

DRUG DEATHS TASKFORCE: MINUTE OF MEETING TWENTY THREE

Wednesday 6 July 2022

In Person Meeting – National Register House, Edinburgh

10:00 – 13:00

Taskforce Members:

Fiona McQueen	Vice Chair
Diane McCulloch	Social Work Scotland
Colin Hutcheon	Families Representative
Gary Ritchie	Police Scotland
Jason Wallace	Lived/Living Experience Representative
Rebecca Wood	Lived Experience Representative
Kenny Donnelly	Crown Office and Procurator Fiscal Service

Attendees:

Lauren Sloey	Scottish Ambulance Service
Henry Acres	Drug Deaths Taskforce Support Team
Roz Currie	Drug Deaths Taskforce Support Team Scottish Government
Kim Paterson	Drug Deaths Taskforce Support Team Scottish Government
William Doyle	Drug Deaths Taskforce Support Team Scottish Government
Lee-Ann Wilson	Drug Deaths Taskforce Support Team Scottish Government
Charlotte Graves-Morris	Drug Deaths Taskforce Communications Lead
Alison Crocket	Scottish Government: Unit Head for Whole Systems Unit

Apologies:

David Strang	Chair
Alison Munro	Academic Representative
Ewen Stewart	Royal College of General Practitioners
Susanna Galea-Singer	Royal College of Psychiatrists
Fiona Doig	Borders ADP and Health Improvement
Tara Shivaji	Public Health Scotland
Carole Hunter	Royal Pharmaceutical Society (Scotland)
Gary Rutherford	Scottish Ambulance Service

Introduction

1. The Vice Chair welcomed all members to the twenty third and final meeting of the DDTF and explained the purpose of the meeting, which was to discuss and review the final draft of the report. Members were advised that the draft report had also been sent to external stakeholders for feedback. Some members who were unable to attend the meeting had also provided comments for consideration at the meeting.

2. The Vice Chair asked members to confirm if they were content with the minutes from the May meeting. The minutes were agreed and these will be published on the Drug Deaths Taskforce website.

Discussion on report

3. The Taskforce had a private discussion regarding the content within the draft report. Feedback was recorded by the Drug Deaths Taskforce Support Team and the final report will be updated to reflect this.

- A couple of recommendations were highlighted in the discussion, where it was agreed that they would be reworded in the final version of the report to meet the narrative.
- Members were advised that the SFAD Family Reference Group Report will be published on the same day as final report, 21 July 2022.

Discuss and agree overall core messages

5. The Vice Chair asked members for their feedback on the updated core messages. The Taskforce had a private discussion, considering the core messages before agreeing on these as a group.

- Before continuing to the next item, The Vice Chair advised members that if they identified any issues within the reports' key messages post-meeting, to contact the Drug Deaths Taskforce Support Team to raise this.

Report title

6. As a collective, the Taskforce discussed possible titles for the report. Several options were considered with two being agreed to be taken back to the Chair.

Evidence paper

7. Lee-Ann Wilson from Scottish Government, presented an overview of the structure and plan of the evidence paper:

- This is a supportive document to outline the evidence behind the final report.
- It is based on the Taskforce's original 6 strategies from January 2020.
- The evidence paper follows the format of the final report.
- It includes evidence that the Taskforce has considered to date.
- Scottish Government Analysts and DRNS will be asked to review the evidence paper before publication.
- Members were asked to highlight if they felt anything was missing from the evidence paper.
- Members were advised that the report would likely be published after the Taskforce report.

Publication date and communications plan for launch

8. Charlotte Graves-Morris, the Taskforce' Communications Lead, presented the plan for the launch.

- It was confirmed that the launch will take place on Thursday 21 July 2022, at The Quaker Meeting House in Edinburgh, where the Taskforce held its first meeting.
- Members were advised that an embargoed copy of the final report will be released to the press on Tuesday 19 July until 9am on Thursday 21 July, when the final report is published.
- Press interviews with the Chair have been confirmed, which will take place on Wednesday 20th July.
- Media for the launch was confirmed.

- Members discussed who should be invited to attend the launch.

Summary and any other business

10. The Vice-Chair thanked all current Taskforce members for attending and for their work to date, before extending thanks to previous members, deputies, subgroups and reference groups for their contribution over the life of the Taskforce. and drew the meeting to a close.

DRAFT