

# Scottish Government submission of 8 September 2023

PE2024/C: Create a national, public information programme to raise awareness of the impacts of steroids, selective androgen receptor modulators, and other performance enhancing drugs

## Early Interventions for Children and Young People Working Group

Terms of Reference

### Background and policy context

[The Rights, Respect and Recovery: alcohol and drug treatment strategy \(RRR\)](#) published 28 November 2018.

Chapter 4: Prevention and Early Intervention, connects to the RRR outcome: **Fewer people develop problem drug use.**

The commitments within Rights, Respect and Recovery (RRR) to achieve this outcome are:

- Identify and implement actions to reduce inequalities and improve Scotland's health.
- Work with key experts, including those with lived and living experience to address stigma as a way to prevent and reduce related harm.
- **Develop a comprehensive approach to early intervention amongst those who are at risk of developing problem alcohol and drug use alongside those services who are already working with this group.**
- Revise and improve the programme of alcohol and drug use education in schools to ensure it is good quality, impactful and in line with best practice.
- Develop education-based, person-centred approaches that are delivered in line with evidence-based practice to aim to reach all of our children and young people including those not present in traditional settings, such as Youth Groups, Community Learning and Development, looked after and accommodated children, excluded children and those in touch with services.

- Develop our current online resources to ensure they provide accurate, evidence-based, relevant and up to date information and advice around alcohol and drug use; and how to access help.

## **Purpose of the group**

1. To provide a mechanism which allows Alcohol and Drug Partnerships (ADPs) and appropriate partners to deliver on [Action 4](#):

*We will develop a comprehensive approach to early intervention amongst young people who are at risk, through deprivation, inequality or other factors of developing problem alcohol and drug use.*

2. The group will develop and deliver on a clear plan of action on behalf of the Scottish Government to achieve this commitment. This will include:
  - Review key data of the needs of young people who experience alcohol/drug harms.
  - Establish expectations for local service delivery including across ADPs.
  - Establish a clear plan of action for delivery on these expectations across ADPs.
3. The Early Intervention for Children and Young People working group will be guided every step of the way by the experiences of young people whose lives have been affected by alcohol and drug use and the front line services who support them.

## **Membership and Responsibilities**

4. The membership of the Early Intervention working group is at the invitation of the Minister for Drug Policy. The members will be reviewed by the chair and agreed by the Minister on a yearly basis. A list of group membership can be found in **Annex A**.
5. Core members will be responsible for discussing and agreeing the Early Intervention working groups advice and commissioning work. Individual members will have additional responsibilities that relate to their specific remit. Members can only share relevant papers and discuss work via email where appropriate, subject to approval of

the secretariat. Core members may also be asked to lead projects and report back to group on progress.

6. The Early Intervention working group will have the opportunity to convene short-life sub-groups to assist in the development of evidence based recommendations.
7. Members submitting apologies should notify the secretariat in advance of their named deputy. The substitution of a deputy is acceptable on the understanding that the deputy will provide a report on the meeting to the substantive member and the group they represent. Members submitting apologies for meetings, and who are unable to send a deputy, should notify the secretariat in advance. To ensure the group is able to act swiftly, members are asked to delegate to others where they must and that any deputies are empowered to make decisions on behalf of the member.
8. All members will make a full declaration of interests. If a member is uncertain as to whether or not an interest should be declared, they should seek guidance from the secretariat.

## **Governance**

9. The Early Intervention working group will report to the Minister for Drug Policy via the Scottish Government secretariat, providing regular updates on their plans and progress.
10. The Early Intervention working group terms of reference will be subject to review on a yearly basis.

## **Secretariat**

11. Secretariat support for the group will be provided by the Scottish Government Drugs Policy Division. The Early Intervention working group will be able to draw on wider expertise from across the Scottish Government, as well as organisations from the wider virtual team and beyond.
12. The Early Intervention working group should aim to meet every 6 weeks and is expected to remain operational until the actions outlined in the action plan are complete.
13. Minute taking of the meetings will be conducted by the secretariat who will record these appropriately.

## **Communications**

14. The Early Intervention working group members will ensure they and their organisations work with SG communications colleagues and the secretariat to allow consistency and coordination of messaging around the Early Intervention working group work and support the successful engagement with the wider sector as well as the public.

### **Annex A: Early Intervention Working Group Membership**

The working group is made up of an independent Chair and representatives of the following organisations:

- We Are With You
- Kibble
- Scottish Children's Reporter Administration
- Children 1<sup>st</sup>
- The Corra Foundation
- SFAD - Scottish Families Affected by Alcohol & Drugs
- Crew
- Action for Children
- Scottish Social Services Council
- Scottish Government Children and Families Unit
- South Lanarkshire ADP
- Children and Young People's Centre for Justice
- Scottish Drugs Forum
- National School Nursing Leads Group
- Aberdeen City Children & Family Services
- Scottish Government Drugs Policy Unit