

# Area: Substance Misuse

## Strategic Plan Engagement 2021

The Midlothian Health and Social Care Partnership is responsible for services that help people live well and get support when they need it. This includes all community health and social care services for adults in Midlothian and some acute hospital-based services.

To help us in developing our new strategic plan we spoke with stakeholders, volunteers and people with lived experiences about their views on the services we deliver and what could be improved.

We would like to thank over **90 people** who took part. As services for people affected by Substance Misuse are planned from 2020-23 Midlothian and East Lothian Drugs and Alcohol Partnership organised a consultation event at Horizons Café in Dalkeith in 2020.

After discussions with Peer Support Workers, they suggested that they [as people with lived experience] would be best placed to have an open and frank discussion with people who use services, families and carers and members of the public. It was agreed that MELDAP would not be involved in the consultation but would be available at the venue to answer any specific questions or queries.

MELDAP provided broad discussion points. These focused around 4 broad areas:

1. Preventing future harm caused by the misuse of alcohol and drugs
2. Reducing harm and promoting recovery
3. Protecting and safeguarding children, young people and communities
4. Commissioning and assuring high quality, cost effective outcomes focused services

The Scottish Government has suggested that Alcohol Drugs Partnership's will be required to develop annual Delivery Plans in the future. MELDAP will consult with people who use services, families and carers, members of the public and other stakeholders about future delivery plan priorities and hope to establish local forums for people with lived and living experience to become more involved in setting priorities and decision making.

# Prevention

## Key points

---



Develop online resource providing people with help, **accurate evidence based information** around alcohol and drug use and local services.

---



Deliver more outreach **community focused harm reduction, treatment and support services** to individuals, families and communities most at risk of harm.

# Support & Treatment

## Key Points

---



Further develop new ways to **engage with and support younger people** in accessing support for their alcohol and drug use.

---



Work with people with lived and living experience, the recovery community and service managers and their staff to actively address issues associated with **stigma/discrimination**.

---



Strengthen the role of peer workers as client advocates and develop **Independent Advocacy** service for adults and families.

---



Work with **recovery communities** to expand both the range of and availability of services available to them and their families.

---



Ensure all services are **'family' friendly and inclusive**.

---



Work with partners to improve access to **travel passes and digital engagement** for clients involved in treatment and education services.

# Support in a Crisis

## Key Points

---



Build on the work of the low threshold service pilot, develop more **flexible, accessible services** particularly for people with a record of irregular attendance and sustained engagement.