

Subject: **Preventing Drug Related Deaths: an update from 2018**

Purpose: The purpose of this report is to update the Integrated Joint Board (IJB) of the actions taken by the North Ayrshire Drug Death Prevention Group (DDPG). This paper outlines the ongoing work by the North Ayrshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (ADP) and partner agencies to prevent drug related deaths in North Ayrshire. This report provides an update on actions taken following a previous report submitted to the IJB in 2018 (Preventing Drug Related Deaths: A Framework for Ayrshire and Arran)

Recommendation: It is recommended that the IJB:

Note the increase in confirmed drug related deaths in 2018, the projected increase in reported drug related deaths in North Ayrshire for 2019 and the actions in place to prevent future drug related deaths.

Note the creation of the North Ayrshire DDPG and actions taken to date.

Note and supports the expansion of the Naloxone programme.

Glossary of Terms

IJB	Integrated Joint Board
DDPG	Drug Death Prevention Group
ADP	Alcohol and Drug Partnership
ISD	Information Services Division Scotland
HSP	Health & Social Care Partnership
N/A DDPG	North Ayrshire Drug Death Prevention Group
DDRG	Pan Ayrshire Drug Death Review Group
NADARS	North Ayrshire Drug and Alcohol Recovery Service

1.	EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to highlight actions taken during 2018/19 to prevent drug related deaths in line with the anticipated outcomes from the IJB paper submitted in June 2018 and outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a North Ayrshire DDPG ensuring local learning and national direction are implemented quickly as preventative actions. • Creation of drug related death prevention improvement plan whilst using the

	<p>Pan Ayrshire Drug Death Review Group (DDRG) as a coordinating link</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthen pan-Ayrshire working arrangements with a focus on preventive activities <p>The report highlights innovative partnership models of prevention, early intervention, treatment and care being developed and delivered across North Ayrshire.</p>
2.	BACKGROUND
2.1	<p>There were 1,187 confirmed drug related deaths in 2018 in Scotland (253 more than in 2017). This is the largest number of drug related deaths in Scotland since reporting began in 1996.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 82 confirmed drug related deaths in Ayrshire and Arran in 2018 (compared to 61 in 2017 and 85 in 2016) South Ayrshire had 15 confirmed drug related deaths in 2018; East Ayrshire had 29 confirmed drug related deaths in 2018; North Ayrshire had 38 confirmed drug related deaths in 2018 <p>Thus far, in 2019, there have been 34 <u>reported suspected</u> (not confirmed) drug related deaths in North Ayrshire</p>
2.2	<p>Considering the increasing trend of drug related deaths across Scotland, this situation has now been described as an 'national emergency'.</p>
2.3	<p>The Scottish Government have identified a national Taskforce group and invested £20 million to tackle the rising number of drug related deaths. The first Taskforce meeting took place on 17 September 2019 and examined the main causes of drug related deaths. This Taskforce will promote action to improve health outcomes for people who use drugs, and will advise what changes, in practice or in the law, could help save lives. The North Ayrshire DDPG looks forward to influencing this discussion and implementing specific findings and direction from this group. The Taskforce have since contacted every ADP across Scotland requesting the ADP send in ideas (maximum of 5 ideas) on how we can stem the rise in drug related deaths in Scotland. The ADP are actively engaging with the Task Force and liaising with other Ayrshire ADP's in this consultation.</p>
3.	PROPOSALS
3.1	<p>The North Ayrshire DDPG was convened as a subgroup of the North Ayrshire ADP whilst maintaining communication links with the wider Pan Ayrshire Drug Death Review Group. The DDRG has brought together local and national agencies to take cognisance of the recommendations within the 'National Staying Alive in Scotland' report and the Pan-Ayrshire 'Everybody Matters, Preventing Drug Related Deaths: A Framework for Ayrshire and Arran 2018-2021' report. The DDRG has identified and implemented several actions aimed at preventing drug related deaths.</p>
3.2	<p>The DDPG have produced a local Improvement Plan which identifies key priority improvement areas covering the themes of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Caring for people in contact with services Reaching those not in contact with services. Reducing Risk Working with Families and Communities <p>This plan focuses on those high-risk individuals who are vulnerable to overdose and</p>

	involved in high risk drug taking.
3.3	<p>Examples of actions undertaken, and ongoing improvement areas identified:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same day contact with service for individuals released from prison (requiring NADARS support); • Quick access to treatment and care interventions including mental, physical, sexual and Blood-Borne Virus-related support; • Support staff to undertake psychological therapy training to deliver trauma informed practise; • Use of regular drug screening; • Regular key worker and prescriber reviews; • Increased availability of Harm Reduction interventions including Opiate Substitution Therapy and Injecting Equipment Provision; • Recruitment of 4 Recovery Development Workers within statutory services increasing the availability of support from individuals with lived experience who are in recovery; • Increased roll out the supply of Naloxone; • Work with Housing and Homeless Hostels to improve pathways of support and increase communication; • Commission the procurement of a new Prevention, Education and Early Intervention service (ADP have allocated approximately over £300,000 per year for the next 3 years to implement this new approach). Turning Point, Scotland have just been awarded the contract; • Planned engagement strategy to work in partnership with Police Scotland to retain challenging behaviour clients within treatment and care services • Lock boxes will be given to all clients who have child care responsibilities along with the 'Keeping methadone safe' booklet • Social Care Addiction Child and Parent Impact Report (CPIR) being developed in partnership with Children's Services to identify appropriate social care support for parents who have childcare responsibilities. • The NHS Prevention & Service Support Team will continue to provide a range of training courses many of which include valuable educational information about overdose awareness, poly drug misuse and risks of lowered tolerance • Positively promote family engagement with Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol and Drugs (SFAD) following bereavement
3.4	<p>Naloxone:</p> <p>Across North Ayrshire there has been an increased focus in widening the use and supply of Naloxone (this medication is used to block or reverse the effects of opiod drugs, particularly within the setting of drug overdoses). In the last year over 220 Naloxone kits were distributed which was an increase from previous years. It was reported that, a minimum of 13 lives have been saved in North Ayrshire though the administration of Naloxone (this figure will be higher but unfortunately many 'saves' go unreported). There is an opportunity to widen the availability and access to Naloxone across all partners, individuals, families and the wider community.</p>
3.5	<p>Injecting Equipment Provision</p> <p>There are currently a range of community-based Injecting Equipment Provision (IEP) available across North Ayrshire including pharmacy needle exchange availability and specialist clinics delivered by North Ayrshire Drug & Alcohol Recovery Service (NADARS) staff. These services are delivered in line with the Sexual Health Blood Borne Virus Framework and the Scottish Government Guidelines for IEP Provision</p>

	<p>and Lord Advocates Guidance.</p> <p>The NADARS continues to examine ways of increasing accessibility and availability of Harm Reduction interventions including additional needle exchange provision within the NADARS base whilst having to mitigate against a 16% budget reduction in the last 4 years from the NHS Public Health 'Outcomes Framework' bundle allocation.</p>
3.6	<p>Consultation:</p> <p>The ADP engaged the community in a public consultation which 384 people responded to and a significant number of responses came from those aged under 25 and individuals with lived experience of drug and alcohol use. Continued engagement activity and listening from individuals and families with lived experience will be key to the partnership's continuous improvement.</p> <p>The ADP held a conversation event on 20 September 2019 and invited a group of individuals from across the North Ayrshire community. This provided an opportunity to present the DDRG Improvement Plan and seek engagement and feedback on the identified actions. There is an opportunity to build upon this event and look at wider engagement across North Ayrshire.</p> <p>At the North Ayrshire Council meeting on 25th September the Council agreed to declare a drugs death emergency and asked that the Health and Social Care Partnership to convene a drugs death summit of Community Planning Partners to consider multi-disciplinary local drug policy, funding and service improvements.</p>
3.7	<p>Funding Opportunity:</p> <p>In addition to the improvement actions detailed within this report, the ADP have identified funding (£50,000) to encourage and attract innovative suggestions and proposals from the communities of Irvine and the 3 Towns locality initially (this targeted approach is evidenced based data on the highest risk geographical localities in North Ayrshire relating to drug related deaths) are being explored. The ADP are planning a Participatory Budgeting type approach whereby individuals, groups, services and partners can apply for funding.</p>
3.8	<p>New Ayrshire and Arran Addiction APP:</p> <p>The above has been created for download to phones to enable individuals to have access to a wide range of information available in relation to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local services and Support • Helpful Websites • Current Alerts • Who to contact in an emergency • Events in your area including free training • Self help • What is happening in Ward 5 (Addiction facility at Woodland View) <p>The APP is available by downloading "Healthzone UK" from the apple or Android store and search for "Ayrshire and Arran Addictions", leaflets will be distributed.</p>
3.9	<p><u>Anticipated Outcomes</u></p>

	<p>The partnerships learning, engagement and feedback has informed a new 5-year strategy which places a greater focus on a public health approach to solutions, consistent use of evidence bases, engagement with individuals and communities with lived experience, tackling stigma and developing trauma informed, person centred approaches. Additionally, increased collaboration with groups and organisations that work across Ayrshire including the Community Justice Authority and pan Ayrshire Health and Justice groups will become more important.</p> <p>Our focus on engagement and learning will allow us to continually test and improve the Partnerships services, practice, plans and policies against existing evidence and developing good practice so that we collectively contribute to reducing harm, saving lives and supporting people in recovery.</p> <p>We will continue to encourage local learning and rapid partnership responses to complex high risk individuals who are vulnerable to overdose and seek to develop innovative and wider partnership multi agency participation in the DDPG agenda</p>
3.10	<u>Measuring Impact</u>
	The DDPG Improvement plan will be used to gauge and measure development and partnership working to jointly prevent drug related deaths. Yearly information is also published by ISD in relation to drug related deaths.
4.	IMPLICATIONS

Financial:	Costs included within ADP funding allocation.
Human Resources:	The ADP will be seeking support from staff across all partner agencies to support actions to prevent drug related deaths and to help support the roll out the Participatory Budgeting approach during 2019/20
Legal:	There are no obvious legal issues
Equality:	Any revision or development of new policies will be Equality Impact Assessed as they progress.
Children and Young People	Any work and actions progressed will be implemented with a view of positively impacting on children's health and care needs.
Environmental & Sustainability:	No obvious sustainability or environmental issues.
Key Priorities:	Actions and improvements link directly with Ministerial Priorities and support the delivery of local strategic and operation plans across statutory and partner services.
Risk Implications:	Actions are aimed at reversing the trend of increasing drug related deaths and preventing future deaths
Community Benefits:	Improvements will increase community confidence in partnership approaches to drug related deaths.

Direction Required to Council, Health Board or Both <i>(where Directions are required please complete Directions Template)</i>	Direction to :-	
	1. No Direction Required	√
	2. North Ayrshire Council	
	3. NHS Ayrshire & Arran	
	4. North Ayrshire Council and NHS Ayrshire & Arran	

5.	CONSULTATION
5.1	ADP partners and stakeholders have been engaged with and consulted regarding the ADP strategy development and actions aimed at preventing drug related deaths
6.	CONCLUSION
6.1	<p>Drug related deaths are preventable.</p> <p>The IJB are asked to note the content of the report and where appropriate support the actions and improvements aimed at preventing drug related deaths.</p>

For more information please contact Paul Main, ADP Chair, on 01294 310632 or paulmain@north-ayrshire.gov.uk