

# The North East Alliance: Delivering change, improving lives

<b>Progress Report</b>	Exploring Substance Use in the North East of Scotland
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<b>Governance Group</b>	

## Progress Report

An initial workshop date has been set for the 26<sup>th</sup> of August 2022. The workshop will be the first step in pulling system wide colleagues together to explore substance, using a population health lens. Pamela Milliken will chair the workshop as lead officer; Dave Buck from the Kings Fund is facilitating the session, introducing the four pillar approach. Around 20 stakeholders have been invited, representative of the organisations or services that all work to support those who use, or who are impacted by substance use. The session intends to listen carefully to the perspective of the people around the table who have vast experience already working in this area.

We will consider:

- What is working well?
- What opportunities are there to accelerate good practice but also what are the barriers and what is getting in the way of overcoming these?
- What can the North East Alliance do to help?

The numbers for the first workshop have been restricted to allow fruitful conversation, debate and feedback. This first workshop has representation from statutory and third sector organisations who will be able to share broad perspectives from both a staff and clients. That said, we acknowledge that there is a gap in terms of people with lived experienced attending. A further workstream is being developed to ensure that the program of work is centered on lived experience and community engagement that is authentic and representative of a wide range of people.

## Summary of Key Information

- First explorative workshop set for August the 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Aim to establish a shared picture and understanding of Substance Use in the North East of Scotland through the lens of population health.
- Understanding of the complexity of issues/barriers/potential improvement which the North East Alliance may be able to extradite before end of March 2023.

## Recommendations for Action

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The North East Alliance are asked to note progress to date.

## Opportunities and Risks

As a first workshop there is a real opportunity for the stakeholder to look at substance use in its broadest context at a population health level. This workshop builds on the work of the three Alcohol and Drug Partnerships pulling people together from a North East perspective. It is hoped that this will identify time critical actions (by end of March 2023) which will improve outcomes for those using or affected by substance use, acknowledging the commission of the North East Alliance to consider improvements in data sharing, wrap-around care and developing a learning health system.

Lived experience is being brought into the first meeting through selected stakeholders. In addition, we have invited a colleague from Public Health Scotland and are using local data from Drug Related Death Reviews to highlight people's stories during this first workshop. There is a risk that issues identified at the first meeting are not fully representative of lived experience. We ask the Alliance to note that this is a first meeting which will start a program of work and that plans are being developed to ensure that community engagement and lived experiences are authentically captured and become central to action planning.

## Consultation

N/A

## Background Papers



Substance Use  
WorkshopDraft.docx

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