

Minute of the Cross Party Group on Alcohol and Drug Misuse Annual General meeting held on 3rd December 2019.

1 Present

Monica Lennon, MSP, Chair of the meeting
John Finnie, MSP
Emma Harper, MSP
David Liddell, SDF, Secretariat,
Jardine Simpson, Scottish Recovery Consortium
Laura Mitchell, Salvation Army
Liam Mehigan, Abbeycare
Emma Crawshaw, Crew
David Johnson, NHS Highland
Sean Kehoe, Salvation Army
Cameron Scally

2 Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the last meeting held on 26th February 2019 were approved.

3 Annual Report 2019

Slight amendments were made to this report regarding members. Following this it was approved.

4 Election of Officer Bearers

Three MSPs were elected as co-convenors of the group:

Monica Lennon, MSP
John Finnie, MSP
Emma Harper, MSP

The following were elected as deputy convenors:

Miles Briggs MSP, Conservative and Unionist Party
Stuart McMillan MSP, SNP
Tom Arthur MSP, SNP

5 Work plan for 2020

It was acknowledged that pressure of other work meant that the group was not as active as it could have been.

It was agreed that we should try and meet on 4 occasions and the group should engage more proactively on the issues including writing letters.

The group highlighted a number of areas that it would like to engage in a dialogue on:

Drug Deaths Task Force
Scottish Affairs Select Committee
Dundee Drug Commission
Toxicology issues regarding drug related deaths

The following were identified as potential areas of interest:

- Wider health issues of drugs users including COPD
- Drug Law Reform
- Funding issues – particularly regarding allocated funds not reaching the frontline
- Prescribing choice including buvidal and injectables
- Increase in young people dying over an overdose – focus on vulnerable young people
- Drug checking.

6 Decisions

Next meeting to be held in February at a date suitable for Catriona Matheson and Robert Peat.

Explore including lived/living experience element.

Letter to be drafted to the Minister asking for a Parliamentary debate.

Letter to Crown Office re toxicology delays

After the UK election write to the Home Office Minister.

7 Date of next meeting.

To be confirmed