge of the drug treatment services available, helping them to make effective referrals for service users.

To improve access, those in areas with little or no public transport provision can be collected by staff to attend the hub. Through their work, they have also managed to engage with young people who are at risk of developing substance dependency.

Street Connect are funded through the Local Support Fund to deliver its services across Paisley, Greenock and West Dunbarton, targeting individuals who are vulnerable, homeless and at greater risk of drug-related harm.

The organisation undertakes street outreach and provides drop-in cafes to engage its service users. Many of these individuals face multiple disadvantages and would not otherwise access appropriate and effective support.

Positive Steps Partnership in Dundee have received funding through the Improvement Fund in 2023 to deliver a new Crisis Response Outreach Service (CROS) to people using substances. This project is trauma-informed, and staff are trained in harm reduction techniques and Naloxone provision. It is an expansion of their Non-Fatal Overdose Pathway (NFOD) project connected to their Positive Living service. Individuals experiencing a NFOD or crisis are referred to this service by partners including Police Scotland and the Ambulance service. They are engaged through assertive outreach and given the intensive support they need.

Four months after the start of the project, the CROS team had successfully supported 51 individuals. They use a “sticky approach” when trying to get an individual to engage with the service and conducted 423 visits to engage these 51 individuals. This has been an effective approach, delivering harm reduction interventions to 35 people and assisting service users to engage with 26 different specialist agencies to receive support around issues including housing, substance use, benefits, and criminal justice.

G20 Works

G20 Works received £9,622 per annum for 2 years through the Local Support Fund Micro Grant. They are based in the G20 postcode area of Glasgow and provide support to marginalised young people aged 16-25 impacted by their own or their parents' substance use.



Having a safe space available with high quality support for young people can help them reduce the risk in taking harmful drugs. Here's a quote from one of the young people who attends the G20.

“ I had a normal scheme upbringing. If most of us hadn't come to something like this it would have been the jail and charges like assault, murder or attempted murder. I've been inside a couple of times - jail, aye, for things like assault.” “At school I was always getting suspended and then I got kicked out. I don't feel like the teachers knew how to talk or to listen. But it's not just that - there was other stuff going on with drink and with drugs.” By 14 or 15 I had left without qualifications. “I started doing acid and eccies with the older ones that were hanging around. And then you end up getting involved in dealing. But once you start getting heavy convictions for things like serious assault the police start stopping you all the time. So that gave me a good excuse to get out of all that and spend more time here.

I was just hanging about the streets G20 was somewhere safe to go. Since coming here I go home after a shift instead of getting 'on it' with my pals” “Before G20 we would be sitting around the scheme doing nothing and getting into trouble. People judge us and think we are wee bams from Maryhill. The G20 doesn't judge us and believes in us. Getting involved in all the groups and support has helped me a lot. I want to better myself”.



Transform Forth Valley

Transform Forth Valley support people in Stirling who are vulnerable and use substances, to access the services that best meet their needs. They shared the case study below in their most recent report.

John was referred to the Assertive Outreach Service (AOS) by Police Scotland, following a drug raid at his property, where a large amount of Amphetamine (speed) was found. The police stated the house was untidy, drug use was apparent, and a small child was present. This was John's son, who was living with another family member, but who he had unsupervised access to, until this incident.

John had started to use heroin, going from smoking to injecting in a matter of weeks; he had allowed other known drug users in his house. John reported reusing his own needles and occasionally having shared paraphernalia. He was at high risk of drug-related harm.

Transform Forth Valley referred John to NHS Forth Valley Substance Use Service (CADS) for Substance Use support, supported him to attend appointments, and to reduce his

substance use. He was given access to clean Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) and given training in using naloxone. They also organised a Blood Borne Virus (BBV) Test to be carried out and, when this was positive for Hepatitis C, they made an appointment for John to attend FVRH for treatment.

Transform Forth Valley worked with several other agencies as they supported John. Thanks to this collaborative work, John is now stable on his buprenorphine prescription, engages well with CADS and was attending FVRH for his hepatitis treatment. He is engaging well with social work, and ultimately hopes to have his son living with him again in the future.

Outcome 4: People receive high quality treatment and recovery services

Under this outcome, we look at projects delivering effective drug support services, ranging from fellowship meetings⁵ and recovery cafés to residential rehabilitation services. Focus is given to projects that help people make informed decisions about treatment options, support them to access the treatment of their choice and remain in treatment for as long as requested.

141

projects contributed
to this outcome

16,873

people were supported
under this outcome

Some examples of the projects working towards this outcome include:

Blue Triangle were funded to extend the Intensive Peer Recovery Support Service in South Ayrshire. The organisation provides relational support, helping people to explore and access high quality treatment options. They have been supporting people to attend MAT (Medically Assisted Treatment) Standards interviews in partnership with the South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership, giving people the opportunity to receive the right treatment.

Phoenix Futures received a grant to improve their residential rehabilitation service through enhanced access, aftercare, and family support provision. They recruited a dedicated Rehab Access Worker and Sustainable Recovery Worker, increasing the service's capacity to provide more personalised support. This has boosted retention in treatment. People have benefited from this increased preparatory work, admission support, and structured step-down aftercare support.

When a lapse/relapse occurs, rapid wrap around support is put in place to re-engage people back into treatment of their choice.

Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service are funded through the Improvement Fund to deliver independent advocacy for people who use drugs across Argyll and Bute.

Advocates have enabled people to access a range of services, including housing, benefits and welfare advice, addiction services, physical checkups, dental treatment, legal services, and Social Care Services. They have highlighted gaps in services and challenged the providers to address those gaps and improve pathways for people with substance use problems. The Advocates have been reaching people across Argyll and Bute, including in Helensburgh, Cowal, Isle of Bute and Kintyre. On the Isle of Bute with a population of 5,500, they have supported 122 people.

⁵ Recovery fellowship meetings are a type of community self-help group. They involve a meeting format where people dealing with addiction meet and lend each other support.

FIRST Fife were funded to deliver community rehabilitation, and support before, during and after a stay in residential rehabilitation.

The organisation helped people reduce their drug and alcohol use, find a suitable residential unit, address issues around criminal justice, debt, and family obligations, and connect with peer support. At the end of their stay, people were linked with recovery services in their area. FIRST community-based programme delivered peer support and groupwork activities, such as gardening, cooking, and woodworking.

“FIRST helped me reduce my substance use, increase my confidence, access recovery groups, access psychology for my mental health and build a recovery network. When I first started the service, I was feeling really low and lonely. I felt like I could talk to no one about my problems as they didn’t understand. Since starting with FIRST, I was able to chat every week about different things going on in my life without judgement and release some stress I had. I am able to cope a lot better now.”

FIRST service user

Recovery Coaching Scotland were funded 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.

Covering topics such as coaching fundamentals, the cycle of change, recovery capital, resilience, trauma-informed approaches, and interpersonal skills, the course equips participants with valuable tools for navigating obstacles and fostering healthy relationships. By accentuating self-reflection, goal-setting, and emotional intelligence, the course has supported participants to overcome barriers to personal growth and recovery, nurturing a supportive community within prison.

“Doing this course has let me see that I am worthy of recovery, and I can still be me whilst being a woman in recovery. I have been inspired by doing this course that addiction does not define me, I can recover.”

Recovery Coaching participant

We Are With You were funded through the Improvement Fund 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. The grant has enabled We Are with You to provide intensive pre and post rehab support across Argyll and Bute. They have adopted a flexible approach, which is much needed due to the intensity of the support required and the geographical challenges service users face.

An external evaluation⁶ of their work, conducted by Research Scotland has demonstrated the efficacy of their work, with 83% of those they supported completing a stay in residential rehabilitation, significantly higher than the national average.

6 [Evaluation of WithYou's Pre and Post Residential Rehabilitation Support Service](#) - Research Scotland- February 2024

The Nest Wellbeing Group

The Nest Wellbeing Group receive £41,349 annually through the Local Support Fund to employ a full time Recovery Coordinator to expand the Moving Up Moving On (MUMO) programme. They shared the case study below to illustrate the impact of their work.

Person A is a man in his late 50s. He arrived at the group just prior to Covid and returned after the pandemic. Initially, he led quite a chaotic lifestyle because of significant trauma which took him onto a path of addiction. This in turn had an impact on his family life and resulted in multi-generational addiction challenges.

He initially attended sporadically and only stayed for a cup of coffee, then left. Through time the relationship strengthened, and he started to attend the recovery focused group regularly. More recently he has become an attendee of various groups including MUMO (recovery focused group), art group, creative writing, walking, football, and Mindfulness groups.

In recent weeks we have witnessed a real change in his behaviour. He attended the Recovery Concert in Glasgow and said it was the first gig he has ever attended without being under the influence of drugs or alcohol. He has become actively involved in various community activities including the strip out of the Men's Shed and facilitating workshops with other local groups.

This has been an extremely challenging year for him with a close family bereavement. He says that the “family” environment of the Recovery groups and indeed the wider groups have enabled him to stay “more stable” and encouraged him to make better choices. On one occasion recently, he came into group with a carrier bag of documents to sort out for the bereavement and stated **“I had a choice to make today, to go get a bag of heroin or bring this bag to you.... I decided to come here for help instead”**. This is testimony to how powerful the safety of the space our Recovery focused groups are, and we are really hopeful for Person A's future.



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

Under this outcome, we look at projects that take a systemic approach and support people in a holistic way. These projects recognise that to tackle substance use issues, wider health and social care needs need to be addressed too. Funded projects are well connected and work collaboratively with other services in their area to address each person's individual needs in a compassionate way.

148

projects contributed
to this outcome

17,761

people were supported
under this outcome

Some examples of the projects working towards this outcome include:

Bethany Christian Trust were funded to deliver the Bridge to Freedom recovery programme in the Torry area of Aberdeen.

People received support around a wide range of issues, including relapse, physical health, mental health, tenancy issues, involvement with criminal justice, being taken advantage of by others, and managing medication.

Change Grow Live were funded to extend the reach and provision of recovery hubs across Forth Valley.

People attending the hubs have received support with a range of issues, including access to Medication Assisted Treatment; psychosocial interventions to reduce or cease substance use; access to Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP); addressing financial hardship and access to appropriate benefits; access to safe and suitable housing; access to treatment for blood borne viruses; and support to exit negative and unsafe relationships.

Group Recovery Aftercare Community Enterprise (GRACE)

Enterprise (GRACE) were funded to employ a Peer Support Worker and Pathway Development Worker to provide individuals and families with aftercare and to improve referrals pathways into the organisation.

Many of the individuals and family members supported by GRACE have multiple vulnerabilities, including poor mental health, social isolation, and poor relationships. Their group work programmes have supported people and their families to become more resilient, and to make better use of their time, which has supported their recovery. Training and access to SQA courses have helped people to secure employment, reducing poverty and enabling people to live well.

Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

were funded to embed a Specialist CAB Advice service in addiction services across Forth Valley.

The focus of this work is to improve the quality of life of those impacted by substance use.

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 regression and improving their mental health.

The areas of support included benefits, finance, debt, housing, relationships, employment rights, health, and community care.

Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre - Dundee & Angus (WRASAC)

were funded to create a women's hub in Dundee to support women with substance use problems and additional needs.

Women attending the hub can access multiple services, all under one roof. Partners delivering services from the hub include Dundee Women's Aid, Dundee Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DDARS), Dundee Community Justice Service, We Are With You, Hillcrest Futures, Tayside Council on Alcohol and ASPEN. A clinical psychologist is at the hub weekly.

Support has been provided around sexual violence, drug and alcohol recovery, emotional wellbeing, welfare and benefits, changing pharmacy, reporting to police, accessing GP and referrals, and accessing advice for family members. Women received clothing, toiletries and safety packs.

One woman attending support was able to access support from WRASAC, DDARS and Brooksbank within one afternoon. She described the support she received as "lifesaving".

SISCO were funded to provide a recovery café three days a week within HMP Barlinnie, offering a safe environment and helping residents move away from the criminal justice system.

Most people accessing their help have multiple Adverse Childhood Experiences. The organisation helps them to address those experiences by gaining an understanding of trauma and developing tools and strategies to improve their lives.

"I didn't think I had trauma until I attended the course with Sisco. I just thought it was normal the way my life was because my eight brothers were all the same, and we came from a poor background. It was survival of the fittest being the youngest of eight, so I had to fight my way through life and the scheme I grew up in, to just survive life. I thought drugs and crime were just who I was until I completed the course with Sisco. Now I am going to education with Fife College to complete my History and English and be a better grandparent when I leave prison."

Sisco service user

Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership

Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership receive £200,000 annually through the Improvement Fund to deliver the Milestone House Intermediate Care Unit (MICU) for homeless people at high risk of drug related death. They provided the case study below to illustrate the impact of their work.

MICU received a referral for a 45-year-old man who was in hospital with multiple complex physical and mental health needs. He had previously been in prison, and prior to his release he made repeated attempts on his own life due to the fear and uncertainty around impending homelessness and the loss of structure and routine that prison provided.

Prior to his admission to the Western General, he had been in and out of Rapid Access Accommodation with long periods of rough sleeping in between. Staff at Rapid Access spoke highly of him, but disputes with other residents left him feeling threatened and at the time rough sleeping had seemed the better option.

The primary trigger for his admission was an infected injection site in his leg. However, in the chaos following his release from prison he had been unable to maintain the drug regime for his Hepatitis C and HIV, and his physical health had deteriorated as a result. His chaotic lifestyle also had a significant effect on his mental health.

He was referred to Cyrenians Hospital In-reach, and once medically fit for discharge from the Western General, he was admitted to MICU.

After 2 months in a safe, calm, private setting with regular medication prompts, support to attend outpatient appointments and daily support with his emotional wellbeing, he and his support team had completely turned his health around.

During his time at MICU, he completed his HEP C treatment and maintained his HIV treatment. He became more confident and reported a significant improvement in his mental health.

Waverley Care, together with the Cyrenians Hospital In-reach, supported him throughout

this process and worked with the City of Edinburgh Council to ensure that when he was ready to leave MICU, he was accommodated in a way that avoided the chaos he had experienced in the weeks following his release from prison. In tandem with that he was also referred to Housing First with a view to securing a permanent home.

Four months from the date of his admission to MICU, he got the keys to his own permanent tenancy. This would not have been possible had he not had the period of safety and support at MICU.

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa)

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa) are funded through the Local Support Fund to deliver the Community Friends drop-in service and Friendly Fresh Start. They shared this testimonial from one of their service users.

“ I had been doing well, I was clean and had my own place. Then my mother died, and everything fell apart. I relapsed back to drugs, lost my house, sofa surfed, slept on the street a few times. Where to turn? I'd heard of EACHa, so I went along.

They were very kind, gave me something to eat, a hot drink, they phoned the CREW worker from the East Ayrshire Recovery Hub. He'd had personal experience, so knew what I was going through. He said he could help. He phoned Housing Options, and a place was offered at St Andrews hostel.

I kept going to EACHa, where I could have a meal and food parcel. They also provided me with clothes and shoes. My CREW worker contacted We are with You for support with my addiction. He also told me of other groups and fellowship meetings. I went along, and with all the support I received, I'm now off drugs. I'm eating better, sleeping better, and my mental health has improved. I've been offered my own tenancy.

When I moved in, Friendly Fresh Start provided me with essential household items. Made my empty new flat feel more like a home. I appreciate the joint working between the groups - housing, addiction, recovery, the fellowship meetings. I love my new home, I'm free of my drugs addiction. Life is good!”



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

Under this outcome, we look at projects that support family members to achieve their own recovery and feel empowered to support their loved one's recovery. Projects working towards this outcome also ensure that communities affected by substance use are resilient and supportive.

91

projects contributed
to this outcome

6,940

people were supported
under this outcome

All projects funded through the Children and Families Fund meet this outcome. Some examples of the project working towards this outcome, from all National Drug Mission funds are detailed below.

Children 1st were funded to employ two additional full-time support workers to provide more intensive support to families affected by parental substance use.

As a result of this support, parents/carers have increased awareness of the risks associated with substance use, and understanding of the impact of their substance use on their children.

Circle have been funded to deliver an intensive whole-family support, therapeutic counselling, and children's resilience service across North Lanarkshire.

The service has been established in response to the complex health and social care needs experienced by children and their families because of substance use, domestic abuse, and poor mental health. The project works with

fathers released from prison to the local area, to address their practical and emotional needs. The workers have supported them to address unhelpful thinking styles and avoid reoffending.

East Ayrshire Health and Social Care

Partnership were funded to deliver a new Family Support Service, providing relational and longitudinal support to vulnerable families affected by parental substance use.

Families and their children who have accessed the Thrive service have all benefited from a range of support options, including intensive 1:1 support, diversionary activities, and community groups. These groups help to foster healthy parent-child relationships and include, Baby Massage, Mother & Toddler Groups, Book Bug, Baby Chat, and a Food Larder.

Minority Communities Addictions Support Service (MCASS) were funded to deliver the Family Life Matters project to families and individuals affected by substance use dependency in the Greater Glasgow area.

The project provides individual support, family mediation and social activities to family members. As a result of participation, families improved their confidence in supporting their loved ones and gained tools to cope better. Family members who use drugs reported feeling more confident to disclose their issues and problems without fear. Family members affected by their loved ones' addiction reported improved mental health, reduced isolation, and confidence to try new things. Reports of abusive behaviour within families has also decreased.

"I have made so many new friends, I call them my sisters. We talk to each other, and this makes me feel supported."

MCASS service user

Phoenix Futures were funded to improve their residential rehabilitation service in Glasgow through enhanced access, aftercare, and family support provision.

The funding has enabled the organisation to recruit a dedicated Family Support Worker. This worker has delivered a range of activities including weekly Family Support nights, Family Awareness sessions, Family Support Interventions and Resolution Support. They have enabled an increase in family visits and support for family members at the pre-rehab stage.

The family support groups have helped the family members to better understand their loved one's recovery and gain confidence in supporting them. For many, it was often the first time they were able to talk about their own experiences.

"I have never had the chance to speak about how I feel. In fact, I didn't even know how I really felt. I felt angry before but now I understand things a bit better. My partner is getting better but so am I".

Family support group attendee

Spiral - Creative Arts Therapies were funded to provide individual and group arts psychotherapy sessions for children and young people in kinship care due to parental substance use.

The project delivers early intervention activities to address intergenerational trauma and promote emotional healing. Art, music, and drama are used to develop a therapeutic relationship and explore emotional needs and challenges of children and young people in kinship care. The use of creative tools allows for communication and expression of experiences that participants may have no words for. Carers often participate in sessions, and this helps to improve family relationships.

Recovery Enterprises Scotland

Recovery Enterprises Scotland received a grant through the Local Support Fund to deliver frontline support to people affected by substance use, including one-to-one and group support, community outreach, a drop in service, prison in-reach, and food provision. They shared the story below with us.

“ James had suffered from addiction most of his life and on becoming a father to Simon he battled to address his issues. He would sometimes overcome them for long periods and then sadly relapse. He has always been devoted to Simon, who was placed in the care of James’s mother. She was a stable, loving influence on Simon, and supported James to maintain a healthy relationship with his son.

When James lost his mother, grief sent him spiralling back into addiction. Family members noticed a change in his behaviour, and one contacted our organisation asking for help for James and Simon.

Our team already had established a relationship with James, and we promptly arranged for him to come along to our community-based hub with Simon to assess his needs and concerns. During the discussion it became very apparent that James’s drug addiction was adversely affecting his parenting abilities. Simon was not eating set meals, he was missing school, and he was struggling with the lack of routine. We recognised the urgency of the situation and advised James that we were going to have to share our concerns.

James was initially upset about this, however when we discussed the reason for this and the support they would both receive, he realised that this was indeed the best option. We provided a safe space for James and Simon and regular contact was maintained.

James was referred to a local addiction support service who implemented a support plan. He got access to counselling to address the underlying issues contributing to his drug dependency, and he was placed on a methadone prescription. A multi-agency approach was adopted, and we collaborated with the addiction support service. The support plan focused on healing from grief, developing coping skills and building a strong support network.

Throughout the journey our team have continued to work with James attending all relevant meetings and appointments to provide support and input to his support plan. Simon's feelings were acknowledged and validated, and he received counselling and support for him to understand his father's addiction and its impact on their lives. Collectively, all organisations involved worked with Simon's school, to ensure that they were fully aware of the situation and that he

received the necessary educational and emotional support during this difficult time. Regular contact between James and Simon was facilitated to maintain their bond and encourage open communication.

James continues to embrace his journey of recovery with determination and commitment and meets support workers weekly. He is now more engaged in parenting Simon and is actively participating in his son's life. James has attended school events, helped with homework, and encourages Simon's interests and hobbies. Simon is still residing with his aunt; however he sees James on a regular basis and his emotional wellbeing has improved significantly as he sees his dad's progression. The visitation sessions have helped them to rebuild trust and strengthen their relationship."



Quarriers

Quarriers received a 5-year grant through the Children and Families Fund to provide a new specialist and intensive support service, “Our Promising Futures”, for children and families affected by parental substance use within Moray. They provided the case study below to illustrate the nature of their work.

“ C is a Kinship carer, who has care of her grandchild. She recently engaged with one of the ‘Our Promising Futures’ workers after a referral was made from within our wider Arrows service, as the grandchild was being supported by our Children and Families Team. Despite several attempts, this team had been unsuccessful at reaching out to the Kinship carer (C) who was very resistant to engaging due to a deep distrust of services based on previous negative experiences.

C has had significant trauma in her life and has adult children who have addiction and literacy issues with one currently in prison. All family members have a deep mistrust of services because of their past experiences. With dedicated time and the right approach, our worker has built a positive relationship

with C and has been able to do some practical work with the family on boundaries, routines, and consistency. Our worker has built up a relationship of trust, and C has felt able to open up about her past and the traumas she has faced. C has also felt able to accept help and support.

Until now, C had never taken her grandchild out into the community. They had never gone to the shops or other local facilities. We have provided support with parenting skills and techniques for dealing with the challenging behaviours displayed by C’s grandchild including encouraging play, talking through ways to respond and in some cases providing modelling behaviour. C has built her confidence and motivation and within just a few weeks she and her grandchild have now been shopping, engaged in craft activities and been out for a meal.

C also disclosed that she has never felt able to visit her child who is imprisoned and has asked our worker to support her with this, which is a significant step for C. C will now contact our worker when she needs

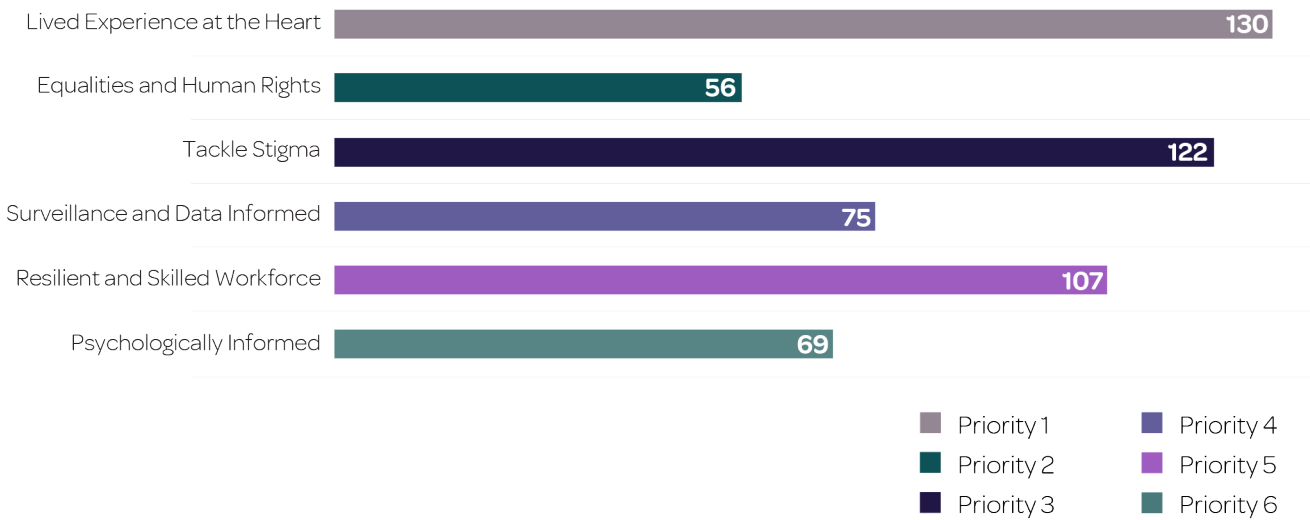
support or is struggling with family issues and commented that “With L (our worker) being involved in our lives I can now see a positive future for my grandson that I hadn’t been able to see before.”

Part 2. Cross-Cutting Priorities

In this section, we share details of projects working toward six cross-cutting priorities, as identified by the Scottish Government⁷. These six priorities are listed below.

- 1. Lived Experience at the Heart
- 2. Equalities and Human Rights
- 3. Tackle Stigma
- 4. Surveillance and Data Informed
- 5. Resilient and Skilled Workforce
- 6. Psychologically Informed

The number of projects contributing to each of the Cross Cutting priorities is shown in the table below.



⁷ Further details of the six Scottish Government’s six cross-cutting priorities can be found on the Scottish Government website- <https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-drugs-mission-plan-2022-2026/pages/4/>.

Priority 1: Lived experience at the heart

130

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

20

active members of Corra's Lived Experience Panel.

8

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

In Rights, Respect and Recovery: alcohol and drug treatment strategy⁸, 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 (NDM) funds have supported organisations that further this commitment.

Recognising this commitment and the value of lived experience, applications received for these funds were assessed by people with lived and living experience to ensure they offer services that are relevant and credible.

Most NDM funded projects recognise the importance of engaging people with lived experience in their work. In this reporting period, 130 projects have contributed to this priority. This has been achieved at various levels, with some organisations consulting people with lived experience in the development of their work, while many others have employed people with lived experience or added lived experience representation at Board level.

The NDM funds have supported several Lived Experience Recovery Organisations (LEROs). These are organisations that are established and primarily run by people with lived experience. In these organisations, people with lived experience are represented at all levels from board of trustees to management and service delivery. These include Aberdeen in Recovery, Scottish Recovery Consortium, Recovery Coaching Scotland, South Community Recovery Network, and GRACE (Group Recovery Aftercare Community Enterprise).

Many organisations have invested in the development of a lived experience workforce by creating new employment opportunities, providing training, upskilling staff, and supporting volunteers to progress to paid roles.

Organisations at earlier stages of lived experience involvement are encouraged by Corra Grant Advisors to embark on this journey and embrace this ethos.

Some examples of projects meeting this priority are detailed on the next page.

8 [Rights, Respect and Recovery: alcohol and drug treatment strategy](#) - Scottish Government - November 2018

Creative Change Collective were funded to deliver community-based 'Road to Change' workshops in Glasgow and expand their work to the residential rehabilitation settings at Abbeycare in Renfrewshire, Alternatives in West Dunbartonshire, and the family unit of Phoenix Futures in North Ayrshire.

Anonymous drama workshops delivered by Creative Change Collective have increased participants' self-esteem and confidence, improved their mental and emotional wellbeing, and helped them build new social networks. Participants were supported to progress into peer volunteering roles and drama facilitator roles within the organisation.

"I believe this saved my life. I was suicidal when I started, but now I use the tools like checking in with my inner mentor when I need to."

Road to Change participant

Change Grow Live were funded to deliver a Harm Reduction Assertive Outreach Service in Stirling, reaching vulnerable individuals who use drugs. The grant has allowed them to employ 12 Peer Harm Reduction Navigators (4 per annum) with lived experience of addiction.

The Croft (Visitors' Support & Advice Centre, HMP Barlinnie) were funded to increase the range and depth of support available to Croft service users through appointing an Outreach Development & Drugs Support Worker (ODDSW) with lived experience. The new worker has shared his experience:

"Lived experience is at the heart of our project. I, myself have lived experience, having been in addiction for several years. My own experience definitely helps me in my role. Sharing that with residents helped me to build up trust quicker and shape the service in a more person-centered way."

Elevate Glasgow were funded to support people impacted by drug use to develop both professionally and personally, by providing employability and recovery support. Elevate have staff with lived experience and provide participants with opportunities for progression onto volunteering and employment roles. Feedback from We Are With You, one of Elevate's partners has been shared below.

"We have been very pleased to work alongside the Elevate programme for the past 6 years, and see the positive impact that the programme has made to individuals and organisations. We employ several people who came to us initially through Elevate and are now in various positions across the organisation including leadership positions. Elevate have created and enhanced Lived Experience employability pathways and should be held as an example of best practice and replicated across the country."

South Lanarkshire Council were funded through the Children and Families Fund to employ Support Workers with lived experience to work with families affected by substance use. The Workers are based within the Beacon Hubs in South Lanarkshire. By creating trusting and safe relationships with the families, they help them access the support they need.

Recovery Coaching Scotland received a grant through the Local Support Fund to support the delivery of recovery coaching and training to people affected by substance use at HMP Perth, Glenochil and Shotts.

Photo courtesy of The Maxie Richards Foundation



Recovery Coaching Scotland

Recovery Coaching Scotland's designation as a Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO) underscores its profound commitment to integrating the lived experiences of both recovery and justice into its mission within prison settings. By placing lived experience at the heart of their work, the organisation operates with a deep understanding of the complexities and challenges faced by individuals navigating recovery behind bars. Peer Mentors and Recovery Coaches serve as an example of hope and transformation, offering support and guidance based on their own lived experience. The organisation shared the journey of one of their service users below.

“ L has undergone the Recovery Coaching Scotland course twice during his time at HMP Glenochil. His experience with the program has been remarkable, demonstrating significant personal growth and positive change. Through dedicated participation and application of the course principles, L has not only aided in his own recovery but has also become a source of support and guidance for his fellow residents.

L's commitment to his recovery journey led him to become a Peer Mentor within the program, assisting in the facilitation of the course for other prisoners. His firsthand experience and deep understanding of resilience, recovery strategies, and trauma-informed approaches have equipped him to effectively support and guide his peers. Moreover, L has taken the initiative to establish a small recovery community within the confines of his hall, fostering a supportive environment for those on similar paths to recovery.

His growth and success within the Recovery Coaching Scotland program has opened new doors for L. Encouraged by his newfound confidence and skills, L has enrolled in the Open University, a significant milestone in his rehabilitation journey. Equipped with knowledge in recovery capital and trauma-informed training, L has excelled in his academic pursuits, showcasing the effectiveness of the course content in empowering residents to pursue further education and personal development.

As L continues to share his learning and experiences with fellow residents, his impact extends beyond the prison walls. His journey from student to mentor serves as inspiration to his peers and the broader community, highlighting the potential for growth within the prison system. L's success story demonstrates the transformative power of rehabilitation programs like Recovery Coaching Scotland in enabling individuals to break the cycle of addiction and criminality.”

The Steeple Church: Dundee (Church of Scotland)

The Steeple Church: Dundee (Church of Scotland) received a grant for £191,444 over four years through the Local Support Fund to offer a counselling service; to recruit a male Support Worker with lived experience; and to recruit an additional part-time Parish Nurse with experience in mental health and substance use. Their new worker shared the story below.

“ I met with ‘A’ through a different service while I was providing one-to-one support to another individual. I started talking with him, and he explained to me that he was struggling with substances, and that he was not coping with the death of his father.

I asked him if he had previously had any support for his substance use and he said he did, but he had had some bad experiences with other services, and that now he finds it hard to trust people and open up to them. This was worse as he had been in and out of prison for most of his life, and living on the streets, and now he finds it really hard to trust anyone.

I explained to ‘A’ that I was previously in a similar situation. I shared my story, because he asked, and he expressed amazement at what I had overcome, and yet was free from all substance dependence. He told me he had heard of people getting free from addiction but had never met anyone who had succeeded. ‘A’ told me that he thought he might be able to trust me, and that he would try to work with me. We made an appointment for the following week when I could provide one-to-one support. He wasn’t keen to join a group, because of ‘the trust thing’.

Over the next 3 months we worked together to achieve A’s goals. They included:

- Reducing his substance use
- Getting access to his child
- Maintaining his personal care
- Maintaining some structure in his daily routines

‘A’ has now been free from OST and heroin use for some time, but is still using Pregabalin that is prescribed by his GP. He was previously not taking the Pregabalin as prescribed, buying

more in the street and abusing it most days. Now he is only taking his prescribed Pregabalin, and no other street drugs, which is sufficient to manage his pain.

I referred ‘A’ to Positive Steps housing support, as he now has a new tenancy for himself. He is now able to have his child with him, and he is responding well to the support from Positive Steps. He is engaging well with their worker, managing tasks like cleaning his home, cooking ‘proper meals’, budgeting his benefits income, and phoning up to make appointments when necessary.

‘A’ now has access to see his child twice a week and is cooperating well with his Social Worker. He’s delighted to be able to see his wee daughter again at last.

‘A’ told me that this service has given him a hope and a future again. He reckons that if he hadn’t met me that day, he’d have been back in prison again.”

Priority 2: Equalities and human rights

Projects highlighted in this section aim to ensure that people with problem substance use have the same rights as everyone else, and that these rights are respected. They ensure that specific rights of people in recovery, such as receiving treatment of their choice, are upheld. Many projects adopt a rights-based approach, assisting people to exercise these rights. These 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.

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

The projects listed below are all delivering work with an equalities and human rights focus.

Best Way Community Development were funded to deliver group workshops and support to individuals and families affected by substance use. This project is helping to reduce barriers to Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic community members who need recovery support.

Dundee Independent Advocacy Service were funded to employ two part time Independent Advocacy Support Workers to provide one-to-one advocacy for people who use drugs and their families. This independent advocacy service has a human rights ethos at its core.

Glasgow HSCP were funded to continue the delivery of the Martha's Mammies service by creating two Support Worker posts to assist women who have lost care of their children. The workers help women to understand their rights and advocate on their behalf, including at court and when engaging with other agencies. The workers also help women address their mental health problems and drug dependency.

Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action were funded to expand the Gendered Services Project which works with substance use services in Dundee, improving their understanding and implementation of a gendered approach. The project is examining gendered access as a human rights issue. It is also helping to reduce stigma and barriers to women accessing services.



Launch of Family Group
Photo courtesy of the Harbour Ayrshire

Minority Communities Addictions Support Service (MCASS) were funded to deliver the Family Life Matters project to families and individuals affected by substance use dependency in the greater Glasgow area. MCASS supports people from Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic communities, helping to bridge the gap between these communities and mainstream services, and reducing some of the barriers that people face. They provide bilingual information and translation support, helping people to access recovery services and understand their treatment options. They arrange referrals and assist people at appointments with services.

New Life Recovery Hub were funded to provide holistic, structured interventions to people who use drugs and their families. The service is run by and for people from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic communities. They support those who often don't engage with drug support services due to stigma and additional cultural barriers.

Quarriers were funded to provide a new specialist and intensive support service, "Our Promising Futures", for children and families affected by parental substance use within Moray. It is an inclusive and rights-based project, with the organisation recognising the right to equality and freedom from discrimination. This includes offering fair and equal services for all, especially those who have protected characteristics relating to age, disability, gender, marital status, pregnancy, race, religion, sex, and sexual orientation.

The Steeple Church: Dundee (Church of Scotland) were funded to continue and expand the delivery of their drop-in service run by Parish Nurses. Through the drop-in, the organisation works with various services to address people's rights to food and shelter, helping to improve their standard of living. People are treated with dignity and respect, helping to reduce stigma around substance use, addiction, homelessness, and poverty.

Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service

Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service received £170,517 over two years through the Improvement Fund to provide independent advocacy for people who use drugs in Argyll. They shared the story below with us, highlighting the human rights approach underpinning the work of their organisation.

“ An individual was referred to the Recovery Advocacy Service by their Addiction Worker. They had recently been released from prison with no fixed accommodation. On release from a HMP setting, they had contacted their local GP practice for medication to combat their addiction to substances. They were clear that they did not wish to be prescribed Methadone, however the GP suggested that this was the medication they would be prescribing from their practice and felt was the right treatment.

On speaking to the person about this, I listened to their concerns and fears. We discussed their wishes, preferences and right to treatment. We discussed the MAT standards where one of the standards

is as follows. ‘All people are supported to make an informed choice on what medication to use for MAT, and the appropriate dose’. I supported my client to call the Support Worker from the Addiction Team, helping them to put across their wishes regarding medication, as well as their reasons and preferences for this treatment and recovery choice. We also spoke to their GP about their wishes and indeed rights.

This resulted in the individual being prescribed the medication of their choice which they were clear would enable them to feel content with the treatment and feel empowered to remain abstinent of all substances. This individual has remained abstinent from all substances and is doing well in their recovery.

With the support of advocacy, we have worked together on their housing needs, and they have now moved into their own tenancy in a nice area. I supported this person with their application and spoke to the allocating officer to ensure they understood this individual's needs and took this into account.

On this matter I used the framework of human rights and the right to housing article and explained that they were more than ready to take on their own tenancy, and they need their own home for them to feel safe and secure, to grow and develop.”

Priority 3: Tackling stigma

Stigma is a major challenge faced by people who use drugs, those in recovery and their families, affecting their mental health and future prospects. 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.

To tackle drug related deaths and wider addiction issues, we need supportive, kind and compassionate communities who understand that recovery is possible, and addiction is not a choice.

122

projects reported doing work that tackles stigma

This section highlights projects with a deep understanding of the impact stigma has on people's lives and which have gone the extra mile to champion the voices of people in recovery. These organisations 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 can enrich our society.

Some of the projects delivering work towards this priority are described below.

Aberdeen in Recovery (AiR) are a Lived Experience Recovery Organisation (LERO), funded to develop Recovery Community work across Aberdeen to individuals who use drugs or who are in recovery and their families. The focus of AiR is to make recovery visible and address stigma associated with drug use. They have delivered a range of initiatives to achieve these goals. These included delivering training on stigma to GP practices; running pop-up and information sessions at the local job centre, at Aberdeen Football Club and at the NHS Vaccination Centre; hosting the 'Recovery On Air' radio show; and publishing two recovery magazines.

Elevate Glasgow were funded to deliver an employability service for people in recovery. By demonstrating the potential for positive change, the service helps reduce discrimination and stigma faced by people in recovery. Having staff and volunteers with lived experience helps build positive representations of the recovery community. To reduce stigma, Elevate showcased the work done by their participants through their networks, social media, newsletters and at meetings with the Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs), Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCPs), the Scottish Government, NHS and members of the public. The organisation provides a safe space where people don't feel judged or stigmatised for their life challenges and circumstances.

"I feel at home at Elevate, I feel everyone here, no one's judging me."

Elevate service user.

In Cahootz were funded to deliver the “Creative Programme”, including workshops in music, arts, filmmaking, and photography for people in recovery. The organisation provided numerous opportunities for people to present their work to the public. This included exhibitions, theatre performances and film screenings at major cultural venues.

Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service (LAAS)

were funded to provide independent advocacy for people who use drugs in Argyll and Bute. The organisation represents people at appointments with services, making sure they are not stigmatized and are treated fairly. LAAS have been addressing stigma in the island communities by challenging the services and raising awareness of their Recovery Project. This included community events and campaigns, building links with local services, helping to set up a Recovery Walk in Kintyre, and employing advocates with lived experience of addiction.

New Rhythms for Glasgow were funded to deliver a programme of therapeutic and creative work to women in recovery, with support

provided to family members. Each year, the creative programme offered by Recovery Rhythms culminates in a recovery dance battle. This public dance event helps address stigma related to addiction by making recovery visible. Two of their lived experienced coaches have recently appeared on Sunny Govan Radio Station to talk about their involvement in the Recovery Rhythms project and about their own personal recovery journey.

Recovery Ayr were funded to deliver the Volunteering Involvement Experience Work (VIEW) programme. The project aims to reduce stigma by making recovery visible through creating opportunities for volunteering with partner organisations across Ayrshire. A recent example includes a collaboration with Nature, a community-based arts project, where people in recovery worked with artists to revitalise disused buildings in Ayr. Using found objects, VIEW volunteers created artworks for a Christmas pop-up shop. They were then invited to be part of a 6-week outreach project run by the National Galleries of Scotland. The group is now creating an art-based roof garden, where they can put their artworks on display.

The Skylark IX Recovery Trust were funded to provide training in heritage craft (traditional boat building and wood craft) and water-based physical activities for people in recovery, supporting them to develop practical life and employability skills in a team-based environment. Workers are people with lived experience and often graduates from the programme. The organization is tackling stigma by making this project visible, with boats built being used by wider community.

Women’s Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre - Dundee & Angus (WRASAC)

were funded to establish a women’s hub in Dundee to support women with substance use problems and additional needs. The project aims to address stigma as a barrier for women in accessing services. The hub has a high tolerance policy which means women can attend under the influence and are supported to stay safe, reducing further risk. All rooms within the hub have sanitary products, toiletries, condoms, and leaflets with further information that can be taken by women with no questions asked. The hub has a small kitchen area with food and drinks that are easily accessible.

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa)

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa) received £202,975 over four years through the Local Support Fund to deliver Community Friends drop-in service and Friendly Fresh Start.

Their motto is ‘Each person matters.’ People supported by EACHa experience a lot of stigma in their lives due to negative perceptions of substance use, homelessness and poverty. People attending the drop-in can trust staff and know they will be treated fairly. A nurse attending their drop-in regularly shared her reflections of the service below.

“ As a nurse at EACHa Drop-In, I wanted to take a moment to express my deepest gratitude for the opportunity to be part of this extraordinary initiative. The collaboration between the Nurses (RMN and RGN) at EACHa Drop-In has not only allowed us to provide essential health care services to client groups disadvantaged in accessing care but has also fostered a profound sense of purpose and fulfilment in our roles.

Our presence at EACHa Drop-In signifies much more than the provision of medical care. It represents a commitment to the holistic well-being of the individuals who walk through our doors every Wednesday afternoon. The diverse challenges they face, including stigma, mental and physical health issues, injuries, addictions, and the hardships associated with poverty, require a comprehensive approach. The Drop-in, and the fantastic attitude of staff enable us to address these complex needs effectively and respectfully.

One of the most remarkable aspects of EACHa Drop-In is the collaboration with other support services. By working alongside EACHa volunteers, nursing, housing agencies, benefits services, community well-being cops, oral health professionals, and peer recovery supports, EACHa has created a network of care that extends far beyond the immediate individual presence of each agency. This multidisciplinary approach allows us as nurses to address the diverse needs of our service users comprehensively, ensuring they have

access to the resources and support systems necessary for their well-being.

Each service user has unique needs, and the multi-agency attendance expands our knowledge of the available resources to guide service users towards the support they require.

I would be remiss not to mention the immense gratitude we feel towards EACHa Drop-In for their unwavering support and hospitality. The provision of food parcels and clothing signifies more than mere sustenance and comfort. In an area plagued by poverty and the current cost of living crisis, these resources play a vital role in alleviating the hardships faced by our service users.”

Priority 4: Surveillance and data informed

Organisations funded through the National Drugs Mission typically have strong monitoring and evaluation systems in place. These gather both qualitative and quantitative data to ensure the best decisions are made for their service and service users. Projects which have been funded were able to evidence the need for, and effectiveness of their services, using public health data, data from their service delivery to date, and feedback from their service users, partners, and stakeholders.

75

projects reported delivering data informed work

To ensure that all funded projects gather relevant data to evidence the impact and effectiveness of their services, Corra requests that each organisation creates their own Evaluation Planning Grid at the outset of their project. In this document, grant holders detail the outcomes, indicators, outputs, and targets that will be used as benchmarks to gauge if their methods of support make positive changes to people's lives, and if the project has been successful.

Throughout the National Drugs Mission, funded projects have provided excellent examples of data sharing and information gathering supported by partnership working. Projects use local knowledge to ensure a joined-up approach in identifying and supporting those individuals most at risk of drug related harm.

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

Quarriers are funded through the Children and Families Fund to provide a new specialist and intensive support service, Our Promising Futures,

for children and families affected by parental substance use within Moray. One of the workers involved in the delivery of this project stated-

"Our Promising Futures project takes a whole family and person-centered approach. It is coproduced and puts the children and families' voices at the heart of everything.

Children and families have been involved in the design and implementation of Promising Futures, and they evaluate the project as it is delivered, to continually improve and enhance the support and activities being offered.

They collect both quantitative and qualitative data, such as attendance records at group sessions, number of families engaging, number of referrals, and case studies which demonstrate personal and family outcomes. Through effective monitoring they can identify at an early stage where families may need additional support, and in partnership with families, create holistic and tailored support plans which meet their needs."

North East Recovery Community, Northwest Recovery Community and South Community Recovery Network are Recovery Communities based in Glasgow. They are funded through the Improvement Fund to employ two full-time Outreach Workers per Recovery Community, to engage and support vulnerable individuals, who are at significant risk of drug-related harm. They support them into and through treatment and onwards on their recovery journey.

The three Recovery Communities are supported by, and work in partnership with, the statutory Drug and Alcohol Services in their locality, which is the main source of referrals. They work together to support the vulnerable individuals impacted by addiction. All Outreach Workers use their local knowledge to identify individuals that have disengaged; who are at high risk of drug related harm; or who have relapsed. There is good cross referral between these projects, enabling a whole-system approach.

Recovery Enterprises Scotland is funded through the Local Support Fund to deliver frontline support to people affected by substance use, including one-to-one and group

support, community outreach, a drop-in service, prison in-reach and food provision.

By adopting a data-informed focus within their services, they have been able to gather information on substance use trends, treatment efficacy, and rehabilitation outcomes.

They report: “Evaluation and adaptation have been essential components in raising awareness of support services available in our locality. Collecting data has allowed us to assess the effectiveness and reach of our support services. This data has included the number of individuals served, demographics, satisfaction levels, and outcomes. We have been able to identify the strengths of our support services and areas that need improvement. By recognising what’s working and what’s not, we have adapted our awareness-raising strategies accordingly.”

Besides regular feedback and surveys, suggestions and complaints procedures, the organisation has recently established a peer-led Advisory Group. This allows the team to have in-depth discussions with people accessing their service, and delve into specific aspects of support required. The organisation facilitates

multidisciplinary crisis meetings, which provide invaluable multi-agency local knowledge.

Transform Forth Valley are funded through the Local Support Fund to support people in Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling who are vulnerable and who use substances to access the services that best meet their needs.

Transform Forth Valley work closely with Police Scotland and are Police Scotland’s dedicated referrer for the Vulnerable Person’s Database (VPDS) regarding substance related harms. These referrals are picked up by the Assertive Outreach Service across Forth Valley.

Turning Point Scotland

Turning Point Scotland are funded through the Improvement Fund to extend the existing WAND outreach initiative currently operating in Glasgow City Centre, to other locality areas in Glasgow (North East, North West and South), East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire.

WAND service provides Wound Care, Assessment of Injecting Risk, Naloxone and Overdose Awareness, and Dry Blood Spot Testing for Hep C and HIV.

Staff members attend monthly meetings with Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) for Glasgow, East Renfrewshire, and East Dunbartonshire. At each of these, staff members discuss the progress of the service, and gather intelligence on potential trends in near-fatal overdoses, drug-related deaths, and drug use.

This information informs the plans at the weekly co-ordination meeting, including which areas the vans will be travelling to that week. Each week, following a co-ordination meeting, a weekly “roundup” of van locations for the following week

is sent out to over 200 partners, including B&Bs, pharmacies, health centres, community police, and commissioned services.

Staff from the service also regularly attend ROSC (Recovery-Oriented Systems of Care) events within the community. These events allow for the development of partnerships between the service and recovery communities. These events occur in different areas every six weeks. As well as this, staff members have brought the clinical van to events such as Recovery Connects, Recovery Walk Scotland, and Overdose Awareness Week, so service workers and potential service users alike can see first-hand what the mobile harm reduction service does.

We Are With You were funded through the Improvement Fund to develop an Assertive Peer Support Service (AO Team) working across Dumfries and Galloway to support people to engage with treatment and recovery services.

We Are With You have established a joint working partnership with NHS colleagues, who have designated nurses linked to this project. A meeting takes place each morning between

both parties, to look at and discuss any new cases identified. Information is supplied from the hospital, ambulance service, and police concern forms, which are passed to the local ADP and then sent to the AO Team in the form of a spreadsheet, giving details of the circumstances of each individual case.

Prison Liberations are passed to the NHS and are brought to this meeting, due to the high risk of overdose. Mainstream staff from We Are With You and the NHS pass on details for any service user they work with, where they have concerns about their wellbeing. After a period of support from the AO Team, they will encourage the service user to link in with mainstream services and if in agreement, they will inform the relevant staff.

Justice Social Work have also become closely involved with the project and are now attending the morning meetings to pass information they may hold regarding high-risk individuals.

Priority 5: Resilient and skilled workforce

Funded organisations generally have good support, training, and learning development plans in place for their staff. Their reports highlight the importance of having well trained and supported staff for ensuring that people with substance use issues receive high quality care and treatment. This was particularly evident for the organisations who employ individuals with lived experience of substance use and addiction.

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projects invested in skills
development of their workforce

It was also clear from the progress reports sent in by our grant holders, the value of having in place well trained, and supported volunteers. Many of these volunteers are in recovery from addiction and want to give something back to their communities. Volunteering supports these individuals to sustain their recovery, to grow in confidence, improve self-esteem and to use their learning and training towards future educational and employment opportunities in the health and social care sector.

Organisations reported training their staff and volunteers in areas such as CRAFT (Community Reinforcement and Family Training), SMART Recovery, Decider Skills, Trauma Informed Practice, Child Protection, Mental Health First Aid, Naloxone provision, and Harm Reduction.

Some examples of the projects delivering work towards this priority are detailed below.

Blue Triangle in North Lanarkshire are funded through the Improvement Fund to deliver an intensive Floating Support Service, supporting individuals to move into, settle and remain in their properties and to engage in treatment and recovery.

Staff members are trained in administering Naloxone. They are able to deliver workshops to those they support and others within the community on how to administer Naloxone. This increases awareness of the benefits of Naloxone and the impacts of overdose for those using drugs. Staff members have also facilitated Harm Reduction sessions, engaging with young people in the Blue Triangle Viewpark Project, to spread information around the effects and impacts of drug use, with the aim of reducing harm.

Scottish Drugs Forum are funded through the Improvement Fund to extend the reach and delivery of their Addiction Workers Training Programme to people with lived and living experience of addiction across Scotland.

The Addiction Workers Training Programme is focused on workforce development. People with lived experience of substance dependency are recruited and supported, through paid internships to take up roles as addiction workers and gain qualifications. The project provides alternative employment pathways for people with lived and living experience, including people engaged in residential and drug treatment services.

Change Grow Live are funded through the Improvement Fund to support the delivery of a Harm Reduction Assertive Outreach Service in Stirling, reaching vulnerable individuals who use drugs. They have recruited four Peer Harm Reduction Navigators, all of whom completed induction and mandatory training.

Two Peer Harm Reduction Navigators are currently undertaking their SVQ 2 in Health and Social Care. In addition to training and workshops, each Peer Navigator is paired with a designated mentor from the Change Grow Live Harm Reduction Team. One-to-one support is given on a fortnightly basis in the first 3 months of their employment before moving to monthly sessions, with a personal appraisal every quarter.

“Change Grow Live supported me to get to where I am today and gave me opportunities that I wouldn’t get anywhere else, by volunteering whilst still in service and moving on into paid employment as a Peer. It has given me the opportunity to give back the help I was given.”

Peer Harm Reduction Navigator





Northwest Recovery Community based in Glasgow are funded through the Improvement Fund to employ two full-time Outreach Workers. They engage and support vulnerable individuals in the community who are at high risk of drug related harm, supporting them into and through treatment.

The Project Manager for the statutory Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service has been training the Northwest Recovery Community staff, enhancing their knowledge and skills. The aim is to upskill the outreach team so they will be confident and effective in supporting people to reduce harm; attend harm reduction training; look at treatment options; and understanding medical assisted treatment for drugs.

Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre - Dundee & Angus (WRASAC) are funded to create a women's hub in Dundee to support women with substance use issues.

All staff are supported in their roles. They received comprehensive training and development opportunities to help them with the skills required to complete their roles in a competent and confident way. This has included LGBTQ+ awareness training; safety and stabilisation training (NHS National Trauma training Level 3); ritual abuse and dissociation training; and Scottish Drug Forum training. To support staff with the difficult work that they manage, linking to sexual violence and supporting women facing multiple disadvantages, Dundee Women's Hub provides them with an 8-week program of support and development days with allocated time each Wednesday morning, to support them with their wellbeing and prevent burnout and vicarious trauma. All members of the team are provided with an external clinical supervision once a month.

Positive Steps Partnership

Positive Steps Partnership in Dundee have received funding through the Improvement Fund to deliver a new Crisis Response Outreach Service (CROS) to people using substances.

They have compiled needs and risks assessments to ensure both staff and individuals are safe. This was done to reflect Trauma Informed Practice. Staff have attended training on several important courses which has allowed basic knowledge around complex issues and will be encouraged to expand and upskill throughout the project.

The case study below gives the perspective of one of the workers around the complexity in supporting their service users. It demonstrates how a resilient, well-trained staff member was able to provide the necessary support.

“ The Crisis Response Outreach Service (CROS) received a referral from the local social work department regarding client G. The referrer had stated that there was non engagement from G despite several attempts to make contact. There was great cause for concern because G had not been in contact to get their child, and this was unusual. Referral had also tried to make contact through telephone and letter, however had no response.

The CROS Team reached out by telephone and text message, introducing themselves and the service, however, G did not reply. The Team then went to G's door there was no answer, however there was a dog barking within the home. A letter was left with contact details. While visiting the home it was visible that the front window was smashed and boarded up. The Team went back days later as there was still no contact. When arriving at the home the dog was barking, we shouted through letter box explaining who we were. The door was then opened the person had explained that they were minding the house and dog for a friend, contact information was left again.

The Team attempted contact again a few days later. There was no answer at the door however on leaving the home, the person who had opened the door previously was in the street. The name of G was called, and the person answered, therefore the individual that was at the door was in fact G. When talking, G then explained they were in a hole that they could not see a way out. The Team arranged to visit G at home however, when they next arrived there was no answer. A letter was posted explaining several attempts of contact had been made. CROS would visit the following week if still no contact they would close the case.

Shortly after receiving the letter, contact was made, and a visit arranged. A needs and risk assessment were compiled, and consent was signed to enable adequate, wrap around support. Going forward CROS supported G to contact the repair department regarding windows getting fixed. Also, CROS contacted the referrer to explain that there has been engagement. The Team advocated on Gs' behalf when a visit was set up between CROS, G, social work, and G's child. This went well.

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The Team supported G to engage with her GP, and she is now visiting the GP on a weekly basis. G is now on the appropriate medication, engaging and having regular contact with her child. She has upcoming appointments which CROS will accompany them to. CROS have been receiving and engaging with updates from the referrer and social work.”



Venture on to Recover - Gorge Walking
Photo courtesy of Venture Scotland

Priority 6: Psychologically informed

There is a recognised connection between trauma and addiction⁹, with substance use often working as a coping mechanism to manage mental health issues. Projects funded through the National Drugs Mission understand that combining addiction and mental health support is an effective way to tackle underlying causes of both issues¹⁰.

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projects specifically addressed mental health in recovery.

While some projects delivered traditional psychological support, such as person-centred counselling, trauma therapy, cognitive behavioural therapy or art therapy, others embedded the principles of trauma-informed and psychologically informed practice into their wider recovery services. Some grants focused on improving pathways and access to psychological support, while others supported projects to upskill their staff in this area. Many organisations recognised the impact of peer support and social connections on mental health and created opportunities for people to reconnect with others.

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

Addictions Counselling Inverness are funded through the Local Support Fund to provide talking therapy and therapeutic group work programmes to people who use drugs who are in recovery and their families.

Circle are funded to deliver intensive whole family support, therapeutic counselling and a children's resilience service in North Lanarkshire. This is 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.

Edinburgh Community Yoga are funded through the Local Support Fund to deliver a new trauma-informed yoga programme for people in recovery. The teaching team represents people with lived experience of trauma, Adverse Childhood Experiences, mental health issues, homelessness, addiction, substance use issues and neurodivergence. Classes require a trauma-informed approach, this means offering a lot of choice and options and supporting individual agency for the participants to decide themselves in the way they use their body and breath.

9 Zarse, E. M., et al (2019). The adverse childhood experience questionnaire: Two decades of research on childhood trauma as a primary cause of adult mental illness, addiction, and medical diseases. *Cogent Medicine*, 6, 1581447.

10 Turner, S, et al. (2018). Self-medication with alcohol or drugs for mood and anxiety disorders: A narrative review of the epidemiological literature. *Depress Anxiety*. 2018 Sep; 35(9): 851–860.

NHS Fife Addictions Psychological Therapies

Service (APTS) are funded through the Improvement Fund to embed the delivery of Tier 1 to 4 Psychological Interventions into Fife Intensive Rehabilitation and Substance Use Team (FIRST). FIRST is a third sector addiction support service.

APTS have trained and provided coaching and clinical supervision to FIRST Staff to deliver Tier 1 and 2 Psychosocial Trauma informed interventions to individuals engaging and accessing their Services. 14 staff have completed the NES Trauma e-module training and motivational interviewing training. 13 staff completed Safety and Stabilisation Training. All staff have attended eight 2.5 hour coaching sessions and one to one clinical supervision.

Quarriers are funded through the Children and Families Fund to provide a new specialist and intensive support service, Our Promising Futures, for children and families affected by parental substance use within Moray.

Our Promising Futures project is a psychologically and trauma informed project.

They recognise that many people who access this project will have experienced trauma and co-occurring mental health challenges, therefore they recognise the importance of psychosocial support as a fundamental element of supporting people in their recovery.

UK SMART Recovery are funded through the Local Support Fund to deliver SMART Recovery Programmes in Scotland to veterans who are impacted by drug and alcohol use, alongside group programmes for their family and friends.

SMART Recovery is a unique, secular, science based programme, that provides tools and techniques to empower people to start and maintain recovery from addiction. Their programmes are peer-led and facilitated by trained volunteers who have lived experience of addiction.

Their programmes help individuals to build and maintain motivation, to cope with urges, to manage thoughts, feelings, and behaviours and to live a balanced life where they are abstinent. Their programmes are therapeutic, using both CBT and motivational interviewing tools to enable individuals to recover from addiction and to achieve abstinence.



Liber8 Lanarkshire

Liber8 Lanarkshire are funded to provide trauma therapy to people with substance dependence and their families.

This funding has allowed Liber8 to continue to provide one-to-one counselling for people experiencing trauma and alcohol/substance use issues, delivered by two dedicated therapists. Due to the complexity of the client's presentation it's not unusual for clients to require 20 or more weekly sessions. 52 people received specialist one-to-one trauma therapy in the reporting period.

One of the Liber8 workers shared the following case study, illustrating the psychologically informed therapeutic support offered to one person.

“ Client K self-referred to STAR and was assessed by STAR therapist. The assessment process identified a history of trauma from an extremely abusive and coercively controlling ex-husband.

She described intense feelings of fear, guilt, and shame. She had become isolated from her family and friends and lived with her

daughter, who had also struggled with some serious mental health issues.

K had previous experience of support services and described 'being failed by them'. She was somewhat resistant to revisiting her own history, describing herself as having very high walls.

She set her goals as 'just want to get on with my life', to leave her past in the past and to potentially have a new relationship.

K's ex-husband had recently been released from prison, and K had just moved house, so we established her boundaries and worked hard on strategies that looked at her regaining her right to be left alone. K worked out a management of boundaries plan that she reinforced with her daughter to give her the confidence to enforce this.

Safety and stabilisation took several weeks with K, but once established it allowed for some very powerful and releasing work to be done. The client was physically and emotionally exhausted but refused to look at having time off work to recover, as she

upheld the belief that if she didn't work, she would lose everything and 'be back in the gutter where he had put her'.

Again, we gently cognitively restructured these beliefs, and the client went to the doctor and took 4 weeks off her work. That was the turning point for her. She was able to physically rest.

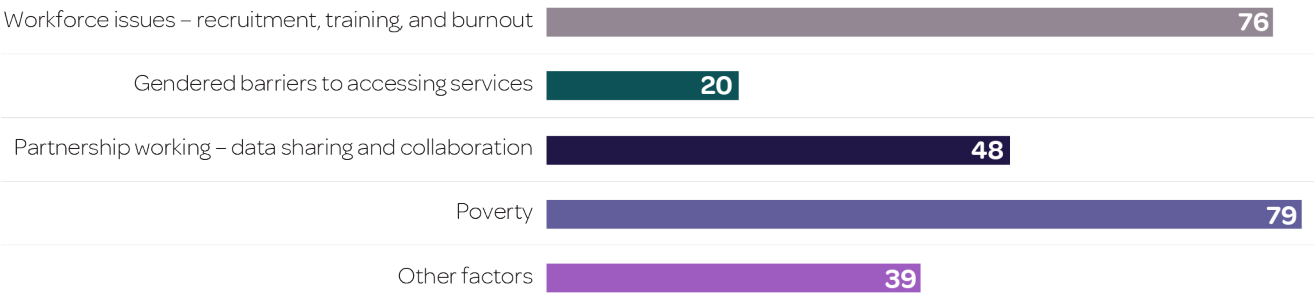
K shared how much better she felt having time off, she had made so many positive changes and we were then able to look at her previous isolation. K attended her sessions on a Friday and on these days, there was a women's group run by SAOIRSE at Liber8. She decided to attend a session after her therapy one day, and shared her experience the following week. There was a sense of a shift and a reclaiming of herself, and we reflected this. She was also very reflective that others had similar stories to herself, and she could see a whole new perspective of the abuse being his behaviour and her response being survival.”

Part 3. Challenges

In this section, we provide an insight into several external factors (challenges) negatively affecting project delivery over the past year and detail the innovative approaches that funded projects have been using to overcome these factors. Every funded project will have experienced challenges in the delivery of their work. However, many grant holders have reported a range of challenges which have had a significant and direct impact on both their service delivery and people they support. The most frequently reported challenges are listed below.

- 1. **Workforce issues** – recruitment, training, and burnout.
- 2. **Gendered barriers** to accessing services.
- 3. **Partnership working** – data sharing and collaboration.
- 4. **Poverty**.

The table below shows the number of projects reporting they were impacted by each of these external challenges.



Challenge 1: Workforce issues – recruitment, training and burnout

Just over one-third (38%) of grant holders reported challenges with recruitment, staff burnout, or staff training.

The most prevalent challenge related to filling new or vacant posts, with 62 grant holders citing recruitment as a significant issue impacting the delivery of their work.

76

projects reported workforce challenges

The main barriers to successful recruitment, as reported by funded projects, are listed below.

1. lack of qualified/experienced staff within the sector
2. geographical restrictions on the workforce pool
3. lack of training or suitable rates of pay for qualified staff
4. lack of candidates with lived experience and
5. lack of long-term sustainable funding to support staff retention.

The organisations below have given their permission to share details of the workforce challenges they have experienced.

My Support Day have reflected on their experience with recruitment: “Recruiting a worker for the post has been difficult and this has stalled the project for more than 6 months.”

The DRC Youth Project, said, “[the organisation] had challenges recruiting the right person to lead on this work who had both recovery and group work experience.”

Addictions Counselling Inverness have expanded on this issue further: “It has been challenging. The Highlands, with its remote and rural areas, presents unique challenges in attracting and retaining staff. The limited local workforce and the appeal of urban areas for professionals can make recruitment difficult.”

Due to the challenges with recruitment and retention, 12 projects (9%) reported a delay or gap in service delivery. However, our management of the NDM grants tells us this issue has impacted a greater proportion of these projects than those who specifically reported it. Some of the solutions deployed by grant holders to address this are listed below.

1. **persistence in recruiting** – grant holders reported having to conduct multiple rounds of recruitment to find a suitable appointee;
2. **restructuring staff posts** – such as restructuring two part-time posts into one full-time post to prevent further delay;
3. **increasing the salary offered for vacant roles** – this often came at the expense of other project budget areas.

Thirteen grant holders reported a lack of training, or difficulties in accessing the right training for staff. Specific training needs that were highlighted included, whole family approaches, trauma-informed practice, and volunteer management.

In supporting and retaining workers with lived experience, there were several projects that highlighted challenges and complexities around the recruitment, support and retention of lived experience staff.

One of the grant holders has reflected on three unsuccessful recruitment rounds: “This might be due to increase in peer and lived experience roles available across the sector, perhaps demand for workers is greater than the pool of available workers. The vacancy was shared with rehabs and agencies with strong volunteering programmes. Unfortunately, there was no uptake. Interviews have taken place, but candidates didn’t meet the criteria.” As a result, the organisation has removed lived experience as essential criteria, and is now looking at lived experience as an optional characteristic.

Another organisation has focussed on the importance of ongoing support for those with lived experience and the risk of worker burnout.

“The role of a Peer Worker, supporting people at high risk of overdose, self-harm, and drug-related death has proved to be very challenging and requires people who are very strongly grounded in their own recovery. In our experience they must have sufficient resilience, combined with self-awareness of their own limitations, as well as a clear understanding of the limitations of their roles”

Service Manager

Challenge 2: Gendered barriers to access

According to the [Scottish Public Health Observatory](#), only 28% of people accessing drugs services in 2022/23 were women. By contrast, women accounted for 34% of drug deaths in 2022¹¹.

Twenty projects reported gendered barriers to accessing support, affecting them, partner organisations and crucially, those they support. The majority have highlighted broader systemic and cultural issues behind these barriers.

20
projects reported challenges
because of gendered barriers
to service provision.

Dundee ADP have highlighted that, although there has been a decrease in the number of men's drug deaths, there has been no decrease in the number of drug deaths amongst women which is a concern. The decrease in men's deaths but not in women's deaths is a more recent national trend. As part of the Gendered Services Project in Dundee, delivered by **Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action (DVVA)**, the Project Manager will take a multi-agency approach to understand and address the issue, identifying unique challenges, needs and substance use patterns among women who use drugs.

Grant holders have highlighted barriers to support and engagement for women. This could be due to a lack of awareness of support services among statutory health service providers, lack of diversity among staff, fear of stigma, and lack of confidence.

One organisation described a local GP practice which had shared no information about the community-based support services available in the area with a woman seeking support.

Despite the information having been shared on several occasions by the organisation and partners, the GP service reported no knowledge of the options available to women.

Another organisation noted that having an "all-male team has meant that they are, currently unable to have successful initial engagement with women."



Photo courtesy of The Maxie Richards Foundation

¹¹ [Drug-related deaths in Scotland in 2023](#). National Records of Scotland. August 2024

Glasgow Council for Alcohol reflected on the difficulties of initial engagement with women who are “experiencing isolation, loneliness, poor self-esteem and low self-confidence and who may be living in fear, suffer from crippling anxiety and find it difficult to meet new people.” The organisation has implemented trauma-informed practices, including broadening the range of locations in which women are met, moving away from an office/professional environment to build rapport and develop a supportive relationship with the women.

G20 Works and Positive Steps Partnership

cited partnership working and collaboration as effective approaches to tackle challenges around engagement.

Childcare was noted as a challenge which was disproportionately affecting women. Some organisations have developed solutions to address this issue.

My Support Day provide a homework club to facilitate engagement with family support.

Bluevale Community Club run a youth club to support mothers’ engagement in the Women’s Mental Health Group. They have also reflected on the wide impact of poverty affecting many of families. One mother who attended their recovery service gave the quote below.

“I was really worried how I would cope with feeding and doing things with my daughter during summer holidays. Having a place she can go to and get nutritious food and play has been a godsend, I have seen such a difference in her and I have been able to get time to attend recovery meetings. It really has helped”.

Though the inequalities affecting women were by far the greatest barriers and challenges for projects, gendered barriers to accessing services can affect men too. It was noted in one report, from **Circle’s** fathers-focussed project delivered in HMP Addiewell, that fathers feel they are not fully recognised as parents and need further support to fulfil their roles.

Some examples of other projects implementing solutions to tackle gendered barriers to services are detailed below.

Turning Point Scotland have implemented new policies and procedures to ensure the presence of female support staff.

“Another vulnerable group we support are women, and specifically [women involved with selling or exchanging sex] who inject drugs. These are vulnerable women, and they often feel unsafe around men, especially when showing wounds which may be in intimate places. To ensure safety and comfort of this group, we initiated a policy which states that in the [harm reduction outreach] van, there must be at least one woman, especially if we have organised support for a woman. We have received verbal reports that just this small change has made many women feel more comfortable.”

Turning Point staff member

PART 3: CHALLENGES

Some organisations provide female-only groups and services.

- **North-East Recovery Community** run a female only recovery café,
- **Street Connect** offer women's support groups,
- **New Rhythms for Glasgow** deliver a programme of therapeutic and creative work for women in recovery,
- while **Blue Triangle** provide SMART Recovery Programmes for women only.

Some services have been established to support women's specific needs and challenges.

Martha's Mammies, run by **Glasgow Health and Social Care Partnership**, assists women who have lost care of their children, helping them to rebuild community and family support.

Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre - Dundee & Angus (WRASAC) have established a multi-agency Dundee Women's Hub, where women can access support for substance use, gender-based violence, homelessness, mental health, isolation, and trauma. The case study below highlights WRASAC's work.



Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre - Dundee & Angus (WRASAC)

Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre - Dundee & Angus (WRASAC), have shared the following case study, as recorded by one of their workers.

“ Dawn (not her real name) is a woman in her 30s who was liberated from prison after a custodial sentence. Dawn has experienced significant trauma in her life, including domestic abuse, sexual abuse and exploitation, substance use and homelessness. She has a very limited support network.

After the initial support sessions, I had not heard from Dawn for several weeks, despite several attempts. We believed that she no longer had a phone, and we knew she had returned to a controlling relationship. Dawn was known to increase her substance use when with her partner. Other support agencies didn't hear from her either. I was eventually able to reach her through her local pharmacy, and supported her to attend the Dundee Women's Hub (DWH) on the same day.

Within DWH, Dawn received substantial multi-agency support that would not have been possible without the effective collaboration of partner organisations. The following support was provided within 2 hours:

- Dundee City Council Housing provided support to withdraw her eviction notice and ensure her housing application was up to date. This meant Dawn was now no longer at risk of immediate homelessness.
- Brooksbank supported her to access emergency gas and electricity funds; apply for Adult Disability Payment; and to liaise with Universal Credit. This meant Dawn avoided being sanctioned and was able to reduce her reliance on her partner.
- 'Vice Versa' support to contact her GP regarding her physical and mental health. A plan was put in place to support her to attend her appointments.
- DWH provided emergency food and clothing for that day. A foodbank referral was submitted for the following day.

Dawn has remained in contact with Vice Versa and DWH, and her support plan is still in place. She has been accessing support from Dundee Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service (DDARS) whilst in DWH. Through the Victim Surcharge Fund, she was able to access a bus pass, as she had disclosed that she was relying on her partner to fund travel, sometimes restricting her movements.

Dawn has now been offered a permanent tenancy which will make a considerable difference to her safety and wellbeing.”

Challenge 3: Data sharing and other barriers to collaborative working

48

projects reported barriers to collaborative working.

13

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

14

projects reported challenges relating to referral pathways.

For the projects reporting barriers relating directly to data sharing, the most prominent challenge was obtaining data from statutory partners. This often caused a delay or barrier to the referral processes and effective service delivery. While some restrictions in data sharing have been mutually recognised, some organisations felt that a greater willingness to collaborate could resolve these issues. Sometimes partner organisations had conflicting views on what data they are allowed to share, leading to further challenges.

Most projects reporting issues with referral pathways talked about challenges when working with statutory agencies, such as Health, Education, Social Work, and Alcohol and Drug Partnerships. However, some have also included third sector partners.

Collaborative working has presented a major challenge for the sector. Some organisations have indicated that at times, poor collaboration resulted in ineffective utilisation of resources. For example, late cancellation or non-attendance of professionals from partner organisations meant there was limited staff capacity for service delivery. Another issue was partner organisations

not fully utilising their allocated spaces within other services that they had reserved. Some of our grant holders' experiences are detailed below.

"Another challenge has been with receiving referrals from the NHS. We recently learned that our current online form is no longer compatible with the NHS systems and referrals are therefore not being received. We have offered some other ways to refer on our website, which has resulted in a couple referrals coming in, but we would like to see more. We plan in the new year to visit each GP surgery separately with clear instructions on how to refer patients as we are keen to see this line of signposting happening."

Third sector provider

"The buy in from services has been challenging at times. Many services have stated that this is a great project, yet we don't have many referrals coming from external agencies."

Third sector provider



Photo courtesy of The Scheme Livi

“There has been a lull in moving forward with residential provision which continues to be frustrating. We await the tender document to apply for inclusion on the Residential Providers List which was meant to go live at the beginning of May, for an announcement in August, followed by a tendering for the services on the Providers List that would be announced in November. This is already an overlong process, and we are currently running with a 20-25% vacancy. This is at a time when residential placement beds are scarce, yet many ADPs have yet to agree even interim arrangements for referral pathways.”

Residential Rehabilitation provider

“Delivering outreach workshops to some of our partner organisations can be challenging as we have no control over recruitment for the workshops and sometimes attendance at these workshops can be lower than expected. This is difficult to rectify or improve as ultimately the partner organisation is in control of recruitment. However, we have spoken to those projects with whom this happens, and we have agreed that taster workshops to established groups within their organisation may be a better way to increase participation.”

Recovery workshop provider

PART 3: CHALLENGES

Grant holders reflected on progress in overcoming these barriers, and some provided positive examples of collaboration.

Bluevale Community Club said “One success we have had is referrals through the Justice System Social Workers. This has allowed us to work with Social Workers who have allowed service users to complete community service hours within our recovery setting. This has been amazing for us, and we have seen great improvements in those attending. Through a combined approach, we have had NHS Health Improvement team and SAMH workers attend our services. This has been a great experience using mainstream services alongside our own services.”

We have received many success stories of effective collaboration from National Drugs Mission grant holders. Further analysis of these will be conducted to identify trends and models of good practice that could potentially replicated by others.



Challenge 4: Poverty – benefits advice, income maximization, providing food and basic needs

A significant proportion of projects supported through the National Drugs Mission Funds indicated that poverty was the key underlying issue for individuals impacted by substance use. It often presented a significant barrier to engagement and recovery.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to impact people across Scotland. Many of our funded projects indicated that substance use cannot be addressed in isolation; it is compounded by poverty, poor mental health, trauma, and homelessness.

79

projects reported challenges related to poverty.

Financial issues and stigma associated with poverty often stops people from seeking support and accessing services, which has been reflected in the reports from our grant holders.

Several projects funded through the National Drugs Mission provide direct support to people who face poverty. These include **East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa), Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau, Community Help and Advice Initiative (CHAI), Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service, Freedom Fighters, Positive Steps Partnership, Aberlour's Hub in Dumfries, The Steeple Church: Dundee (Church of Scotland), Glasgow City Mission, Just Bee Productions, and Bluevale Community Club**. These organisations offer drop-ins with hot meals, food parcels/foodbank provision, community cafés, street outreach and access to housing, benefits, income maximization, and fuel/energy support.

Homelessness and insecure accommodation have been often cited as major challenges affecting people's recovery. **East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action, Blue Triangle, Health in Mind, Street Connect, Dundee Survival Group, Simon Community Scotland, The Salvation Army's Hub in Cambuslang, The Steeple Church: Dundee (Church of Scotland)** are examples of funded organisations that offer focussed support those affected by both substance use and homelessness.

Many projects reported that it is essential that services are holistic in the support that they offer. They believe that to effectively address broader issues, such as finances and debt, organisations need to work in partnership. Many of them already have good referral pathways in place to local Citizen Advice Bureaus, Independent Advocacy, Money Advice and the DWP.

Some examples of good collaborative work done around the issue of poverty is detailed below.

East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action (EACHa):

“If it wasn’t for EACHa and the Howard Centre, I don’t know how I’d get by. It’s the only time I eat”. Another stated, “The drop in is the only place where I can get a hot home-cooked meal and usually a wee cake.”

Service user

Glasgow City Mission:

“The majority of our referrals come from people who first come to us for food and stay on for advocacy support. Over the winter, we had referrals from people we first met at our Overnight Welcome Centre.”

Glasgow City Mission worker

Elevate Glasgow:

“The majority of participants we support are on benefits. Some struggle with paying off loans and debt they have accrued before starting their recovery journey. For many, transport is a big barrier to engagement and employment, with the cost constantly increasing. For this reason, we carry out a lot of community outreach appointments to ensure we are accessible. A lack of IT equipment is a huge barrier to employment for many of our participants, with many feeling embarrassed that when they do get access to IT, for example in a public library, they are unsure of how to use it. We work closely with these participants to build up their confidence using IT, where we can get access to it. Many come to us struggling to put food on the table, it is impossible to begin to work on employability skills if the basic needs are not able to be met. We work closely with a local foodbank, providing tokens for food parcels to try to combat this issue.”

Elevate worker

Bluevale Community Club:

“Through partner organisations we can offer money and debt support as well as housing advice. Over the past 12 months we have seen an increase in individuals attending our service who require support, with 95% of individuals requesting financial support and support to access food. The cost of living crisis has had a huge effect on those who are attending our services. We have found a lot of individuals have engaged with recovery through just attending for a warm space and free meal.”

Bluevale Manager

Minority Communities Addictions Support Service (MCASS):

“We have seen an increase in service users struggling with food poverty, fuel poverty and cost of living crisis.”

MCASS Manager

Transform Forth Valley reported:

“People we support in more rural areas cannot afford the two or three public buses to attend mainstream services. We assist them to get a bus pass. We are discussing the situation with other services, and suggesting satellite clinics, requesting online sessions with support to provide the technology and connectivity.”

Turning Point Scotland shared:

“The majority of the people we support are homeless at point of contact, as we visit B&Bs and residential services in which people stay. Over winter, we provided warm drinks to the people we support, which several clients said made them feel respected and actually cared for. Making someone feel humanised in the support we do has been a key part of person-centred care and harm reduction.”

Photo courtesy of The Maxie Richards Foundation



Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB)

Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) receive funding through the Improvement Fund to embed a Specialist CAB Advice service in addiction services across Forth Valley. They shared the following case study.

“ Client B was referred to the CAB Specialist service by Change Grow Live Recovery Services for support to appeal a PIP decision made by the DWP. B was originally on Enhanced Rate PIP and had been on this rate for several years, however the client had been issued a PIP review form which the client completed herself, stating there was no change in her circumstances. B was supposed to attend a medical, but due to mental health issues, was unable to attend. The client was then given a telephone assessment, however due to the client’s mental health and substance use, she got confused and was quite incoherent and was unable to answer the questions asked at the medical. She then received a letter from the DWP to say that she had been awarded Standard Rate PIP not Enhanced PIP that she had previously been on.

The client decided to contact the DWP herself to place a Mandatory Reconsideration by telephone. She was unaware that the information that she was relaying to the DWP could be detrimental and the client lost her award completely.

The client then contacted the CAB Specialist Addiction Service through Change Grow Live to see if she could get support to appeal her PIP decision.

We supported the client, and together we submitted an SSCS1 Appeal. Both B and our worker attended a PIP Tribunal. B was extremely anxious, and we had to calm her down before she attended the Tribunal. Client B was afraid to speak at the Tribunal, but our worker was there to support her, and represent her, and explain to the judge that the client had mental health issues that affect how the client expresses herself. The judge took this into consideration and our worker was able to calm the client down so that the judge could talk.

The Tribunal Panel which included a judge, a doctor, a DWP representative and a disability representative all conceded that the client should be awarded her original PIP decision, Enhanced Rate PIP, and this award will be upheld until 2025. The client also received nearly a year’s back-dated money which amounted to nearly £7,000.

B was over the moon with the decision, her financial situation had improved, and she felt more secure going forward.

We informed the client in the future, she can bring any letters that she may receive from the DWP or Social Security Scotland to us, to support her either completing forms or attending subsequent medical assessments.”

Challenge 5: Other factors

Several projects have highlighted other challenges which did not directly fit into the other four categories. The most frequently cited challenges are presented below.

39

projects reported mental health barriers and other specific challenges.

Some organisations funded through the National Drugs Mission Funds experienced challenges around supporting their service users' mental health. They have identified significant barriers to support for those with a dual diagnosis (drug use and mental health issues). Psychiatric Services will often seek to refer people back to Addiction Services and vice versa. Many organisations have reported long waiting lists for Mental Health Services, posing risks to individuals in need. Some non-mental health organisations reflected on their limited skills, experience and/or knowledge of best practice around responding to a service user's mental health crisis.

A significant challenge faced across the sector is uncertainty around funding and lack of long-term sustainable funding. This challenge was reported by both third sector and public sector organisations, irrespective of their size, suggesting the widespread nature of these challenges. Small grassroots organisations have reported that due to their limited capacity, staff often needed to work beyond their paid hours to get funding applications completed. Uncertainty around funding, and lack of funding have had an

impact on service delivery, staff recruitment and retention, the quality of support offered and the ability of organisations to grow. This is reflective of the call for 'fair funding' made by the Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations ¹².

Some examples of the feedback received from grant holders in this reporting period are shown below.

- "As a charity, securing consistent funding remains a significant challenge. This impacts on our ability to expand services, hire additional staff, and sustain existing programs."
- "Funding for the hub has been a challenge as there is no mainstream service budget, so staff have been raising funds independently to help with this funding issue."
- "The organisation has grown very fast. The demand for the service has grown, yet this is not matched by our income generation. We would like to recruit more staff, but without the additional income, this isn't possible."

¹² Fair funding: It's time to abandon the spin. [Scottish Council for Voluntary Organisations](#). November 2022.

PART 3: CHALLENGES

Another challenge highlighted was the limited availability of residential rehabilitation and detox places in some areas of Scotland. Limitations in accessing residential rehabilitation beds have had an impact on effectiveness of residential rehabilitation pathway projects.



Support for funded projects

Corra is a relational funder. Each funded organisation has a named Grant Advisor to support them in the management of their grant. This support includes guidance on evaluation, introductions to helpful contacts, and advice when project delivery does not go to plan.

Grant holders are invited to attend learning network events throughout the year. These events are usually thematic, bringing together organisations to hear about projects that are delivering effective work relevant to that theme. They are a good opportunity for networking and have led to the formation of new partnerships. Two events have been delivered in the reporting period, focussing on the themes of Staff Wellbeing and Whole Family Approaches. We collaborated with Dundee Alcohol and Drug Partnership to deliver an event specifically for grant holders in that city.

Where grant holders identify support needs, Grant Advisors will direct them to the best source of support, making introductions wherever possible. Scottish Drugs Forum (SDF) and Scottish Recovery Consortium (SRC) provided in depth developmental support to grant holders. SDF's Local Support Team (LST) provide support to small and medium sized grassroots organisations whose aim is to reduce harm to people who use drugs, people in recovery and their families.

Currently the LST supports several grassroot projects with specific developmental and capacity building assistance. These projects focus on diverse groups including young people, women, black and minority ethnic communities, people leaving prison, women who sell or exchange sex, women affected by gender-based violence and family members affected by drug use.

The team adopt a 'person centred care' ethos to whole organisations, offering flexible and responsive support tailored to individual service needs. Having access to this external mentoring and coaching is invaluable. Over the last year, the team has directly supported 40 organisations.

"Staff passion and positive 'can do' attitude really helped me nail down what we were trying to achieve in a way that was articulate and easy to follow. Especially when I was at burn out phase from the previous applications, staff kept me focused and got everything out of me."

Local Support Fund Grant Holder

“Having external support meant it helped us to understand the wider drug mission better and what we needed to do to improve, providing us with additional resources that helped us to reflect together and learn from each other the needs of the BME people. This has been a great asset knowing the additional support is there and we were not alone. The support has been a Bridge between us and the funders, which has allowed us break so many barriers, reduce our fears when accessing funding for BME groups it has given us equality and inclusion, along with new hope and a fighting chance to be able to obtain funding and sustain and develop our projects successfully and has given us a confidence that we did not have before.”

Local Support Fund Grant Holder

Kings Court Summer Open Day
Photo courtesy of The Maxie Richards Foundation



Conclusion

The National Drugs Mission funds represent a significant investment in the wellbeing of people impacted by substance use. This report has given an overview of the scale of impact this investment has made. This additional resource is being effectively utilised by a diverse range of organisations across Scotland to increase levels of support to people who use substances, those in recovery, and their families.

Corra's management of National Drugs Mission funds is strongly aligned with our [ten-year strategy](#) and [our ways of working](#), as detailed in Appendix 3. Through our strategy, Corra will help to bring about the three big changes listed below.

- The power to create change rests with people themselves.
- People with ideas for radical change are supported, skilled, confident and connected.
- People are working together to respond to the big challenges facing Scotland.

This report contains only a small selection of the success stories we have received between April 2023 and March 2024. We hope this report has effectively demonstrated the high quality, compassionate and responsive support that grant holders are delivering to people affected by drugs.

Relational, joined-up working is at the heart of many of these stories of success. Funded projects have helped individuals to feel a greater sense of connection to others, and to build recovery capital.

Though the impact of the funded projects is already evident, some of the benefits will only become apparent after several years. This is especially true of projects using a whole-family approach to tackle multi-generational issues around substance use.

As these funded organisations continue to deliver services aimed at reducing drug-related harm and deaths, Corra will provide the grant-management support they need to adapt to the challenges and opportunities they encounter. We look forward to sharing details of the ongoing success of these projects in the coming years.

Appendix 1. Project overview

Children and Families Fund

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
Aberlour	Dumfries & Galloway	110	31/03/2022	£500,000.00	£267,122.00	to expand the Intensive Family Support Service to Annan and Stranraer, Dumfries and Galloway, and support families affected by substance use
Action for Children	Highland	100	04/07/2022	£500,000.00	£200,000.00	to cover the salaries and running costs for delivery of the "Families First" project in the Highlands
Action for Children	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	60	01/11/2023	£399,133.00	£99,632.00	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
Barnardos	Dundee City	150	01/07/2022	£300,000.00	£200,000.00	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
Children 1st	Midlothian	240	01/10/2022	£482,997.00	£188,516.00	to contribute to the cost of running the Family Hub which provides support to parents and children affected by parental substance use
Children 1st	North Ayrshire	160	01/09/2022	£487,124.00	£190,124.00	to fund two additional full-time support workers to provide more intensive support to families who need it
Children 1st	Glasgow City	240	01/06/2022	£1,020,584.00	£390,177.00	to continue the Recovering Families service in South Glasgow and expand delivery to the North East and North West of the city
Circle	Edinburgh City	174	01/07/2022	£470,030.00	£188,012.00	to develop a peer support service for parents and their families affected by substance use in Edinburgh

Children and Families 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
Circle	East Lothian	60	02/06/2022	£499,350.00	£199,740.00	to fund the salary and support costs of a new Family Peer Support project and a Children's Resilience project
Circle	North Lanarkshire	80	01/10/2023	£399,496.00	£99,874.00	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	01/10/2023	£399,496.00	£99,874.00	to deliver whole family support, therapeutic counselling and children's resilience services in Clackmannanshire
CrossReach Community Connections (SCIO)	Edinburgh City	52	04/09/2023	£400,000.00	£100,000.00	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
East Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	East Ayrshire	60	11/11/2022	£500,000.00	£200,000.00	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
Glasgow HSCP	Glasgow City	80	01/08/2023	£398,660.00	£99,665.00	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

Children and Families 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
Hillcrest Futures	Perth & Kinross	80	04/07/2022	£182,950.00	£69,195.00	to contribute to salary and running costs and develop Hillcrest's Young Person's drug and alcohol service in Perth and Kinross
Hillcrest Futures	Dundee City	250	04/12/2023	£414,369.00	£101,617.00	to deliver support for 12-15-year-olds to address their own or a family member's substance use, and remain in education
Impact Arts Projects Ltd	North Ayrshire	50	13/04/2022	£430,898.00	£168,520.00	to deliver a tiered support therapeutic programme for children, young people and families in North Ayrshire affected by alcohol and drug use
Includem	Stirling	24	01/04/2022	£500,000.00	£300,000.00	to deliver one-to-one support for young people, aged 12-26 years, affected by substance use in Stirling
Medics against Violence (Youth Navigator)	Aberdeen City	400	02/10/2023	£216,771.00	£69,231.00	to establish a service of Youth Navigators in Aberdeen City's Emergency Department, covering Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire
My Support Day	South Lanarkshire	50	18/07/2022	£218,600.55	£145,733.70	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
North Lanarkshire Council	North Lanarkshire	270	03/07/2023	£400,000.00	£100,000.00	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
Partners in Advocacy	Glasgow City	50	01/06/2023	£334,255.00	£77,095.00	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

Children and Families 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
Penumbra	Aberdeen City	40	01/02/2023	£502,494.00	£97,924.00	to fund the salary and support costs of two Psychological Wellbeing Practitioners who will, alongside other services, work directly with families in Aberdeen
Positive Steps Partnership	Dundee City	30	30/05/2022	£71,531.00	£71,531.00	to deliver a two-year whole family response for those affected by drug-related deaths in Dundee
Quarriers	Moray	90	29/09/2022	£484,189.00	£191,258.00	to provide a new specialist and intensive support, "Our Promising Futures", for children and families affected by parental substance use within Moray
Rosemount Lifelong Learning	Glasgow City	90	20/06/2022	£346,730.00	£139,292.00	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
Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs	West Dunbartonshire	120	13/06/2022	£482,334.00	£187,382.00	to deliver the 'Routes' project which works with 12-26 year olds affected by substance use in East and West Dunbartonshire
South Ayrshire Council (On behalf of South Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership	South Ayrshire	88	29/09/2023	£385,804.00	£93,238.00	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 annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
South Lanarkshire Council	South Lanarkshire	72	16/01/2023	£487,340.00	£194,936.00	to fund the salary costs of support workers to work with families affected by the substance use of a parent
Space at Broomhouse Hub	Edinburgh City	200	01/08/2023	£397,482.00	£87,465.00	to expand the current befriending programme to become an Edinburgh-wide service
The Corner	Dundee City	100	03/10/2022	£447,320.00	£173,160.00	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
The Shed Project	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	50	12/07/2022	£155,846.25	£103,871.25	to contribute to the cost of establishing the new Safe Families Western Isles programme
Transform Forth Valley	Falkirk	200	01/06/2023	£397,691.00	£97,596.00	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
West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Services	West Lothian	360	08/08/2022	£496,508.00	£196,724.00	to fund a new 3-post multi-agency team to provide support to families and young people affected by substance use in West Lothian

Grassroots Fund

Organisation name	Primary local authority area	Number of people supported annually (target)	Start date	Total grant amount	Total paid to date	Project summary
City Church Dundee	Dundee City	100	31/03/2021	£12,600.00	£12,000.00	Funding to create a workshop for woodwork and horticulture skills that will be used as part of the partnership programme with Crossreach and Reconnections. This is a reduced grant.
Dundee Survival Group	Dundee City	52	31/03/2021	£31,500.00	£31,500.00	Funding to employ a Harm Reduction Practitioner.
Scottish Recovery Consortium	Scotland-wide	200	31/03/2021	£50,400.00	£48,000.00	development of an online learning platform which will provide increased access to training and learning opportunities for Recovery Communities
Youth Interventions	Renfrewshire	50	31/03/2021	£37,784.25	£35,985.00	the costs of a Young Person's Recovery Service in Renfrewshire including therapeutic group-work sessions.

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
Access to Industry	Dundee City	30	01/08/2023	£190,665.00	£37,025.00	to provide an employability project for people in recovery from substance dependency, helping them progress towards and into work
Alcohol and Drugs Action	Aberdeen City	400	01/07/2022	£497,835.00	£199,134.00	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
Alcohol and Drugs Action	Aberdeen City	75	01/12/2023	£386,128.00	£93,609.00	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
Alternatives WDCDS	West Dunbartonshire	55	01/04/2022	£528,000.00	£352,000.00	to improve and expand on Safe As Houses to include GP, nursing, and medical detox provision and to develop a clinical governance framework (this will involve extending the funding of 2 support staff for an additional 3 years to ensure a robust and safe staff to patient ratio, and to further expand service delivery through the employment of a Family and Loss Development Worker who will specifically address grief issues to support families and staff affected by loss)
Alternatives WDCDS	West Dunbartonshire	75	10/07/2023	£129,865.00	£32,444.00	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
Angus Integrated Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service (AIDARS)	Angus	150	31/03/2021	£82,160.00	£82,160.00	Funding for two workers and the expansion of the cafe model to five towns across Angus.
Apex Scotland	Highland	65	01/06/2023	£143,019.00	£34,189.00	to deliver an auricular acupuncture course, a SMART Recovery Group and a weekly SMART Family & Friends session in Invergordon
Ayrshire Justice Services Partnership - Drug Treatment & Testing Order Service	North Ayrshire	90	09/05/2023	£232,567.90	£53,856.00	to employ two Peer Recovery Workers with lived experience of addiction to support individuals on a DTTO, to engage with treatment and recovery
Ayrshire Justice Services Partnership - Drug Treatment & Testing Order Service	North Ayrshire	90	09/05/2022	£58,186.80	£58,186.80	Funding to employ additional Peer Workers to provide support for people undertaking Drug Treatment and Testing Orders
Bethany Christian Trust	Highland	40	01/04/2022	£75,000.00	£45,000.00	to continue to deliver the Bridge to Freedom (BTF) recovery programme in Inverness

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	Dundee City	60	01/04/2022	£60,000.00	£60,000.00	to deliver the Bridge to Freedom (BTF) recovery programme in Dundee
Bethany Christian Trust	Edinburgh City	60	01/04/2022	£247,296.00	£183,624.00	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
Bethany Christian Trust	Aberdeen City	15	01/06/2023	£60,000.00	£15,000.00	to deliver the Bridge to Freedom recovery programme in the Torry area of Aberdeen
Bethany Christian Trust	Glasgow City	35	01/06/2023	£144,000.00	£36,000.00	to support the delivery of the Bridge to Freedom and Bethany Homes Glasgow projects
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	North Lanarkshire	50	01/08/2022	£178,551.00	£178,551.00	to deliver an intensive Floating Support Service, supporting individuals to move into, settle and remain in their properties and to engage in treatment and recovery
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	Argyll & Bute	30	20/06/2022	£56,455.00	£56,455.00	to deliver a 'Transition and Connection' Service, supporting 30 individuals at the higher end of need due to their drug use, who are transitioning through their tenancies, or who are in crisis in the community
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	South Ayrshire	60	06/07/2022	£212,408.00	£103,582.00	to extend the Intensive Peer Recovery Support Service

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	Scotland-wide	300	15/08/2022	£60,125.00	£60,125.00	to deliver face-to-face and virtual SMART Recovery Groups (across 9 local authority areas where Blue Triangle is located) to Blue Triangle Service Users and the wider recovery community (including young people and the general and remand prison population)
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	Argyll & Bute	50	03/07/2023	£166,765.00	£53,168.00	to continue delivering a 'Transition and Connection' Service, supporting 50 individuals to engage with treatment and recovery
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	Scotland-wide	100	25/09/2023	£54,191.00	£54,191.00	to deliver SMART Recovery Groups (across 9 local authority areas where Blue Triangle is located) to Blue Triangle service users and the wider recovery community
Blue Triangle (Glasgow) Housing Association Limited	West Dunbartonshire	30	04/09/2023	£206,982.00	£65,954.00	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	02/10/2023	£694,823.00	£189,820.00	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

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
Change Grow Live	Stirling	700	01/09/2022	£298,500.00	£198,500.00	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
Change Grow Live	West Lothian	364	01/04/2022	£69,185.00	£69,185.00	to recruit a full-time Enhanced Early Intervention Coordinator to improve the arrest referral service
Change Grow Live	Falkirk	1600	01/09/2023	£248,747.00	£78,939.00	to extend the reach and provision of recovery hubs across NHS Forth Valley
Community Help and Advice Initiative	Edinburgh City	75	01/09/2023	£279,886.00	£68,593.00	to deliver free advisory services (including financial and housing advice) to people at risk of drug death in Edinburgh
Crossreach	Highland	80	01/06/2023	£135,614.00	£65,491.00	to recruit a Family Liaison Worker with lived experience to deliver individual and group support
Crossreach	Glasgow City	100	01/06/2023	£270,789.00	£83,974.00	to continue the delivery of the peer volunteering programme by the Peer Volunteer Coordinator and recruit a Family Liaison Worker with lived experience
Cyrenians	Edinburgh City	200	01/07/2022	£51,201.00	£33,771.00	to employ a part-time worker to further develop Edinburgh's Addiction Recovery Community Hub and establish new pathways to services
Cyrenians	Edinburgh City	40	01/09/2023	£152,613.00	£74,153.00	to deliver a holistic service at the Access Place, helping people to overcome barriers to treatment and supporting them to attend health-related appointments

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
Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action	Dundee City	100	01/04/2022	£173,351.00	£173,351.00	to provide continuation funding towards the Lochee Hub, with a focus on the organisation's 5 Tier Recovery Programme
Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action	Dundee City	30	25/09/2023	£88,475.00	£43,621.00	to expand the Gendered Services Project which works with substance use services in Dundee, improving their understanding and implementation of a gendered approach
East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action	East Ayrshire	1200	14/10/2023	£300,000.00	£100,000.00	to continue the delivery of the Recovery Hub in Kilmarnock
Edinburgh Alcohol and Drug Partnership	Edinburgh City	60	01/04/2023	£1,000,000.00	£200,000.00	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	01/11/2022	£600,000.00	£200,000.00	to deliver a drugs treatment, assessment and initiation service for the city of Edinburgh, allowing access to same-day MAT
Elevate Glasgow	Glasgow City	250	01/04/2022	£208,433.40	£208,433.40	to support the delivery of Elevate Glasgow PSP, including keeping 4 part-time Employment Support Workers and a part-time Administrator in post
Fife Alcohol Support Services	Fife	150	01/08/2022	£386,041.00	£188,445.00	to deliver a Non Fatal Overdose Rapid Response Service

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
FIRST	Fife	150	31/03/2022	£480,425.00	£288,255.00	to deliver community rehabilitation and residential rehabilitation support services
Glasgow City Mission	Glasgow City	90	01/04/2022	£366,646.00	£176,713.00	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
Glasgow Council on Alcohol	Glasgow City	70	01/04/2022	£398,405.00	£198,644.00	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
Health in Mind	Midlothian	100	01/07/2022	£312,572.00	£122,952.00	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
Hillcrest Futures	Perth & Kinross	700	01/08/2022	£90,000.00	£60,000.00	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
Hillcrest Futures	Scotland-wide	200	01/09/2023	£144,338.00	£48,416.00	to employ a Training & Practice Development Coordinator who will expand harm reduction approaches and embed best practice within the front-line teams

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
Integrated Substance Misuse Service from Alcohol, Drugs & BBV Service	Dundee City	30	01/04/2022	£305,562.00	£203,708.00	to fund staff costs associated with the Dundee Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service, providing pre- and post-rehab support
Inverclyde HSCP	Inverclyde	30	01/01/2024	£299,991.00	£99,997.00	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
Just Bee Productions	Dundee City	100	01/06/2023	£233,513.00	£42,359.00	to provide a free-to-use community launderette and tailored support to individuals and families who are affected by substance use
Liber8 Lanarkshire	South Lanarkshire	22	01/09/2023	£398,083.00	£88,720.00	to recruit mentors with lived experience and deliver a new Rehabilitation to Reintegration (R2R) service, supporting people returning to South Lanarkshire, post-residential rehabilitation
Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service	Argyll & Bute	110	01/04/2022	£170,517.90	£170,517.90	to provide independent advocacy for people who use drugs in Argyll
Moving On (Inverclyde) Ltd	Inverclyde	350	01/06/2023	£390,148.00	£97,537.00	to enable organisational development and increase capacity for one-to-one support and trauma counselling
NHS Dumfries and Galloway	Dumfries & Galloway	200	20/01/2023	£520,335.00	£208,134.00	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

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
NHS Fife Addictions Psychological Therapies Service (APTS)	Fife	650	29/08/2022	£286,258.00	£191,518.00	to embed the delivery of Tier 1 to 4 Psychological Interventions into Fife Intensive Rehabilitation and Substance Use Team (FIRST)
North East Recovery Community N. E. R.C	Glasgow City	250	03/10/2022	£272,475.00	£134,925.00	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	03/10/2022	£269,300.00	£131,750.00	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
Occupational Therapy North Ayrshire Health and Social Care Partnership	North Ayrshire	140	01/09/2022	£50,000.00	£42,000.00	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
Penumbra	Aberdeen City	750	01/02/2023	£500,000.00	£100,000.00	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
Phoenix Futures	Scotland-wide	200	01/08/2022	£380,000.00	£190,000.00	to improve the residential rehabilitation service through enhanced access, aftercare and family support provision

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
Police Scotland (Positive Outcomes Project)	Glasgow City	250	01/04/2022	£290,028.00	£192,398.00	to deliver the POP Plus project, to engage people in custodial settings and offer immediate support
Positive Steps Partnership	Dundee City	40	01/04/2022	£110,851.00	£110,851.00	to engage and support people with a substance dependency who have become victims of cuckooing
Positive Steps Partnership	Dundee City	200	01/07/2023	£588,000.00	£140,000.00	to deliver a new Crisis Response Outreach Service (CROS), primarily to people using substances
Reach Advocacy Ltd	Scotland-wide	120	01/04/2023	£480,000.00	£180,000.00	to deliver training to increase the number of Human Rights-Based Advocates, and support locality-based teams with the incorporation of MAT standards
RightThere	Orkney Islands	30	01/04/2022	£288,207.00	£189,731.00	to deliver 1:1 outreach support to people who have problems with drug use in Orkney
Scottish Drugs Forum	Glasgow City	24	01/06/2023	£400,000.00	£100,000.00	to extend the reach and delivery of SDF's Addiction Workers Training Programme to people with lived and living experience of addiction across Scotland
Simon Community Scotland	Glasgow City	600	01/06/2022	£282,000.00	£187,000.00	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
Simon Community Scotland	Edinburgh City	400	01/09/2023	£408,022.00	£85,496.00	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

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
Simon Community Scotland	Scotland-wide	350	22/08/2023	£121,874.00	£59,189.00	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
South Community Recovery Network	Glasgow City	250	03/10/2022	£269,300.00	£134,925.00	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 Lanarkshire Council	South Lanarkshire	200	15/09/2023	£200,000.00	£100,000.00	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
Stirling District Citizens Advice Bureau Ltd	Stirling	300	04/09/2023	£141,360.00	£69,810.00	to embed a Specialist CAB Advice service in addiction services across NHS Forth Valley
Street Connect	Glasgow City	510	01/06/2023	£115,433.00	£46,858.00	to increase provision of outreach and support work in Glasgow, expanding to two new locations in the City each year
TCUK Scotland Limited	Aberdeenshire	50	01/04/2022	£832,037.85	£502,662.30	to improve, expand and increase the capacity of the residential rehabilitation centres Sunnybrae and Benaiah, through increased staffing, improvements to equipment and minor refurbishments
The Jericho Benedictine Society	Inverclyde	105	01/04/2022	£400,000.00	£200,000.00	to contribute to core costs for wraparound recovery and staffing in Jericho's two gender-specific residential rehab facilities in Greenock

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
The Jericho Benedictine Society	Inverclyde	105	01/06/2023	£400,000.00	£167,500.00	to employ a new Admissions and Aftercare Coordinator and to refurbish the Jericho Houses in Greenock
The Jericho Benedictine Society	Dundee City	200	01/06/2023	£679,674.00	£215,543.00	to increase the range of support available to residents; make the pathway in and out of the Dundee house more supportive; and refurbish the Dundee house
The Marie Trust	Glasgow City	70	01/10/2023	£120,000.00	£30,000.00	to employ a new counsellor who will act as an addictions counselling lead
THE SALVATION ARMY	South Lanarkshire	200	01/06/2022	£274,235.00	£180,958.00	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
Transform Community Development	Dundee City	60	01/08/2022	£145,834.00	£145,834.00	to provide a 24-hour IEP vending machine and deliver direct support to individuals who use drugs, supporting them to access treatment and recovery, and to be better engaged with addiction services (through the employment of a recovery worker and paid peers with lived experience of addiction)
Turning Point Scotland	Glasgow City	1200	18/09/2022	£1,664,834.00	£649,776.00	to extend the existing WAND outreach initiative currently operating in Glasgow City Centre, to three locality areas in Glasgow (North East, North West and South) with a limited provision in East Renfrewshire and East Dunbartonshire
Venture Scotland	Glasgow City	30	01/09/2022	£185,612.70	£185,612.70	to deliver a 12-week outdoor-based programme of support for people in recovery (3 times per year for groups of 10 people)

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
Waverley Care	Glasgow City	150	01/06/2022	£210,749.00	£80,503.00	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
We Are With You	Argyll & Bute	24	01/04/2022	£300,000.00	£200,000.00	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	01/04/2022	£1,060,000.00	£510,000.00	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
We Are With You	Dumfries & Galloway	750	01/04/2022	£500,000.00	£200,000.00	to develop an Assertive Peer Support Service working across Dumfries and Galloway that will support people to engage with treatment and recovery services
We Are With You	East Ayrshire	30	01/08/2023	£399,720.00	£99,930.00	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	01/11/2023	£399,424.00	£99,856.00	to deliver a bespoke outreach and harm reduction model within Levenmouth
West Lothian Drug & Alcohol Services	West Lothian	120	01/04/2022	£241,227.00	£180,127.50	to deliver the 'Family Matters' support service for people with substance dependency and their families
Women's Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre - Dundee & Angus	Dundee City	60	01/04/2022	£454,060.00	£162,886.00	to establish a women's hub in Dundee to support women with substance use problems and additional complex needs

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
Aberdeen in Recovery	Aberdeen City	526	03/10/2022	£105,000.00	£105,000.00	to continue developing and delivering their Recovery Community work across the city of Aberdeen to individuals who use drugs, who are in recovery and their families
ACI - Addictions Counselling Inverness	Highland	160	15/11/2022	£102,284.70	£102,284.70	to provide talking therapy and group work programmes to people who use drugs who are in recovery and their families
Argyll & Bute Rape Crisis	Argyll & Bute	200	01/06/2022	£261,194.85	£104,477.94	to develop the 'Cowal Hub' beyond its pilot period in partnership with Argyll and Bute ADP
Back on the Road (Glasgow) CIC	Glasgow City	25	18/02/2022	£255,804.15	£151,603.20	to deliver the Back on The Road project with increased capacity, extending its reach to more people through improved referral routes
Banchory & District Initiative Ltd	Aberdeenshire	50	01/09/2022	£47,292.00	£30,912.00	to expand the range of services provided through the Banchory and Ballater recovery groups
Bluevale Community Club	Glasgow City	300	08/11/2021	£104,567.40	£104,567.40	to employ key staff to support the development of a whole community approach to drug support services and recovery locally
Bluevale Community Club	Glasgow City	584	01/12/2023	£148,137.00	£49,379.00	to continue to deliver the Recovery is for Everyone (RIFE) service and provide direct support activities for people in recovery and their families
Broken Chains	South Ayrshire	350	07/11/2022	£203,784.00	£101,892.00	to support salary and running costs associated with the delivery of recovery services for individuals and families impacted by drug use in South Ayrshire

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
Connect2	Falkirk	140	01/09/2022	£94,509.45	£94,509.45	to employ three members of staff to support the delivery of Connect2's work with people who use substances and their families
Creative Change Collective	Glasgow City	40	01/02/2022	£151,745.00	£151,745.00	to deliver a bespoke 'Road to Change' model for 40 people per year who are in recovery from substance misuse
Creative Change Collective	West Dunbartonshire	80	01/10/2022	£120,653.40	£60,326.70	to deliver Road to Change workshops in partnership with Aletrnatives West Dunbartonshire
Creative Change Collective	North Ayrshire	90	01/10/2022	£128,998.80	£64,499.40	to deliver Road to Change workshops within the family unit of Phoenix Futures in North Ayrshire
Creative Change Collective	Renfrewshire	80	01/10/2022	£120,653.40	£60,326.70	To deliver Road to Change workshops in partnership with Abbeycare, Renfrewshire
Crew 2000 Scotland	Edinburgh City	3000	06/04/2023	£190,068.00	£45,295.00	to support the delivery of Crew 2000's drop-in service in Edinburgh, supporting young people who are using drugs
Dundee Independent Advocacy Support	Dundee City	60	01/09/2022	£102,837.00	£102,837.00	to fund two part time independent advocacy support posts that provide 1-1 advocacy for people who use drugs and their families
East Ayrshire Churches Homelessness Action	East Ayrshire	600	01/02/2023	£202,975.50	£100,873.50	to deliver Community Friends drop-in service and Friendly Fresh Start

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
Edinburgh Community Yoga	Edinburgh City	700	15/08/2023	£64,032.00	£22,008.00	to deliver a new trauma-informed yoga programme in Wester Hailes
Eildon West Youth Hub (TD1 Youth Hub)	Scottish Borders	140	19/05/2023	£29,220.00	£29,220.00	to deliver weekly, issue-based group work sessions to young people who use substances
FAVOR UK	Glasgow City	50	04/10/2022	£210,000.00	£105,000.00	to further develop a Scotland-wide, rights-based advocacy service to better meet the needs of people who use drugs and their families
Freedom Fighters	North Ayrshire	0	01/12/2021	£105,000.00	£105,000.00	to provide one to one trauma informed counselling and recovery support through the Cultivate programme
Freedom Fighters Community Action Initiative	North Ayrshire	220	08/02/2024	£150,000.00	£50,000.00	to provide one to one trauma informed counselling and recovery support through the Cultivate programme
Group Recovery Aftercare Community Enterprise	East Dunbartonshire	120	05/09/2022	£210,000.00	£105,000.00	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
Hand of Solace	Aberdeen City	34	01/01/2023	£55,667.85	£55,667.85	to support children and their families in Aberdeen City, especially those from Black and Minority Ethnic Communities and those with Refugee status, by offering non-judgmental support around their use of 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
Harbour Ayrshire	South Ayrshire	500	08/05/2023	£133,500.00	£89,000.00	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.
Healing for the Heart	Glasgow City	90	01/05/2023	£200,000.00	£100,000.00	to provide one-to-one counselling and group support to people directly affected by substance use
Heavy Sound	East Lothian	150	01/05/2023	£150,000.00	£50,000.00	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
Hebrides Alpha Project	Comhairle nan Eilean Siar (Western Isles)	20	01/04/2022	£126,000.00	£94,500.00	to provide a community based residential recovery facility in the Western Isles of Scotland
HOPE Connections	Glasgow City	1000	05/09/2022	£206,857.35	£103,474.35	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
In Cahootz Limited	Glasgow City	90	01/09/2022	£209,704.95	£104,844.60	to deliver the "Creative Programme", including workshops in music, arts, filmmaking and photography for people in recovery from substance use dependency
Just Bee Productions	Dundee City	400	01/09/2022	£209,269.20	£104,634.60	to provide a proportion of the salaries of four staff members who will deliver a range of services for people affected by substance use
Liber8 Lanarkshire	South Lanarkshire	50	01/04/2022	£209,659.80	£104,829.90	to provide trauma therapy to people with substance dependence 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
Lomond and Argyll Advocacy Service	West Dunbartonshire	140	05/04/2022	£258,720.00	£102,270.00	to provide independent rights based advocacy support for 5 years across West Dunbartonshire, for individuals affected by problematic substance use, including those in recovery
Minority Communities Addictions Support Service (MCASS) SCIO	Glasgow City	220	01/06/2022	£153,912.15	£101,412.15	to deliver the Family Life Matters project to families and individuals affected by substance use dependency in the greater Glasgow area
Moving On (Inverclyde) Ltd	Inverclyde	230	01/04/2022	£256,951.80	£153,007.05	to provide a 'second stage' service for people who have achieved initial abstinence or a degree of stability in their substance use
Moving On (Inverclyde) Ltd	Inverclyde	75	23/06/2023	£90,000.00	£30,000.00	to deliver the SMART Inside/Out programme within HMP Greenock
My Support Day	South Lanarkshire	35	01/12/2021	£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
New Rhythms for Glasgow	Glasgow City	300	15/05/2023	£127,989.75	£84,758.25	to deliver a programme of therapeutic and creative work to women in recovery, with support provided to family members.
New Way	Argyll & Bute	100	01/08/2022	£168,000.00	£84,000.00	to provide a peer-led volunteer befriending service, delivered by individuals with lived experience of addiction

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
North Edinburgh Drug and Alcohol Centre	Edinburgh City	50	02/05/2022	£90,470.10	£90,470.10	to work 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.
Patchwork Recovery Community	East Ayrshire	2566	31/08/2022	£103,950.00	£60,225.00	to cover salary costs of a part-time Service Manager and employ two part-time Volunteer Coordinators/Peer Mentors to increase support available to people with substance use dependency
Positive Help	Edinburgh City	30	01/07/2023	£109,716.00	£35,551.00	to deliver the Transport and Live Well services to support people affected by substance use to manage health conditions, live independently at home, and engage positively in their community.
Recovery Ayr	South Ayrshire	50	08/06/2022	£187,425.00	£82,425.00	to support the delivery of Recovery Ayr's Volunteering Involvement Experience Work (VIEW) delivered by a Volunteer Coordinator and Sessional Peer Workers
Recovery Coaching Scotland CIC	Scotland-wide	114	10/04/2023	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	to support the delivery of recovery coaching and training to people affected by substance use at HMP Perth, Glenochil and Shotts
Recovery Coaching Scotland CIC	Edinburgh City	156	10/04/2023	£199,876.00	£99,938.00	to employ a full-time Recovery Coach, who will provide support to inmates at HMP Edinburgh
Recovery Enterprises Scotland	East Ayrshire	500	01/11/2022	£105,000.00	£105,000.00	to deliver frontline support to people affected by substance use, including 1:1 and group support, community outreach, drop-in service, prison in-reach and food provision
Recovery Scotland	Falkirk	140	01/11/2022	£207,192.90	£52,422.30	to deliver the Assertive Recovery Outreach service in the Falkirk area

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
Recovery Scotland	Clackmannanshire	90	01/11/2022	£209,899.20	£52,474.80	to deliver the Assertive Recovery Outreach service across Clackmannanshire
Recovery Scotland	Stirling	90	01/11/2022	£209,899.20	£52,474.80	to deliver the Assertive Recovery Outreach service in the Stirling area
Restoration Fife	Fife	200	01/08/2022	£207,402.25	£103,317.44	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
Riverside Community Trust	South Ayrshire	3000	01/05/2023	£100,000.00	£25,000.00	to increase capacity for delivery of core programme of activities and support services for people impacted by substance use
Second Chance Project Scotland	Glasgow City	1000	01/11/2021	£248,850.00	£149,625.00	to maintain delivery of services, create a new overdose clinic, and deliver Naloxone training to service users.
Shetland Methodist District	Shetland Islands	20	01/05/2023	£78,857.00	£42,022.00	to support the 'Food for the Way' Project, providing social contact, activities and practical support to people impacted by substance use
SISCO	Glasgow City	2000	01/08/2022	£210,000.00	£105,000.00	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
Spiral Arts Therapy	Glasgow City	25	01/06/2023	£92,099.00	£45,080.00	to provide individual and group arts psychotherapy sessions for children and young people in Kinship care impacted by 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
Steps to Hope SCIO	Edinburgh City	30	01/08/2022	£209,761.65	£104,932.80	to extend the existing Recovery Programme which supports people who are homeless and dependent on substances
Street Connect	Glasgow City	20	01/04/2022	£208,293.00	£156,219.75	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	31/03/2022	£86,058.00	£51,634.80	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	01/04/2022	£51,087.75	£30,652.65	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
Street Connect	West Dunbartonshire	130	01/04/2022	£94,641.75	£56,785.05	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
Street Fit Scotland	Edinburgh City	50	03/01/2022	£104,057.10	£70,505.40	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
Teen Challenge Strathclyde	Inverclyde	100	01/04/2022	£84,000.00	£84,000.00	to recruit a Prison Worker and a Family Liaison Worker to deliver additional work

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
The Brock Garden Centre SCIO	West Lothian	100	01/11/2021	£84,958.65	£84,958.65	to support individuals who use drugs and who have chronic mental health, to better access mainstream addiction services
The Croft (Visitors' Support & Advice Centre, Barlinnie)	Glasgow City	560	01/02/2023	£165,284.00	£39,692.00	to increase the range and depth of support available to Croft service users through appointing an Outreach Development & Drugs Support Worker (ODDSW)
The DRC Youth Project	Glasgow City	150	22/05/2023	£199,400.00	£49,850.00	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
The Maxie Richards Foundation	Argyll & Bute	16	02/05/2022	£209,757.44	£157,318.08	to support the delivery cost of the residential rehabilitation service
The Nest Wellbeing Group	East Ayrshire	30	04/09/2023	£124,047.00	£41,349.00	to employ a full time Recovery Coordinator to develop and expand the MUMO programme
The Reconnection Project	Dundee City	24	28/11/2022	£64,806.00	£64,806.00	to provide recreational group work activities to people who are impacted by drug use, better supporting individuals on their recovery pathway, and helping them to have better structure in their lives and to gain new skills
The Scheme Livi	West Lothian	930	15/03/2023	£100,000.00	£100,000.00	to deliver a creative group work programme to people impacted by drug use, residing in West Lothian

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
The Skylark IX Recovery Trust	West Dunbartonshire	25	01/07/2023	£71,149.00	£22,500.00	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 Sorted Project	Edinburgh City	100	01/12/2022	£106,698.90	£50,893.50	to support people in recovery from substance use in the Lothians by providing one to one and group support on the canal boat, Panacea
The Steeple Church: Dundee (Church of Scotland)	Dundee City	40	01/09/2022	£191,444.40	£86,444.40	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
The Zone Initiative Limited	East Ayrshire	30	01/10/2022	£32,550.00	£32,550.00	to increase the range of activities available through the Dalmellington Recovery Hub for people in recovery
Thurso community cafe	Highland	200	03/07/2023	£94,700.00	£48,600.00	to employ three part-time staff, who will deliver one-to-one and group support activities for people affected by substance use
Transform Forth Valley	Clackmannanshire	50	01/12/2021	£261,033.15	£156,211.65	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
Transform Forth Valley	Clackmannanshire	1000	01/04/2023	£200,000.00	£100,000.00	to support people in Clackmannanshire who are vulnerable and use substances to access the services that best meet their needs

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
Transform Forth Valley	Falkirk	1000	01/04/2023	£200,000.00	£100,000.00	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	01/04/2023	£200,000.00	£100,000.00	to support people in Stirling who are vulnerable and use substances to access the services that best meet their needs
UK SMART Recovery	Scotland-wide	270	01/08/2022	£101,202.20	£101,202.20	to deliver SMART Recovery Programmes in Scotland to veterans who are impacted by drug and alcohol use, alongside group programmes for their family and friends
Vineburgh Community Association	North Ayrshire	2068	01/12/2021	£101,393.46	£101,393.46	to deliver a programme of activities for the local community in Vineburgh, in particular, dedicated support for those affected by drug use
Youth Interventions	Renfrewshire	50	01/12/2021	£184,615.20	£138,461.40	to provide 1 to 1 recovery support for young people who use substances and are at risk of becoming dependent

LSF 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
Accessible Tennis CIC	Glasgow City	25	03/01/2022	£3,405.15	£3,405.15	to deliver two 6-week activity blocks per year over 2 years exclusively for people who are in recovery from substance dependency
AdtherapiesUk	South Ayrshire	62	01/09/2022	£10,416.00	£10,416.00	to deliver 1:1 counselling sessions, group sessions and weekend retreats for people in recovery from drug addiction
Best Way Community Development	North Lanarkshire	20	15/06/2023	£20,000.00	£10,000.00	to deliver group workshops and support to individuals and families affected by substance use
Bridge Recovery Cafe	Aberdeenshire	100	01/06/2023	£9,050.00	£9,050.00	to provide three therapeutic camping trips for people who use drugs and their families
COG (Community Outreach Group) Aberdeen	Aberdeen City	300	08/08/2022	£20,748.00	£20,748.00	to provide a meals, advice, support and signposting service to homeless and vulnerable people, particularly those affected by drug use, and to deliver MAT and Me sessions and a conversation cafe
Dundee Community Craft CIC	Dundee City	20	01/04/2023	£16,612.00	£16,612.00	to deliver Jewellery making workshops to women who are affected by substance use, in the Bella Centre in Dundee
G20 Works	Glasgow City	10	15/11/2022	£20,920.20	£20,920.20	to deliver support through a series of substance use interventions to young people aged 16-25
Love and Light Recovery Organisation	North Lanarkshire	50	01/04/2022	£31,500.00	£21,000.00	to run three weekly residential retreats per year (9 in total over 3 years), supporting 50 people per year; and to set up an information/advice centre for people with drug problems in West Lothian

LSF 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
Mindfulness Scotland	Glasgow City	100	01/05/2023	£26,510.00	£8,748.00	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
New Life Recovery Hub CIC	Glasgow City	120	01/03/2023	£40,000.00	£20,000.00	to provide holistic, structured interventions to people who use drugs and their families, particularly those from Black and Minority Ethnic communities
OOR SPACE	Fife	750	01/08/2023	£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
Southwest Kinshipcare Group	Glasgow City	49	01/12/2022	£12,540.17	£5,559.76	to support children in kinship care and their families, impacted by substance use
Thurso community cafe	Highland	35	01/09/2021	£47,775.00	£28,665.00	to provide stability for the existing drug support service and allow for the development of a 12-step recovery programme.
Time to Heal	Aberdeen City	200	01/04/2022	£31,500.00	£21,000.00	to provide support to people impacted by domestic violence and substance use

Appendix 2. Diagram of outcomes and cross-cutting priorities

The Six Cross-Cutting Priorities



The Six Outcomes that Reduce Deaths and Improve Lives

01

Fewer people develop problem drug use

- Young people receive evidence based, effective holistic interventions to prevent problem drug use.
- People have early access to support for emerging problem drug use
- Supply of harmful drugs is reduced

02

Risk is reduced for people who take harmful drugs

- Overdoses are prevented from becoming fatal
- All people are offered evidence based harm reduction and advice

03

People at most risk have access to treatment and recovery

- People at high risk are proactively identified and offered support
- Effective pathways between justice and community services are established
- Effective near-Fatal Overdose Pathways are established across Scotland

04

People receive high quality treatment and recovery services

- People are supported to make informed decisions about treatment options
- Residential rehabilitation is available for all those who will benefit
- People are supported to remain in treatment for as long as requested
- People have the option to start medication-assisted treatment from the same day of presentation
- People have access to high standard, evidence based, compassionate and quality assured treatment options.

05

Quality of life is improved by addressing multiple disadvantages

- All needs are addressed through joined up, person centered services
- Wider health and social care needs are addressed through informed compassionate services
- Advocacy is available to empower individuals

06

Children, families and communities affected by substance use are supported

- Family members are empowered to support their loved one's recovery
- Family members are supported to achieve their own recovery
- Communities are resilient and supportive.

Further details of the six Scottish Government outcomes and the six cross-cutting priorities can be found on the [Scottish Government website - https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-drugs-mission-plan-2022-2026/pages/5/](https://www.gov.scot/publications/national-drugs-mission-plan-2022-2026/pages/5/)

Appendix 3. Alignment with Corra's Strategy and ways of working

Our strategy 2020 – 2030

Corra's strategy is a response to the world we live in, and to the one we want to play a part in building. 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.

From 2020 – 2030, Corra will help to bring about three big changes, so that:

- The power to create change rests with people themselves.
- People with ideas for radical change are supported, skilled, confident, and connected.
- People are working together to respond to the big challenges facing Scotland.

Having a bold ten-year strategy means that Corra can develop new ways of working, as well as building and deepening partnership. We'll continue to work alongside communities and make grants, with a growing focus on supporting voice, power and action.

Progress towards three big changes

Our strategy sets out the big changes that Corra wants to contribute to. **We do this through our grant making, place-based work, and by using our learning to influence policy, practice and funding.**

Change One – Power to create change rests with people themselves

The most powerful, meaningful change starts with people. For this to happen, we all need to be able to participate (in communities, in decision making, in society), to find our voices and make ourselves heard. Everyone should have power, control and the sense that they can make a difference through what they do. Too many people feel that their voice isn't heard or listened to and that decisions that affect them are taken by other people.

Valuing lived and learned expertise

In 2023-24 decisions on 70 of the 73 grants made through the National Drugs Mission involved a panel of people who have lived experience of the impact of drug use, our Lived Experience Panel (LEP). For the [Local Support Fund \(LSF\)](#) and the [LSF Micro fund](#), the LEP make the final decisions on which grant applications are successful.

96%

of grant making decisions for the National Drugs Mission funds involved a panel of people with lived expertise.

Change Two – People with ideas for radical change are supported, skilled, connected and confident

Radical change is needed if we are to respond to many of the challenges we face. The potential for this comes from people or small groups within communities of geography and interest. The people who know best how to respond to challenges are those who are most closely affected by them. Often though, they can't access the support that would tip the odds in their favour. This might include funding that comes with trust and time, opportunities to build and share skills, and the chance to make connections with others, in Scotland and beyond.

Offering responsive funding

Two of the National Drugs Mission funds are focussed specifically on grassroots organisations; the [Local Support Fund \(LSF\)](#) and the [LSF Micro fund](#). These have enabled smaller organisations and community group to access longer-term grants to support their work to reduce drug-related harm.

In 2023-24 25 new grants were made to grassroots organisations through the Local Support fund and LSF Micro fund. Over the lifetime of these grants, these projects will receive £2,243,133. The average grant size is £89,725 and the average grant term is three years.

Change Three – People are working together to respond to the big challenges in Scotland

We can only rise to the challenges we face if people work together across groups, organisations and sectors. The most powerful way to find new solutions is by bringing lived and learned expertise to the table. This type of social change needs a whole range of tools, including: making best use of data; funding; helping people build their confidence and skills; networking; learning, sharing and campaigning.

Learning and influencing

Influencing funding, policy and practice is a key part of creating lasting change.

We know that as an independent funder, Corra has a privileged position of being able to speak out. Organisations and communities we work alongside often, rightly, expect us to use our voice to advocate alongside them. We seek to do this with care, and drawing on the evidence and insights we gain through our work.

Over the past year Corra has engaged in policy discussions, including on drugs and alcohol, human rights, community empowerment and poverty.

This report shows the impact of NDM funded projects, reaching over 33,000 people across Scotland. It also highlights some of the strengths this work, including increasing the involvement of people with lived expertise, and action to address stigma. Through this report, we also recognised the challenges faced by services, including recruitment issues and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. These insights have helped to shape Corra's support offer to funded organisations.

Putting our Ways of Working into practice

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. These are detailed on the final page of this report.

We publish annual progress reports to hold ourselves accountable on key areas, including diversity, equity and inclusion and anti-racism, and open and trusting grant making. These reports set out in more detail our commitments, progress, learning and areas for further improvement.



Photo courtesy of the Harbour Ayrshire

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.

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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