

Title:	Alcohol and Other Drugs Community Support Fund
Prepared by:	Paul Campbell, NLADP Development Officer
Date:	26 th January 2024

Situation

In North Lanarkshire has some of the highest levels of alcohol and drug related deaths in Scotland, with 94 people dying from drug-related causes in 2020. Of these, 68% were male and 32% Female. Further analysis of the data shows 62% of all deaths in North Lanarkshire occurred in the 35 – 54 age group with 25- 34 olds and 45 and over age range falling not far behind.

In the Scottish Families report 'Hidden in Plain Sight', commissioned by NLADP in 2020, the vast majority of community survey respondents (9 in 10 people) felt their community had an issue with alcohol or drug use, with just 7% believing this not to be the case. Levels of support across communities were significantly below the level of prevalence, with just over 13% feeling their community was supportive of those living with drug or alcohol addiction, rising to 19% who felt their community was supportive of families affected.

A strong message from the study was families in North Lanarkshire were hidden in plain sight. 'There are thousands of families affected by substance use in the area but a tiny number reaching support'. Yet there were a significant number of community 'touchpoints' where families were engaging providing key routes for awareness-raising and links to early support. There was widespread recognition of the impact of stigma, shame and secrecy on families. This often prevents families coming forward for support. Tackling stigma is not just about the media and communities, but also about those closest to families (wider family, friends, workplaces).

The many and carried negative impacts of substance use on individuals, families, communities and society as a whole is well-evidenced;

- Individuals are likely to suffer from poorer mental and physical health, greater levels of isolation, reduced employment opportunities and a greater risk of becoming involved with the criminal justice system.
- Families are more likely to suffer from financial distress, loss of relationships, legal problems, and emotional strain.
- Communities affected by high levels of substance use are more likely to see increased levels of premature deaths, high levels of associated crime, increases in family breakdowns and a negative impact on mental health across the board.
- Society as a whole will see increased demand placed on statutory health and social care services, higher levels of spending on the criminal justice system and a reduction in the numbers of people able to be economically active. It is estimated, for example, that alcohol use alone is estimated to cost the NHS £3.5b every year

Background

North Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership (NLADP)

The (NLADP) was established in 2019 as a multi-agency strategic partnership focused on understanding and mitigating the impact of problematic alcohol and drug use in the local area. The purpose of the ADP is to co-ordinate and lead a collective response to tackle harms and improve the lives of people who used alcohol and drugs and those around them. The ADP is made up of key agencies and stakeholders with an interest in tackling harms and improving lives. This includes the wider community and those who have lived experience (including families).

The NLADP aims to support individuals and families to overcome some of the challenges they face in their life, while living with the impact of substance use in our communities which relate to their strategic development plan five key priority areas:

- **Priority area 1** - Fewer people develop problem alcohol & drug use.
- **Priority area 2** - People access and benefit from effective, integrated person-centred support to achieve their recovery.
- **Priority area 3** - Children and families affected by alcohol and drug use will be safe, healthy, included and supported.
- **Priority area 4** - Vulnerable people are diverted from the justice system wherever possible, and those in the system are fully supported.
- **Priority area 5** - An Alcohol Framework for North Lanarkshire

Proposal

People belonging to under-represented and minority populations may be less likely to access alcohol and drug treatment services, have specific support needs and can often delay seeking help for substance use until they experience serious health consequences or crisis. There are widely reported and multiple barriers to seeking treatment and support experienced by ethnic minority, LGBTQI+, older people and those living with a disability with some barriers that exist for higher-risk groups who cite experiences (e.g. prejudice, stigma, victimization, etc.) and peer substance use norms (e.g. peers' frequency of use and quantity consumed) as drivers for problematic substance use to develop.

'In a human rights-based approach we need to ensure that the commitments in the eight-point plan apply equitably across the population. While every person is individual there are clear characteristics and challenges which are specific to particular groups of people. It is important that services are accessible and deliver high quality services to people regardless of age, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religion, nationality or socio-economic status'. (Rights, Respect and recovery, 2018)

NLADP is keen to reinforce the rights-based approach and build a better understanding of the experiences of individuals from minority populations to understand their health and social needs and to target our response in the right way. This will help us to shape future support and service delivery models. The substance use community fund will build capacity in North Lanarkshire to support local people through prevention efforts, reducing crisis and promoting recovery across all six localities.

Objectives

- Engage and explore and the needs of specific population groups
- Test innovative/new ways to reach people and support change
- Promote education and awareness raising, by adopting a multiple risk-taking approach, to increase knowledge of alcohol and drug-related harms, across Lanarkshire
- Support workforce development efforts across North Lanarkshire to better understand and support the needs of under-represented/minority communities in relation to problematic substance use
- To support recognised minority groups who experience challenges as a result of problematic substance use where traditionally services have been unable to reach/engage
- To provide vital wellbeing support on issues such as, personal finances, employment, housing, food, digital inclusion, physical health, social activities and improving home and community life.
- To support people to access immediate and emerging forms of support within our growing recovery community
- Support healthier choices around substance use, reducing harmful, hazardous and heavy episodic drinking (binge drinking)
- Supporting people to find their own type of type of recovery
- Supporting efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination felt by underrepresented populations.

Eligibility for Funding

All community, voluntary sector organisations and statutory agencies are eligible to apply. This also extends to constituted groups.

Collaborative funding applications will be considered between organisations, as well as match funding applications. Funding for existing NLADP commissioned services objectives will not be considered.

Eligible Expenditure

You cannot apply for funding to cover expenditure on the following:

- Alcohol
- Contingency costs, loans, endowments or interest
- Electricity generation and feed-in tariff payment
- Political or religious campaigning

- Profit-making/fundraising activities
- Any Value Added Tax (VAT) reclaimable by the Grantee
- Statutory activities
- Overseas travel

Funding Amount and Duration

Organisations can apply for up to £10,000 funding for one or more projects, with a separate application for each project.

Funding Application

Organisations must apply using the fund's application forms available from North Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership Team

Assessment and Decision

Applications will be assessed, and funding decisions made, by The North Lanarkshire Alcohol and Drug Partnership

Evaluation and Reporting Requirements for Successful Applicants

Successful applicants will be provided with guidance and support to evaluate and report on their project's progress, successes, challenges and learning at the end of the project. These requirements will be proportionate to the funding received.

FUNDING PROCESS TIMESCALE	
Fund open	Monday 22nd January 2024
Funding applications closed	Friday 16th February 2024
Decision communicated	Friday 23rd February 2024

Please return applications to: NLADP Support Team
Email: NLADP@lanarkshire.scot.nhs.uk

Enquiries to: NLADP Support Team
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