



Aberdeen City Alcohol, Drug & Blood-Borne Virus Forum

Report for the ADP Meeting on 12th February 2016

Introduction

The Aberdeen City Alcohol, Drug & BBV Forum (ADBBVF) over the last year has successfully re-developed its role by refreshing its terms of reference, re-establishing its membership and creating a stronger, clearer identity within the following key aims:

- To co-ordinate of the views of; service users, service providers and communities within the City of Aberdeen with regards to all aspects of the substance misuse agenda, including the sexual health and blood borne virus framework
- To seek to provide opportunities for all with regard to facilitating the sharing of relevant experience, knowledge and learning.
- To represent the work of the Forum to the City Alcohol & Drug Partnership with the express aim of enhancing the development of responses to local issues relating to drugs, alcohol and BBV

Forum event – 5th November 2015

In November 2015, the forum held a first open to all community based event under the new aims and terms of reference. The event, entitled ***'Recovery, Help Us Join the Dots'*** took the form of a conversation style café and was attended by a range of interested members of the community including representatives with lived experience, third sector staff, Fire and Rescue, housing and others with a keen interest in the alcohol, drugs and BBV agenda. The event was popular and attracted over 60 attendees on the day, with the highest Forum event participation seen since 2008.

Feedback from the event participants was very positive indeed, with 89% rating the 'case study exercise' and 86% rating the '*networking and opportunity to share with others*' event formats as '*good / very good*'.

Forum conversation – Identified Themes:

- The importance of services being joined up and ensuring people's care and support is coordinated to achieve the best outcomes possible was highlighted.
- The importance of 7 day per week accessible services that can provide outreach and crisis support was highlighted.
- In general there was an agreement that there is a lack of awareness of the range of supports available and that we need to consider new ways of promoting services and supports locally.
- A need to focus less on meeting targets, and more on providing a quality of service.
- It was noted that we need to think in a more joined up, integrated manner regarding how we prevent young people developing problems with alcohol and drugs.
- It was suggested that we need to find new ways of getting prevention/early intervention messages across to the whole population.
- Peer support and the value in ensuring that life-skills/educational programmes are available to people seeking to overcome a problem were seen as crucial for success in recovery.
- It was noted by many who attended that the opportunity to hear directly from people with lived experience was invaluable and that the forum needs to ensure that this participation is encouraged and sustained in future events.

Details of Next Event

The next conversation café event will take place in April with a focus on young people and how we develop initiatives and ways of working to prevent the development of problems with alcohol and drugs.

The Forum intends to encourage attendees who can represent other agencies such as; Police Scotland, Education, Social Work as well as seeking representation from young people themselves to encourage wide ranging conversations and significant themes and ideas to emerge.

Luan Grugeon
Forum Chair
3rd February 2016