

ANNUAL REPORT 2023-24

action on
drugs+alcohol
BORDERS

The Alcohol and Drugs Partnership (ADP) is a partnership of agencies and services responsible for reducing the harms associated with alcohol and drug use. This is carried out in a variety of ways including:

- implementing early intervention and preventative measures
- ensuring good quality drug and alcohol treatment and support services are available
- promoting harm reduction strategies
- involving people with lived and living experience
- research and data collection to better understand the extent and nature of drug and alcohol use in Borders.

The ADP is chaired by the Director of Public Health, NHS Borders and the work of the ADP is directed by the Scottish Government.

HIGHLIGHTS



- 275 people attended 21 training courses over 2023-24 and 191 people completed e-learning provided by Scottish Drugs Forum.



- 3398 people who were drinking above the low risk guidelines had a brief intervention with a trained professional.
- Trauma Walkthrough events were facilitated by NHS Borders Addiction Psychology Team (APTT) colleagues.
- Borders achieved green for Medication Assisted Treatment Standards (MAT) standards 1-5 and provisional green for MAT standards 6, 8, 9 & 10, MAT 7 was scored amber.
- 509 people started treatment for their drug and alcohol use and 97.2% started within three weeks of referral.
- 79 people received a rapid emergency response following a near fatal overdose with 89% contacted by the assertive outreach team within 48 hours.
- 18%(32) of resupplies of naloxone were used in an emergency.
- An audit of alcohol specific deaths for 2022 was completed and actions are being taken forward.
- 20 people were supported to attend residential rehabilitation which is our highest number compared to previous years.
- Annual Drug Related Death Report 2022 completed and presented to senior officers in NHS, Scottish Borders Council and Police Scotland.



- Borders in Recovery has expanded further over the previous year and now have opportunities Monday - Saturday across Borders.
- A new SDF national traineeship post has been secured.
- Our Lived Experience Forum continues to be represented at our ADP Board meetings. In addition, the group have participated in SRC Lived Experience Forum training and subsequently updated their Terms of Reference; participated in the Experiential Evidence Programme for MAT standards and our Trauma Walkthrough events to support MAT Standards 6&10 including providing improvement ideas based on feedback.
- Our Borders Engagement Group (BEG) continues to meet regularly and provide feedback to the BEG Management Group. Actions to address concerns are then taken forward by the management group. BEG members have also contributed to the Trauma Walkthrough events and hosted colleagues from agencies in the group to build shared understanding.



- 110 referrals to the dedicated Children and families support service for Action for Children Chimes Service.
- We Are With you provided support for 38 adults impacted by a loved one's substance use.

CHALLENGES

Stigma and confidentiality concerns can be heightened in a rural area. Services are offered stigma training, support with recommended language, and the promotion of NHS Inform drug and alcohol stigma campaign.

NATIONAL ADP OUTCOMES

- Fewer people develop problem drug and alcohol use
- Risk is reduced for people who take harmful drugs and drink excessively
- People at most risk have access to treatment and recovery
- People receive high quality treatment and recovery services
- Quality of life is improved for people who experience multiple disadvantage
- Children, families and communities affected by substance use are supported.

MORE INFORMATION